

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD MARCH 7, 2017

The Annual School Danville District meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Danville School on Tuesday March 7, 2017. Members of the Danville School Band played the National Anthem. Dr. Thomas Ziobrowski then led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, followed by the reading of Civil Invocation by Bradley Smith.

Per custom and without objection, the town chose to convene the School District meeting first, with Town Annual meeting to follow.

Town Clerk Wendy Somers addressed the audience with corrections to the annual report. She stated on page 36, Article 6 should also read that this is a remaining term on a 3year tern for Town Lister. The next correction was on page 37, Article 25, the general budget figure should read \$522,228.00 and not \$320,507.03. Also on page 37, Article 26 highway budget figure should read \$1,949,055.24 instead of \$933,927.00. These figures were the amount of tax revenue raised and not the full expenditure budget. On page 55 the 2017 total highway expense should read \$1,949,055.24 instead of \$1,945,128.79.

Wendy also explained the new procedures for paper ballot votes.

The following Articles were voted on:

ARTICLE 1 To elect a Moderator. – William “Sandy” Hauserman opened nominations for Moderator. Jenness Ide nominated Dr. Thomas F. Ziobrowski as Moderator. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot in the name of Dr. Thomas F. Ziobrowski, as Moderator.

The Moderator then stated the rules of the meeting.

William “Sandy” Hauserman then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves.

ARTICLE 2 To elect two School Directors for a term of 1 year each: - The Moderator stated that these would be done one at a time. The Moderator then opened nominations for the first of two one year terms.

Peter McAlenney nominated Ginni Lavelly for School Director for the term of one year. Spencer Morse then nominated Bethany Hale. Tim Sanborn was also nominated, but declined the nomination as he wished to run for the three year term. Ginni Lavelly then spoke on her behalf, followed by Spencer Morse speaking on behalf of Bethany Hale. The Moderator then requested a standing vote. On a vote of 116 voted for Ginni Lavelly and 85 votes for Bethany Hale, Ginni Lavelly was elected School Director for a term of one year.

Bethany Hale was nominated for the term of one year. Robert Edgar was then nominated for a term of one year. Robert Edgar then spoke on his behalf. With no other nominations, a hand vote was requested. On a vote of 112 for Robert Edgar, 92

votes for Bethany Hale, Robert Edgar was elected School Director for a term of one year.

ARTICLE 3 To elect one School Director for a term of three years. – Jenness Ide nominated Tim Sanborn for the term of three years. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot in the name of Tim Sanborn as School Director for a term of three years.

ARTICLE 4 “Shall the voters of the Danville School District vote (Australian Ballot) to authorize the Danville School Directors to approve the School Board to expend \$5,660,895.00, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary to the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,134 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 7% higher than spending for the current year.”

William “Sandy” Hauserman then introduced Superintendent Mat Forest and Principal Kerin Hoffman, who were invited to answer any questions. There was no objection from the assembly.

Bruce Melendy presented the budget and then opened the meeting for public comment and questions.

Kim Larose requested the student/teacher ratio and classes being taught. Kerin Hoffman elaborated on the teachers and subjects being taught in the high school as well as the teachers who share responsibility with the Junior High and elementary students.

Gary Farrow asked about the budget increase. Bruce Melendy addressed the budget breakdown, including the number of high school students enrolled in 2015 vs 2016. Kerin Hoffman reported that there were 110 students in 2015 and 102 students in 2016. This was due to a large Senior class with transfers from the closing of Concord High School. Bruce also spoke to the marketing initiatives to entice new students to Danville School.

Mat Forest then spoke on CCSU’s structuring and budget.

Robert Larose asked what the Board was doing to retain students at Danville School. Bruce Melendy stated that they were working with other schools to offer more classes. William “Sandy” Hauserman stated that they were offering more college level courses.

Jenny Rafuse asked if the school interviews students leaving Danville to attend other schools as to why they have chosen to leave. She also asked about the vocation technical classes they no longer offer at Danville.

Kerin Hoffman stated that they do talk to these students, starting at the 8th grade level.

Winona Gadapee spoke to the large school environment vs the small school environment. She stated that Danville works hard to make students feel valuable.

Kerin Hoffman stated that 15-20 Danville resident students attend other schools.

Kristen Barany stated that Danville School has a bullying problem which is why some students leave. Bruce Melendy spoke to the importance of any bullying issues and their resolution by the Board.

Walt Smith stated that it was important to have discussion of issues throughout the year and not just save them for Town Meeting.

Diana Warren spoke in support of the School Directors on their new ideas to keep the school open. Molly Greaves also spoke to her love of Danville School and hoped that they could continue to keep the school open.

With no further discussion, the Moderator closed discussion and moved to the next article.

ARTICLE 5 “Shall the voters of the Danville School District authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2018 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?” – The motion was made by Kenneth Linsley, which was seconded. Article 5 was then voted in the affirmative by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting –

Kristen Barany requested information as to why Kerin Hoffman submitted her resignation.

William “Sandy” Hauserman stated that it was for personal and professional reasons and they have to respect her decision. This is something she would have to discuss with Kerin directly. Kristen then stated her support for Kerin to stay.

Winona Gadapee announced that longtime resident Gordon Bess passed away that morning. He had attended Town Meeting for many years. David Towle had requested a moment of silence in honor of Gordon Bess.

With no other business, the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest: Wendy M. Somers, Clerk

Approved: Dr. Thomas Ziobrowski, Moderator

William “Sandy” Hauserman,
School Director Chair