

**This document is for informational purposes only.  
The original document may be obtained at the Town Hall.**

Town of Danville  
Board of Selectmen  
April 2, 2018  
7:00pm

Video-Recorded

Selectmen Present: Chairman Shawn O'Neil, Vice-chair Judi Cogswell, Scott Borucki, Sheila Johannesen, David Knight, Janet Denison-Assessing/Land Use Admin

Others present: John Hughes, Kim Farah, Carsten Springer

Borucki opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the troops who put themselves in harm's way. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. TRSD School Board seat vacancy

John Hughes and Shawn O'Neil had expressed interest in filling the vacancy on the school board recently created with the resignation of Stephanie Dube. John explained his involvement with town and school committees, including the Fire Department, chairman of the Fire Wards, and currently a member of the school budget committee, in which he has one year left for his term. He explained the divisiveness he sees among the school board members, especially at this critical time when the default budget passed rather than the operating budget.

John said he felt he'd be a better fit among the school board because he is on amicable terms with everyone and he is able to look at things analytically and not take things personally. He said he has worked well with Kim Farah, has great respect for her, and is able to look at issues with a different perspective and discuss these with her. He said he agrees with the bottom line of the school budget but believes some adjustments can be made within it. John said he'd have to come up to speed on the policies since he believes the board does not follow them. There is an internal policy review committee in which he'd like to participate.

He said financial reports haven't been posted since November and they have been without a treasurer for a month. He'd also like to review the superintendent's contract and see if something contractually can be in place to control his outbursts which are putting things in upheaval. He said the superintendent is not unifying the district.

There was a short discussion about the merits of having Hampstead in the SAU. John said he'd like to review Hampstead's roll in voting and see what can be changed there. The articles of agreement should also be reviewed because they are very old.

Scott asked John why he is a better candidate than Shawn O'Neil. John said that his approach to solutions is different and that Shawn already has people on the board who have negative opinions of him. This will further divide the already contentious atmosphere.

Shawn O'Neil explained that he is very willing to present his case on camera and wants to have more transparency of school board proceedings. He said the camera is shut off too quickly by Ms. Sherman. He said he's served on town boards for a long time and is ready to hit the ground running. He said he's attending their meetings before, pointing out the flaws in their calculations, would support a discussion to revise the articles of agreement, but thinks this will be hard sell to Atkinson and Plaistow which hold the lion's share of voters.

Shawn talked about the declining enrollment and the need to review the rate per child charged to the towns, including the special education allocation. These are issues that need to be discussed openly. He said the school policies are gibberish and said he will represent Danville to the best of his ability. He and Kim Farah worked well together on the Board of Selectmen and he hopes to continue to work with her on the school board.

Shawn said that he can work well with others. He believes that the problem is that some people don't want to hear the truth. There shouldn't be anything that the board members can't discuss together. He said the superintendent is getting into the political arena and hurting the students he is supposed to help.

Dave said that Shawn saved us money so why should he go to the school board and not back to the budget committee. Shawn said it all starts at the board. Scott asked Shawn his opinion of John's impact on the budget committee. Shawn said that John did well, but he believes his own knowledge will be better served on the school board.

There was a short discussion about individual towns withdrawing from the district. Shawn said the study recently done is hogwash. If a town really is planning to withdraw, there would be hundreds of pages of data. He also said he'd be in favor in seeing what Hampstead does for the SAU. Shawn was asked if he would have any issue with being on the school board and selectmen and he said no way Jose.

Carsten Springer said both candidates are very good and expressed his opinion that John has proved his worth on the budget committee, but he believes Shawn will serve the town better on the school board.

Sheila made a motion to appoint John to the TRSD school board. It failed due to lack of a second. Dave made, and Judy seconded a motion to appoint Shawn to the TRSD school board. Scott, Dave and Judy voted in favor of the motion. Sheila opposed. The motion passed. Both candidates were thanked for speaking with the board.

## II. Casella/Bulk Pick-up

Brian Groshon of Casella said it's fine if the town wants to put up some guidelines on the acceptable size of the bulk pile but Casella won't enforce it. They won't put their drivers in the position of what to pick up and what not to. They have three managing supervisors among the several trucks dealing with other issues as they come up.

Shawn said he's spoken with the police chief. The chief does not want his department to be the authority on what piles are too big, but he can have his personnel note the addresses where it seems excessive and let the board know.

Janet explained that last year, the PD delivered one letter to a home that was setting out an excessive amount, telling them it wouldn't be picked up. There was no backlash to the board.

Scott said he's still in favor of setting guidelines and a system that would allow Casella to plan their route with an appropriate number of vehicles. Brian said a list of addresses will help them a lot. He said this should reduce the number of trucks in town. Sheila said there might be someone who buys a new couch, for example, right before bulk day, but they haven't filled out a form to be on the list. It was agreed that person would miss that bulk day.

Brian said in Newmarket, the road agent drives in front of their truck and points out which piles to take and which to leave. Scott said the intent of bulk is to get rid of bulky items that would not otherwise fit in your trash toter or your vehicle to be taken to another facility for disposal. Without regulations or parameters, our bulk service has gotten away from its original intent. Sheila said we should target the abusers, not restrict others with a form. Scott said part of the reason for this is efficiency. If Casella has a list, they know how many vehicles are required.

It was agreed that some control measures need to be in place. We can inform people that they are allowed a 10' by 8' area, have the PD drive around, and have a form letter ready to give to those whose piles are too big for the allotted space.

Brian said their flyer can include a coupon for a roll-off container. Everyone agreed on May 19<sup>th</sup> as bulk pickup day with a May 9<sup>th</sup> deadline for a resident to turn in a form. Janet will work with Brian to come up with other useful information for the forms that the town will have for the residents. October 20<sup>th</sup> will be the second bulk pickup day with a deadline of October 10<sup>th</sup> for the forms.

There was a short discussion about recycling. Brian and John Augusta will come to the board meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## III. Other business

Judi made, and Shawn seconded a motion to appoint Wade Parsons to Family Mediation and Juvenile Services. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave made, and Sheila seconded a motion to approve the March 26, 2018 minutes as written.

At 8:48 PM, Shawn made, and Judi seconded a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Denison  
Land Use/Assessing Administrator