

DRAFT
DURHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026
DURHAM TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Joseph Friedman, Chair Pro Tem Sally Needell, Councilor Wayne Burton, Councilor Carden Welsh, Councilor Heather Grant, Councilor Robin Vogt, Councilor Curtis Register

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Darrell Ford, Councilor Em Friedrichs (who uses the pronouns ze/zir/zirs/zirself and the title Mx. Friedrichs)

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Todd Selig, Oyster River Cooperative School District Superintendent Robert Shaps, Housing Task Force Chairman Sally Tobias, Town Planner Michael Behrendt, Town Assessor Darcy Freer

I. Call to Order

Chair Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II. **Town Council grants permission for fewer than a majority of Councilors to participate remotely.** Not needed.

III. Roll Call of Members

Councilor Heather Grant, Councilor Robin Vogt, Chair Joseph Friedman, Chair Pro Tem Sally Needell, Councilor Wayne Burton, Councilor Curtis Register, Councilor Carden Welsh

IV. Approval of Agenda

Chair Pro Tem Needell MOVED to change the agenda, adding a discussion and vote on Resolution #2026-02 under New Business as Item B. Councilor Register SECONDED the motion. The agenda as amended was APPROVED on a show of hands vote of 7-0.

V. Special Announcements

Adoption of **Resolution #2026-01** recognizing the outstanding work of the Durham Housing Task Force

Councilor Grant MOVED that the Town Council adopt Resolution #2026-01. Councilor Vogt SECONDED the motion.

Housing Task Force Chair Sally Tobias spoke about and displayed the Municipal Leadership Award which the task force received from the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast for its work on changing the town's zoning to encourage more housing development. She said municipalities find it difficult to make changes to their zoning so this is an accomplishment for Durham and positive news.

1 Chair Friedman recognized the task force's current members Al Howland, Michael
2 Mulhern, Eileen Murphy, Judith Spang, Nick Taylor, Mimi Kell, Meg Nolan, Emily
3 Ham, Councilor Heather Grant and Planning Board Chair Paul Rasmussen; and past
4 members Tom Eliot and Kathy Frierson. He thanked the task force members for their
5 service in creating and helping the town adopt the overlay district and 79-E provisions to
6 help with the renovation of existing buildings. He noted two additional zoning
7 amendment proposals made by the task force are still in the process of being approved.
8

9 Councilor Register noted the town's work on housing is not done and needs to continue.
10

11 Ms. Tobias said the first step is changing the zoning requirements to encourage more
12 development downtown and in housing.
13

14 ***The resolution was ADOPTED on a unanimous roll call vote of 7-0.***
15

16 The award was given to Town Planner Michael Behrendt to display in his department.
17

18 **VI. Approval of Minutes - Dec. 8, 2025 and Dec. 15, 2025**

20 ***Chair Friedman MOVED to approve the minutes for the Town Council meeting of***
21 ***Dec. 8, 2025. Chair Pro Tem Needell SECONDED the motion. The minutes were***
22 ***APPROVED on a roll call vote of 6-0. Councilor Grant abstained because she was not***
23 ***present at the Dec. 8 meeting.***
24

25 ***Chair Friedman MOVED to approve the minutes for the Town Council meeting of***
26 ***Dec. 15, 2025. Chair Pro Tem Needell SECONDED the motion. The minutes were***
27 ***APPROVED on a roll call vote of 7-0.***
28

29 **VII. Report from the UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair or Designee**

30 UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair Caroline Bishop was not present as the
31 university is still on winter break.
32

33 **VIII. Public Comments**

35 **Loren Selig, 3 Nobel K. Petersen Drive, District 10 State Representative**, announced
36 the Durham Democrats will meet on Jan. 13 at the Durham Public Library and hear a
37 legislative update. She said State Sen. Rebecca Perkins-Kwoka will be in attendance as
38 will all the state representatives that represent Durham, Lee and Madbury, and will
39 present the bills they're launching for the 2026 agenda. She said the legislature began
40 hearings on proposed bills Jan. 12 and has many to consider. She said the education
41 policy committee has 76 bills to consider, 40 or 50 of which are early bills that have to be
42 voted on before March. She then spoke as a resident in support of the Town Council
43 adopting Resolution #2026-02, which Councilor Burton proposed and which opposes the
44 bill that would allow college students to carry firearms on campus. She said that bill is up
45 for a hearing on Jan. 14. Speaking as the parent of two college students, one of which
46 spent her first night at college in a four-hour lockdown due to a swatting incident, and as

1 a family friend of parents who had students experience the Brown University shooting,
2 she encouraged the Town Council to adopt the resolution.
3

4 **Bruce Fenton, Durham Point**, made a theatrical presentation using sarcasm and humor
5 to bring attention to his opposition to the Town Council approving the 2026 municipal
6 budget, which will require an increase in property taxes. He said he believes the Council
7 ignored the many residents who opposed the budget increase and the increase in their tax
8 bills, especially those who attended and spoke out against it during Public Comment
9 periods at Council meetings during the budget process. His presentation indicated he
10 believes the Town Administrator and Council can continue to spend as they wish without
11 empathy for the plight of the town's taxpayers, many of whom will not be able to afford
12 to live in Durham and will have to leave town.
13

14 **Daniel Day, 89 Bagdad Road**, spoke in opposition to the increase in building fees,
15 which he said have increased by more than 50 percent. He said though the fees hadn't
16 been updated since 2007, the increased fee structure is much more than inflation. He gave
17 the example of a \$10,000 home improvement project where the required permit was \$50
18 before the increase and is now \$120. He said permitting fees should cover the cost of
19 reviewing the project's application and nothing more, and that they shouldn't be used as a
20 revenue source. As a person opening a business, he said permit fees can be a barrier to
21 opening and expansion. He said the town should not create an additional obstacle to
22 business development, especially ones that may exclude minority owners and instead
23 should create an inclusive, welcoming business community. He also asked the Council to
24 reconsider the overnight parking permit program it created, which went into effect at the
25 beginning of this year. He said he felt there was no transparency or opportunity for public
26 comment before the system was implemented. He said residents should not have to pay to
27 park in a spot their taxes paid for and that the location of the permitted spots is not well
28 planned as the Oyster River Middle School doesn't have sufficient parking for the events
29 that take place in its recital hall and the streets chosen for the permits have traditionally
30 served as overflow parking for it. He said the town's suggested alternatives for parking
31 spaces are quite a distance from the school, which is a problem, especially in the winter
32 for grandparents and others with mobility issues attending these events. He said the
33 town's continued expansion of parking restrictions makes residents question if Durham is
34 still a welcoming community.
35

36 **Jeff Berlin, 3 Cowell Drive**, spoke in support of the campus carry bill which is before
37 the State Legislature and the subject of the Council's proposed Resolution #2026-02,
38 which will be discussed later in the meeting. He said he hoped Councilors would not
39 adopt the resolution. He said the right to defend yourself doesn't end at the doors to a
40 college institution.
41

42 IX. Unanimous Consent Agenda 43

44 A. Shall the Town Council, upon recommendation of the Town Assessor and Administrator,
45 approve FY2026 property tax abatements at the local level or for outstanding appeals

1 before the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) for tax years 2023 and 2024, totaling
2 \$511,225.47?

3 B. Shall the Town Council adopt **Resolution #2025-21** approving a new Site Lease
4 Agreement with T-Mobile Northeast LLC for 100 Durham Point Road and authorize the
5 Administrator to make any final non-substantive language changes to the agreement and
6 sign all relevant documents to bring the matter to fruition?

7
8 Chair Friedman asked if Councilors had any changes to make to the Unanimous Consent
9 Agenda. No one suggested any changes.

10
11 ***Chair Friedman MOVED that the Town Council approve the two items on the***
12 ***Unanimous Consent agenda. Chair Pro Tem Needell SECONDED the motion. The***
13 ***Unanimous Consent Agenda PASSED on a unanimous roll call vote of 7-0.***

14
15 Councilor Register asked Town Assessor Darcy Freer to confirm when the deadline is for
16 residents to file for a 2025 tax abatement and she confirmed it is March 1.

17
18 **X. Committee Appointments**

19
20 A. Shall the Town Council, upon recommendation of the Energy Committee Chair, appoint
21 Christopher Smith, 24 Madbury Road, Apt. 1B, to a regular membership position on the
22 Energy Committee with a term expiration of April 2027?

23 B. Shall the Town Council, upon recommendation of the Planning Board Chair, appoint
24 Emma Hollander, 7 Fairchild Drive, to an alternate membership position on the Planning
25 Board with a term expiration of April 2029?

26
27 ***Councilor Vogt MOVED that the Town Council appoint Christopher Smith to a***
28 ***regular membership position on the Energy Committee with a term expiration of April***
29 ***2027. Chair Friedman SECONDED the motion.***

30
31 Christopher Smith, 24 Madbury Road, introduced himself saying he's been interested in
32 politics since he was a teen but has not served the town until now, noting he has a degree
33 in physics from UNH and feels the energy committee's work is relatable to his education
34 and experience. He said he attended the committee's meeting in November and watched
35 the December meeting on Zoom, and he feels the committee is a great group.

36
37 Councilor Register and Councilor Vogt thanked him for volunteering.

38
39 ***The motion PASSED on a unanimous roll call vote of 7-0.***

40
41 ***Councilor Grant MOVED the Council appoint Emma Hollander, 7 Fairchild Drive, to***
42 ***an alternate membership position on the Planning Board with a term expiration of***
43 ***April 2029. Chair Pro Tem Needell SECONDED the motion.***

1 Ms. Hollander introduced herself saying she's been a resident of Durham for over three
2 years, has come to love the community here, and wants to get involved in the town to
3 support its continued development.

4
5 Chair Friedman thanked her for volunteering to serve.
6

7 ***The motion PASSED on a unanimous roll call vote of 7-0.***
8

9 **XI. Presentation Items**

10 **A. Update on the Oyster River Cooperative School District's FY2026-2027 Budget
11 Process by Dr. Robert Shaps, Superintendent**

12 Dr. Shaps wished Councilors a Happy New Year and gave an update on the school
13 district's budget process.

14 He said the district is moving forward with a capital bond for \$9,827,000 not-to-exceed
15 cost for an elementary expansion and renovation project. Last March, the community
16 supported \$560,000 for engineering and schematic design, and the district completed the
17 plan for the project's scope this fall. The project will allow for six additional classrooms
18 at Moharimet for a net change of four additional classrooms and for an expansion of the
19 Mast Way cafeteria, adding 20 percent to its occupancy, which adds room to
20 accommodate an additional 40 students.

21 He said there's been a strategic effort by the board to conduct a building survey of all
22 capital needs, and a program space audit to look at adequacy at the elementary and high
23 schools. He said both elementary schools are at full occupancy now and the project will
24 allow 20 classrooms at each to plan for the future. He said all the information is on the
25 school district's website at orcsd.org, and it's hosting a series of tours so residents can see
26 where the schools are pressed for space and ask questions. He displayed a handout that
27 explains the project that is available and was distributed to Councilors.

28 Councilor Welsh asked if the district had forecasted student enrollment going up in the
29 elementary grades. Dr. Shaps talked about students who had to move from one
30 elementary school to the other because of space restrictions and the project will prevent
31 this in the future. He said it is anticipated that enrollment will stay consistent. He said the
32 project is not a product of exponential growth in enrollment, but about consistent
33 expectations and space limitations.

34 He asked if there were questions on the warrant. He said a significant number of
35 contingencies are built into the \$9.8 million in the warrant due to the challenge of
36 construction around tariffs and rising costs.

37 Councilor Welsh asked if the estimated breakdown of students from Durham, Lee and
38 Madbury for next year was available. Dr. Shaps said he would get back to the Council
39 with final numbers when the information is available.

1 Dr. Shaps said they want to be transparent and noted the Year 1 budget is just the interest
2 payment and will be different from and go up in Year 2 and Year 3. He said they are
3 looking for a 10-year borrowing period on this project.
4

5 If voters approve the project in March, the district plans to move forward in June, he said,
6 and continue while school is in session without disturbing the learning environment with
7 completion in September of 2027. He said one of the reasons Eckman Construction was
8 chosen in the bidding process is that they have a lot of experience in construction while
9 school is in session.
10

11 Councilor Welsch asked when the Year 1 of the borrowing period is and it was confirmed
12 it's the 2026- 2027 year; Year 2 is 2027 to 2028.
13

14 Councilor Burton asked if the district was applying for assistance from the state. Dr.
15 Shaps said the state reimbursement funds are limited and the district doesn't anticipate
16 receiving any, but will pursue it.
17

18 Councilor Burton asked what he thought of the proposal to reduce the number of SAUs in
19 the state to six. Dr. Shaps said he has a lot of thoughts on consolidation, but there is not
20 enough time to discuss them. He said looking realistically at SAUs' value and local
21 control in education is a starting point and a hallmark of New Hampshire. He said his
22 best advice to legislators is that any structure should be studied over time carefully
23 because there are lots of examples where significant change resulted in detrimental
24 outcomes. He said something as significant as consolidation across the state has to be
25 looked at carefully with the stakeholders and with study before it can even be considered.
26

27 Councilor Burton said he is very proud to represent the Oyster River school district when
28 he hears about other districts' many problems.
29

30 Dr. Shaps the district understands its responsibility to the taxpayer for the product it
31 provides in schools and is always being mindful of efficiencies and reductions.
32

33 He highlighted important statistics about early college, AP classes, and other programs,
34 which he said are all pointing in the right direction in increasing performance and student
35 participation. He pointed out career and technical education participation has increased.
36 He said SAT scores have rebounded coming out of COVID. On Page 6 of the budget, he
37 said there is a summary of enrollment trends which shows the steady elementary
38 enrollment. He said the most significant change was at the middle school, which had a
39 drop of 17% in grades 5 to 8, which is 115 students over the last five years. As larger
40 cohorts have gone through the system, it creates challenges in terms of team structure
41 among other issues. He said the Barrington tuition student numbers have remained
42 consistent at 178. He said on Page 7 it shows an increase in Mast Way and Moharimet, a
43 slight decrease at the middle school and stability at the high school. Over the last five
44 years, there was a drop in Durham students from 920 students to 842 while at the same
45 time there was an increase in Lee students. Since 2020, the district is down 56 students
46 overall as a school system.

1 He said the proposed budget maintains the board's class size guidelines, assesses needs
2 around safety, plant improvements, transportation services and equipment, and allows for
3 and supports the expansion of course offerings at the high school, and sustains
4 professional development.

5
6 He highlighted some program goals that are tied to the numbers. He said they are
7 implementing a state-mandated Case 6 English Language Arts program, focusing on
8 improving math instruction in K-8, adding courses in September including AP history,
9 AP English moving down to 10th grade, and a pilot original science research class that
10 allows students to conduct scientific and social science research in research settings
11 beside professionals. It's a multi-year program that allows students to not only publish,
12 but to gain interest in the world of research. It's also adding a statistics course as a new
13 graduation requirement, a data literacy course, and a gaming course. The district is
14 supportive of introducing a new behavioral intervention risk assessment to proactively
15 assess students who need services. He said the district is focused on the impact of AI in
16 teaching and learning, and anticipates expanding the use of AI appropriately.

17
18 He indicated Page 12 notes that the district has reduced the original proposed budget by
19 about \$1 million in expenditures through operational and staffing reductions. He said it's
20 important to note this effort with some cuts related to enrollment and retirements.

21
22 He said Page 13 is a summary of the budget showing it is increasing by \$1.9 million or
23 3.45%

24
25 He said voters will see several special warrants related to new contracts with
26 paraeducators, school nutrition workers, and clerical and custodial staff, and one sets
27 \$125,000 for future capital repairs or replacements.

28
29 He said driving the budget are employee health benefits, capital expenditures, and three
30 contract agreements which are going into effect this year. He said the operating budget
31 makes \$2.5 million in additional expenditures, which are offset by the reductions.

32
33 Councilor Burton asked how much of the budget is covered by state aid, and Dr. Shaps
34 said he would get those numbers to Councilors.

35
36 Chair Friedman asked if open enrollment and EFAs have started to have an impact. Dr.
37 Shaps explained these new initiatives by the state and the status of the lawsuits about
38 them. He said based on the district's program and reputation, every day it gets calls from
39 families who would like to tuition in. He said there's a lot of concern about how this
40 would be paid for, and one of the reasons the district is not accepting students is it would
41 only receive the incoming student's tuition rate, which would be a burden on local
42 taxpayers, and that he feels a lot has to play out with these initiatives.

43
44 He said Page 17 has an overview of the proposed budget, and an estimated tax impact per
45 \$1,000, which is based on a formula, is on Page 19.

1 Councilor Register asked what the impact would be if the budget didn't get approved by
2 voters. Dr. Shaps said the district would eliminate the \$1.9 million requested increase,
3 cutting the support for professional development for the new programs and curriculum
4 it's mandated to implement so the district wouldn't be able to comply, and there would be
5 an impact on capital improvements, which affects safety and conditions at the schools.
6

7 Councilor Welsh asked why there is a difference in the percentage of the elementary
8 project for Durham. Dr. Shaps there is an apportionment formula in the cooperative
9 agreement and he will send it to councilors. He said he could have the school district
10 business manager attend a Council meeting and explain the estimated assessment value.
11

12 There was a discussion of the state's school funding and how the state Supreme Court
13 ruled it unconstitutional, but there is no way to enforce the decision. .
14

15 Dr. Shaps said the district has crafted a budget mindful of its impact on taxpayers,
16 prioritizing strategic investment and looking for efficiencies, and works to improve the
17 school system every day.
18

19 Councilors praised Dr. Shaps' leadership and positive attitude, and his decision to join
20 the lawsuit against the HB2 bill as well as the DEI lawsuit. A discussion of the lawsuits'
21 status followed. Councilors thanked him for his presentation.
22

23 **XII. Unfinished Business - None**

24

25 **XIII. Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable**

26

27 **Chair Pro Tem Needell - Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee**

28 She said the committee has met twice since the Council last met. It has heard an update
29 on the Department of Public Works staffing and the upcoming Casella curbside trash
30 pickup program, and is learning more about and discussing PFAS. She said the Christmas
31 tree collection went well with the help of Scout Troop 154 and the trees were delivered to
32 Hickory Nut Farm in Lee for its goats to eat. She said the effort was featured in a news
33 story on NHPR. She said the committee will put together the Sustainability Newsletter
34 with the help of seven other town groups.
35

36 **Councilor Burton**

37 He spoke about the bill coming before the Legislature that would allow the carrying of
38 weapons on campus, which he opposes. He said he consulted with the town's police chief
39 as well as the current and former UNH police chiefs, and all agree this would make the
40 UNH campus more unsafe for a lot of reasons.
41

42 Chair Friedman said the resolution Councilor Burton is proposing, which opposes the
43 passage of this bill, will be discussed later in the meeting under New Business.
44

45 **Councilor Register - Oyster River School Board**

1 He said the school board will meet Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Morse Recital
2 Hall at the middle school. He said community members can tour the elementary schools
3 to learn about the proposed expansion project: at Mast Way, 6 p.m., Jan. 28; at
4 Moharimet, 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 24; 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26; and 6 p.m., Thursday,
5 Feb. 12. Residents can register at orcsd.org.

6

7 **Councilor Register - Agricultural Commission**

8 He said he hasn't been able to attend a meeting in four months, but the commission is
9 meeting at the same time as the Council on Jan. 12 and will next meet Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.

10

11 **Councilor Register - Strafford County Commissioners**

12 He said the Commission will hold a briefing on the long-term care facility on Jan. 21.

13

14 **Councilor Register**

15 He reminded residents that the filing period for town office opens Jan. 21 at 8 a.m. and
16 ends Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. and encouraged them to consider running for office.

17

18 Administrator Selig listed the town offices that are open: three positions for Town
19 Council with three-year terms; one Town Council position with a two-year term; two
20 Durham Public Library Board of Trustees positions with three-year terms; one Town
21 Moderator position with a two-year term; one Supervisor of the Checklist with a six-year
22 term; a Town Clerk/Tax Collector position with a three-year term, Town Treasurer
23 position with a three-year term; one Trustee of the Trust Funds with a three-year term.

24

25 **Councilor Welsh - Land Stewardship Subcommittee**

26 He said the subcommittee hasn't met since the Council's last meeting. It will meet Jan.
27 14 at 8:30 a.m.

28

29 **Councilor Grant - Planning Board**

30 She said the Planning Board hasn't met since the Council's last meeting. It will meet Jan.
31 14 and will hold two public hearings on the proposed changes to the building height limit
32 in the Central Business District 1 downtown. She said it will also review new state laws
33 that affect zoning and continue to discuss site plan regulations for EV charging stations.

34

35 **Councilor Vogt - Human Rights Commission**

36 The commission will meet Feb. 12 at 3:30 p.m. and he feels it will have a loaded agenda
37 because of recent events and protests across the country and encouraged residents to
38 attend or tune in on Zoom to learn about and share available resources.

39

40 **Councilor Vogt - Energy Committee**

41 He said the committee met Jan. 6. He thanked Councilor Friedrichs for highlighting the
42 C-Pacer program, which is a financing program for commercial property owners and
43 developers to access private capital for projects that provide energy or water resource
44 conservation, reduce public health costs and risks, or reduce public emergency response
45 costs and risks. He said the committee learned about and discussed it. He said it learned
46 about EV chargers being installed behind the Hamel Rec Center and at the Edgewood and

1 Memorial Field lots. It also discussed SB 540, the Balcony Solar Bill, introduced by State
2 Sen. David Watters, which had a hearing on Jan. 8 at the Natural Resources Committee.
3 Members attended a meeting about the concept that is in use in Utah to learn more.
4

5 Chair Pro Tem Needell asked what Balcony Solar is. Councilor Vogt said it is the use of
6 small solar battery systems that can power personal generators to run small appliances to
7 save on a homeowner's electrical bill and the bill would prevent zoning ordinances that
8 prohibit this use.
9

10 **Chair Friedman - Parks and Recreation Committee**

11 He said the committee met Dec. 16 and followed up on the report that was presented to
12 the Council with next steps and outreach to the public, and determining the priorities will
13 be the focus of the next few meetings. He said the Chair Cathy Leach and the Parks and
14 Rec Director Rachel Gasowski met with him and Administrator Selig to look at what
15 projects are the most realistic for them to pursue given the town's tax situation so they
16 can direct their resources and volunteers appropriately.
17

18 **Chair Friedman - Tri Region Economic Development Stakeholders**

19 He said the Strafford County Economic Development District Strategy Committee has
20 asked him to join the committee to help set some strategic direction for local
21 communities to work together on economic development. He also reminded residents
22 about the Public Hearings at this week's Planning Board about zoning changes to
23 increase density downtown. He said those changes, UNH moving forward on its Edge
24 project, and Riverwoods' expansion will hopefully generate tax revenue for the town.
25

26 **Administrator Selig**

27 He said he and Parks and Rec Director Gasowski met with UNH staff about outdoor pool
28 pass pricing and said it will remain stable and information should be available soon.
29

30 He said the second two-handled EV charging station will be installed Wednesday, Jan. 14
31 in the Pettee Brook metered lot.
32

33 He said the town has provided a notice to proceed to the construction company which
34 will do the Mill Pond dam removal work. He said in the next few weeks he will be
35 working with them to set a construction timetable and when it's finalized, he will
36 communicate to the Council and the public.
37

38 He said the town is in active collective bargaining with three employee unions and
39 negotiations are still ongoing.
40

41 Town Assessor Freer, attorney Joe Driscoll and he are negotiating the second PILOT
42 (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement with Riverwoods for its Phase 2 expansion, and he
43 hopes to give the Council a briefing on Feb. 2.
44

45 He said the town was awarded a UNH Sustainability Fellow for this summer, but due to
46 budget reductions, the town can't support the fellowship so he has informed UNH.

1 He said the town has prevailed in Superior Court on the Eversource appeals for tax
2 abatements for years 2017 to 2023. The town has carried \$360,000 in the overlay account
3 to cover the worst case scenario of losing the case and having to pay the reimbursement.
4 He said other towns haven't prevailed so the process will continue and Eversource could
5 appeal to the state Supreme Court so it's not over yet, but the news is positive so far.
6

7 He said the town has received notice that there'll be a Public Hearing about the county's
8 operating budget that may include an update on the county's warming center on
9 Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the county courthouse at 259
10 County Farm Road in Dover. Snow date is Jan. 28. There is a Zoom option. Residents
11 can sign up at straffordcounty.gov.
12

13 **XIV. New Business**

14 A. Begin the Administrator's annual performance evaluation process for 2025 in accordance
15 with the employment agreement between the Administrator and the Town of Durham
16

17 Friedman invited Administrator Selig to give the history of the process. He said he and
18 the town have an employment agreement in place, which was set in 2024 and is a seven-
19 year agreement, that provides for an annual evaluation process. He said the Council sets
20 the town's goals and reviews how he's doing in achieving them. He said it's an
21 opportunity to refocus if needed. He said this process was adopted in 2014 and he feels it
22 provides consistent feedback and direction, and he finds it useful.
23

24 Chair Friedman asked Councilors if they wanted to continue to use this process, and the
25 consensus was yes. Councilors will complete their evaluations and turn them into Chair
26 Friedman by Jan. 21 and he will compile and report on them at the next Council meeting.
27

28 Administrator Selig said he works at the pleasure of the Councilors and this process
29 concludes his 25th year of service to Durham. He said he makes the results public every
30 year on the town website.
31

32 B. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution #2026-02
33

34 Councilor Burton, who has proposed the resolution opposing HB 1793, said the bill will
35 prohibit colleges from regulating firearms and other weapons such as tasers and pepper
36 spray, and allow students to carry them anywhere on campus. He said he and other
37 legislators are concerned. The sponsor, State Rep. Sam Farrington, is a UNH student and
38 argues that if the Brown University students had guns, no one would have died in the on-
39 campus shooting. He said two accredited police departments trained to deal with an
40 active shooter situation are in close proximity to the UNH campus and their ability to
41 respond quickly makes this unnecessary at UNH. He said the current policy is for
42 students to store their guns at the police station where they can access them 24 hours a
43 day for hunting or target shooting. He said both the town and UNH police chiefs as well
44 as the former UNH police chief will testify against the bill at its hearing on Jan. 14 at 10
45 a.m. in Concord. He read the resolution.
46

1 ***Councilor Burton MOVED that the Town Council adopt Resolution #2026-02 in***
2 ***opposition to HB 1793. Councilor Welsh SECONDED the motion.***

3
4 Councilor Register said he is a U.S. Marine who served 10 years on active duty and an
5 avid gun owner. He gave an example from his service of an active shooter situation. He
6 said you can't carry a personal firearm on any military installation and he said the
7 solution to the shooting was not more Marines with guns. He said he does not need to
8 have a gun on him at all times to defend himself. He said there's a reason the town pays a
9 police force. He supports this resolution and believes it is just common sense.

10
11 ***The motion PASSED on a unanimous roll call vote of 7-0.***

12
13 **XV. Nonpublic Session (if required)**

14
15 **XVI. Adjourn (NLT 10:30 PM)**

16
17 ***Councilor Vogt MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Grant SECONDED the***
18 ***motion. The motion PASSED on a unanimous show of hands vote of 7-0.***

19
20 The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

21
22 - Jane Murphy, Minutes Taker