Dalton Select Board Meeting

Minutes of July 27, 2020

Present were Selectmen Jo Beth Dudley, Carol Sheltry, and Tamela Swan, along with then-Admin Assistant Robyn Gilmartin and former Admin-Assistant Tina Peabody

Also present: Mike Noel, Jon Swan, Ron Sheltry, Brian and Terri Parks, Scott Kleinschrodt, Linda Greenwood, Erik Nilsen, Diane Brown, Christine Ordinetz

At 6:35PM, Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order and stated that the BOS would be signing AR/PR checks for the first few minutes of the meeting.

Tamela Swan worked on the remote connection to make sure it was working for remote participants

Scott Kleinschrodt asked about meeting minutes and agendas and how they are posted. Chair Dudley answered that they are on the town website. Robyn Gilmartin interjected that it was her fault the meeting minutes were posted late this morning.

Following the signing of checks, prior meeting minutes were reviewed and corrected as needed.

At 7:05PM, Chair Dudley stated that there would not be public comments due to a faulty refrigerator and water in the basement. Diane Brown spoke up, as she was told to come to the meeting relative to the purchase of a burial plot. Tina Peabody escorted Ms. Brown to the Admin-Assistant office to take care of that process.

At 7:07PM, Erik Nilsen spoke up next. He lives on Harriman Road and wanted to address the board about the Ridgeline Shooting Range and the effect its having on his family and others on Harriman Road. Saturday, firing went on from 7:00AM to 7:00PM, then Sunday at 7:15AM to 4:30 or 5:00PM. He mentioned state RSAs and gun ranges. He requested that the Selectboard familiarize itself with Ridgeline, it’s business development, and its website. He said as long as the town does not have a zoning ordinance, there’s nothing a town can do. Since the town does have a zoning ordinance, he asked the board to familiarize itself, visit, and look into the expansion of the operation since the adoption of zoning last July, 2019. He asked that a baseline be established by the BOS now, as it sounds like they have big expansion plans going forward. He has lived there for 43 years and has spent a lot of time developing his property and feels it is his Constitutional right to happiness there, and he does not. Mr. Nilsen also inquired about hazardous waste and the town being involved with the disposal of hazardous waste. Chair Dudley mentioned prior discussions about the North Country Council and its efforts to work with towns on recycling matters. Christine Ordinetz inquired about Whitefield and Bethlehem relative to how they handle hazardous waste.

Jon Swan spoke next, inquiring about the past comments of resident Scott Kleinschrodt relative to the internet needs of the residents of the Town of Dalton. Mr. Swan inquired as to whether or not Mr. Kleinschrodt was going to form a committee to study the matter and inquire as to the actual needs and costs associated with this. Mr. Kleinschrodt then responded “It’s going to cost money”.

There followed a brief discussion on purchasing and purchasing policy…some discussion was muffled due to the wearing of face masks. Further discussion ensued relative to purchasing policies. Discussion of a draft form to use by department heads. We will continue to discuss a purchase order process at future meetings.

Brief discussion ensued relative to a request from Vanessa Cardillo relative to a request for past records from the Supervisor of the Checklist.

Chair Dudley inquired about the bid by the Dalton Fire and Rescue relative to its bid for a tanker truck from Whitefield. Chief Ron Sheltry stated that the town won the bid.

Brief discussion about the location of the new trash bags.

Brief discussion about Forbes Farm and odor issues with a town resident who resides on property nearly surrounded by fields where cow manure is dispensed in the fields and subsequent discussion about possible means to mitigate the situation.

Chief Ron Sheltry addressed the board to discuss the Covid-19 situation. There appears to be a slight uptick in Covid cases in Coos. Carol Sheltry shared some info about how the department responds to cases. There was also discussion about the dispatch center in Lancaster and the possibility that Lancaster will be getting out of dispatching within 2 years. Studies are being done about the costs associated with this going forward. The state is supplying PPE for the upcoming elections. Christine Ordinetz, Town Moderator, chimed in to share possible scenarios for voting day, but she will have to get with Cathleen Fountain and Jessie Wentworth to discuss further.

There was an extended conversation about property purchased on Mountain Road with the intent of creating some kind of halfway house for 10 people and run by a monk. A waiver by this group to the state fire marshal was to be followed up by Chief Sheltry. Volunteerism is a part of the halfway house requirements for residents.

Chief Sheltry also discussed fireworks, permits, and restrictions within the town and issues with Forest Lake and their impact on the lake. He suggested requiring a permit.

Chairman of the Trustees Jon Swan provided an update to the BOS relative to the 3 accounts at Passumpsic Bank from non-interest bearing accounts to the Non-Profit Plus, which provides a little bit of interest as opposed to little or none that the 3 trust accounts currently earn.

A conversation ensued about the town trash bags and the accounting for the bags as well as the annual warrant article for the trash bags.

Discussion initiated by Tina Peabody relative to a bill for repairs to the underground oil fuel storage tanks and an estimate for other repairs. A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Tamela to repair the underground oil storage tanks to be paid for from the Building Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:15PM, Chair Dudley made the motion to go into non-public session which was seconded by Tamela Swan, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Dudley announced the BOS would not return in public session.