

Monday, February 7, 2022 7:00 PM
Budget Public Hearing and Dog Ordinance Public Hearing
Dalton Select Board

Call to order at 7:00 pm by Jo Beth Dudley. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Carol Sheltry and Tamela Swan were present.

Members of the public that were present: Linda Greenwood, Eric Pilotte, Robin Pilotte, Pam Kathan, Victor St. Cyr, Frank Tillotson, Jr., Jon Swan, Doris Mitton, Mike Crosby, Richard Nadeau, Don & Nancy Mooney, Mike Noel, Thomas Schmidt, Warren Green, Kevin Whittum, Jr., Nate Parks, Mark Jacob, Nancy Comeau, Brian & Terri Parks, Ron Sheltry, Matt Favreau, Jessie and Robert Wentworth, Jen William, Norman Gardner and Linda Greenwood. Online attendees: Ann Laflamme, Robert Blechl, and Bryan Mills.

The Select Board presented its proposed total municipal budget of \$913,536, which included funding for a full-time Administrator. Highlights of the budget were discussed:

To cover the position, the financial administration line was increased by \$39,600, from \$64,600 to \$104,200. The executive line was also increased from \$28,700 to \$41,900.

To cover the mid-term elections in the fall, the election, vitals and registration budget line was increased by \$9,200, from \$19,000 to \$28,200. There are more elections this year.

The board is keeping the town's legal budget level at \$30,000, the same as 2021.

The personnel administration budget line dropped from \$126,900 to \$120,000.

There is no change to the planning budget, which is \$1,000.

There is a \$3,000 increase in the general government buildings line, bringing it to \$35,000. This is for potentially higher fuel and heating costs. There has been a lot of deferred maintenance in building and we want to get a better idea of what's out there for deferred maintenance.

The cemeteries line increased from \$3,200 to \$5,600. The plan is to put up some fences because there has been some damage to the cemeteries caused by people driving on them.

The police budget line for 2022 is the same amount of \$15,000 for New Hampshire State Police coverage.

The ambulance service line — Dalton contracts with Whitefield for ambulance services — increased from \$15,000 to \$17,500. Part of the reason is the cost for dispatch services increased, and that cost is included in the increased ambulance line, which hadn't gone up in a while

“The ambulance was originally projected to go up \$20,000, but because we occasionally help them out with runs, etc., they decided to drop \$2,500 off it,” said Dalton Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Sheltry.

The Select Board went through each of the Warrant Articles. As for warrant articles, one will ask voters to close out the town's police cruiser capital reserve fund and put the money in the technology budget line, with the money possibly going to such things as upgrading the town building WiFi coverage, updating the tax map, installing a sound system in the auditorium, and/or future replacement of the town computers.

The dog ordinance that will be placed as a ballot item on Dalton's March 8 town meeting election is based on New Hampshire RSA 466:30, the statute on a dog control law. The statute was read by Tamela Swan.

Jo Beth stated that there have been complaints about dogs not on their own property that bother other people, and right now nothing can be done about it because we don't have a dog ordinance. The measure is not meant to be punitive or overly restrictive and is instead a tool to address dogs that are not under their owner's control and are bothering other people, she said.

Formal complaint letters can be written and state police contacted.

Mike Crosby recounted several instances of dogs running onto his property and creating a menace.

Under the ordinance, any authorized person can seize and impound a dog running at large (except when accompanied by the owner or when being used for hunting, herding, and other authorized purposes) and owners will face fines that increase for the second and any subsequent offenses within a 12-month period.

The first nuisance offense is \$25 and the second \$100. The first menace offense is \$50 and the second \$200. The first vicious dog offense is \$100 and the second \$400.

The RSA also allows the name of the owner-offender to be released as public information.

The Budget Meeting and Dog Ordinance Hearing concluded at 8:11 PM

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Tamela Swan

Minutes Approved On: 03/07/2022 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Carol Sheltry

Carol Sheltry

Tamela Swan

Tamela Swan

