

Monday, September 18, 2023 6:30 PM
Regular Session
Dalton Select Board Meeting

Call to order at 6:30 pm by Jo Beth Dudley. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Carol Sheltry and Thomas Dubreuil (Tom) were present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

Public attendees: Diane Lyon, Terri Parks, and Vic St. Cyr as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

Melissa Elander from Clean Energy NH presented an upcoming \$1.6M solar grant opportunity for town owned properties (up to 60KW). She provided information for varying other types of grant opportunities and clean energy opportunities for the town of consider. New Hampshire Community Power Program information was also provided. Dalton may be eligible for a 95% grant match for a solar project. Melissa asked for electricity usage and roof ages to start the assessment process. Jeanette confirmed she could provide that rather quickly. Melissa may be able to schedule an assessment with the solar program representative for Monday, September 25th. She will let Jeanette know and we can plan accordingly. It is expected that a Level 2 Energy Audit will be required to apply for these grants. CDFA has a grant currently available that would cover 75% of the audit costs. Metal roofing with a pitched roof is the best option for solar installations, however, ground installations are possible with the required environmental assessment. NH does allow net metering for municipalities, enabling a solar array on one building to generate enough electricity for other municipal buildings.

Melissa also provided information on replacing street lights with LED street lights through Eversource. There are contractor direct savings available for a 30% reduction incentive. An additional program may be available through a contractor. Light replacement costs are approx. \$400-\$500 per light with a rate adjustment with Eversource directly.

Melissa also discussed the Community Power program, or Electric Aggregation, whereby the town could become the power supplier for Dalton residents. The town would act within a group of towns, thereby leveraging bulk purchasing power, essentially acting as a broker for the energy market. Residents would be able to opt out. The board agreed that this is not an immediate priority for the town.

Lastly, Melissa confirmed there is a USDA Grant available for community facilities that could provide 35% reimbursement for construction to the facilities. Statewide applications are accepted in December and Nationwide applications are accepted in April. Jeanette confirmed she was looking into this grant for a December submission date. Melissa recommended reaching out to Rena Peck for additional information and guidance.

Jo Beth motioned to investigate solar, roofing, electrical possibilities. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

Further discussion took place on the roof types and conditions, with the municipal building roof being the largest. Solar array could be placed on the roof if it's deemed to be in acceptable condition. Rebuilding the roof to have a pitch is being considered. Tom agreed to he could take the lead to setup an assessment with a structural engineer/roofing specialist to validate this possibility. Tom motioned to investigate the opportunity to explore adding a pitch to the municipal building roof. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

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The Board signed checks for accounts payable and payroll.

The Board reviewed and signed bank account reconciliation documents for June Sweep account and July bank accounts complete.

The Select Board executed one Intent to Cut.

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from the August 21, 2023 Select Board Meeting. Tom motioned with second by Carol. Approval via roll call.

The Select Board cast votes for the NH Association of Assessing.

The new website should be live the end of September or beginning of October. Jeanette has one final review for the last round of changes/modifications.

Jeanette provided an update on the upcoming accounting software transition. Jo Beth asked to be included on the training session. Jeanette confirmed she would provide the training schedule once it's available.

The Town received the Notice to proceed for the Sewer Grant. The work has been scheduled for the week of October 16, 2023. Once complete, we will meet with Granite State Water to continue the process of developing a maintenance plan and reconfiguring the rates for public sewer.

No current update for Crime & Public Safety Committee. Public Forum date has been set for Thursday, October 19, 2023. Terri Parks shared a police article regarding the closing of many small town police departments who are having difficulty with staffing. Towns are contracting with county and state police departments to help with policing their communities.

Tom brought up Gray's Auto Auction in Vermont for potentially selling the town's two vehicles. Jeanette will check into the process and see if it's a viable option.

CN Brown has not gotten back to us regarding propane pricing. Jeanette will touch base with them again to see if it's still an option.

Jo Beth presented the letter in response to the GSL regarding building on Douglas Drive. A discussion ensued regarding requirements for road standards and buildings. Tom was not in agreement with sending the letter. Jo Beth offered the option of asking our legal counsel to review the letter for content and validity for this specific situation. Tom motioned for the letter to be sent to our attorney for their review and comment. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

The Building Maintenance Committee met on 9/11/23 and made some good progress on the inspection report in respect to priorities. We are awaiting the proposal for the roof repair at the gymnasium/police office as well as testing for asbestos material and air testing in the building. Jeanette will follow up with both contractors.

The town received information on State of New Hampshire SWEPT and Adequacy funds for education. The Education tax warrant is approx.. \$1.220/thousand. The Select Board asked to get electronic copies of these documents. Jeanette will forward the email containing the link.

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Jeanette provided quotes for large pay-as-you-throw bags. Waste Zero, a new vendor, provided a quote for drawstring style bags which cost less than the open-ended twist-tie closure type. Jo Beth motioned to order 100 cases of the large drawstring bags from Waste Zero at a savings of \$16.68/case over the previous vendor. Tom seconded with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic for legal at 9:25pm. Carol second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 9:29pm. Carol second with approval via roll call.

Carol motioned to seal the minutes for the nonpublic sessions. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Carol motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 10/02/2023 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Carol Sheltry

Carol Sheltry

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil