

**Monday, January 15, 2024 6:30 PM**

**Working Session**

**Dalton Select Board Meeting**

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

Public attendees: Joe Gay (Casella), Kyle Mac Bean, Jeff Weld (Casella), Kevin Roy (Casella), Rebecca Metcalf (Casella), Gina Damiano, Evelyn Flynn, Michel Crosby, Nancy Crosby, Kurt Hall, Chris Ordinetz, Steve Ordinetz, Ann Marie Towers, Peg Parenteau, Erik Johnson, Erin McGuire, Martin Galasyn Jr., Nancy Morrison, Terri Parks, Chris Cyr, Tim O'Neil, Michael Trudeau, Jeremy O'Neil, Diane Lyon, Vic St. Cyr, Bob Fountain, Cathleen Fountain, Robin Pilotte, Shawn St. Cyr, Pam Kathan, Joe Dumas, Ron Sheltry, Christine Fintonis, Kris Ennis, Michael Ryan, Robert Sampson, and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

Casella representatives were present to deliver an update on their proposed Granite State Landfill Project. Joe Gay presented a slideshow (attached) along with narration regarding their permitting process, project property details, planned facility operations, planned buildings, landfill location, retention ponds, etc. The Select Board asked a few questions regarding a public hearing and the planned location (State agencies will decide once it's time for schedule and location for meetings to take place); whether or not there will be a new community host agreement for the town (Casella will consider a host agreement with the community); whether Chick Ingerson was going to continue gravel operations onsite or not (yes); are there plans for a transfer station, commercial composting facility, renewable energy facility, and/or a recycling facility onsite (transfers station – no; renewable energy project is possible, but the trash has to come in and start decomposing first in order to have the methane gases available for generating that energy – a space is on the current footprint for a future renewable energy area; commercial composting is not part of the plan but may be something to be discussed in the host agreement; a large scale recycling facility is proposed in New Hampshire but not here, location currently unknown); will the Dalton Conservation Commission be allowed onsite when the vernal pools are active (Casella offered a site visit in June 2023 (pre-submission of revised permit applications) when the growing season was active and it was declined so it'd be a matter for law, or a legal question at this point); the original plan application was for 38 years and this one is for 18 years – are we starting out at 18 and then expanding to 38 years (we are starting at 18 and staying at 18 years, at this point) ; have you reached out to Whitefield since they border this project and trucks will be going through their town (we have not gone to Whitefield, there have been some conversations with DOT about Whitefield regarding safety – but we have not been to the Whitefield Select Board); surrounding communities, including Littleton, Bethlehem and others as well as Whitefield, are all going to be impacted as well, are there plans to reach out to the other surrounding communities (I've been so focused on this project and I also oversee our lined landfill in Vermont, and I've been to many of the towns for that landfill answering questions they have, so that would be something we would take into consideration here). The presentation and questions from the Select Board were finished and Jo Beth thanked everyone for coming to the presentation. An invitation was extended to the audience to stay for the remainder of our working session.

Jo Beth asked a resident, Erik Johnson, for his professional opinion on the Certified Computer Solutions' recommendations for IT security for our computers and network. He looked at the quotes, asked some questions, and asked if he could have some time to review the items and get some general answers to questions regarding our business dealings and current system. Jeanette confirmed she would send him

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the information. He agreed to look through the information and give us feedback, or even call Katie to discuss the proposals in order to assist the Board with making the decisions.

We received the written professional assessment for the metal roofing at the Fire Department and Highway Garage. Both structures appear to be sound enough for solar structures. Next would be a structural assessment. Jeanette is awaiting the price quotes for each building. Tom mentioned the panels are only good for 25 years or so and require maintenance. Jo Beth confirmed they had a life-span of approximately 25 years. Maintenance, among many other questions would be good to ask when we get to that point in the process.

The Proposed 2024 Budget was reviewed and anticipated revenues for 2024 were discussed and determined on a draft MS-636. Employee retirement was briefly discussed, since it counts for nearly half of the increase in the proposed budget. It was determined that things look to be in good shape for the Budget Hearing scheduled for January 29, 2024 at 6:30pm.

The Board discussed warrant articles for Town Meeting. The reoccurring articles from last year were brought into the 2024 draft for review. The Veteran's Tax Credit warrant was added so the town could continue to provide its veterans with a \$500 tax credit, if approved by town vote (majority required). Jeanette will find out how we need to appropriate funds for possible dump truck payments at the end of 2024. Capital Reserve contributions were all approved with exception of a couple recommended increases for Building Improvements, which is being proposed at \$15,000 in lieu of the normal \$10,000; and the town's legal fund, which is being proposed at \$10,000 in lieu of \$5,000. The legal budget line item is being decreased from \$30,000 to \$20,000. Two additional articles were discussed regarding the town vehicles sold at November's auction. A warrant to move \$800 from general funds to the highway dept. vehicle trust fund will be added along with a similar warrant article for \$3000 to be moved to the fire department vehicle trust fund from general funds.

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic session for 1 welfare issue at 8:42 pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 8:53 pm. Tom second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to seal the minutes for nonpublic session #1. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Jo Beth second with approval via roll call.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 01/22/24 (date)



Jo Beth Dudley



Carol Sheltry

Thomas Dubreuil