

Tuesday, February 5, 2024 6:30 PM

Regular 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: Vic St. Cyr, Robin Pilotte, Pam Kathan, Robert Sampson, Michael Trudeau, Diane Lyon, Wayne Sweeney, Jay Ennis, Kris Ennis, and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

The Board signed checks for accounts payable and payroll.

The Board reviewed the December 2023 bank reconciliations along with the 2023 Accounting Transaction Report. Jo Beth asked if the Conservation Commission would be set-up separately in the accounting software. Jeanette will inquire with MRI.

The Board signed the 2023 Q4 Sewer Warrant.

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting. Jo Beth motioned with second by Carol. Approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to approve the January 22, 2024 nonpublic meeting minutes #1. Carol second with approval via roll call.

GEM's asbestos abatement proposal has been reviewed but we need flooring replacement quotes to understand the full cost impact of the project. Jeanette will work on getting these for an upcoming meeting.

Carol asked if the demolition dumpster could be covered with a tarp so the materials inside don't get weighed down with rain and/or snow. Tom asked about obtaining the additional cargo box for the transfer station mentioned in 2023. Jo Beth asked if there were quotes obtained but by the time Tom could get approvals, the boxes are no longer available, generally speaking. Cameras were mentioned for safety and observation of the station areas, which would be helpful in cases of dumpster diving, as experienced in the past. Michael Trudeau mentioned that Harbor Freight has the best deal on tarps. It was determined that Tom would continue to look for deals on cargo boxes, and cameras or added security would wait until warmer months are upon us. Jo Beth motioned for the tarps and cords be ordered to keep furniture dry. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

The solar panels grant RFP has not been released as of yet. The structural assessments of the Highway Garage and Fire Station roofs have not been approved/ordered. Tom mentioned that Granite State **Solar** Roofing will do an assessment for free – including structural. We should contact them to ask.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event is schedule for Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 11am-3pm at the Lancaster Transfer Station. Additional information will be available soon to promote the event among Dalton residents.

We have not heard any updates for the Dump Truck ordered in spring 2023. Last we heard the chassis construction start date was going to be August 2024. Woodsville Guaranty provided us with new rates they are willing to hold for one year. The new rate is 5% for a 10-year loan. Bond rates are also down, per the January sales data. As we get closer to receiving the truck, we will need to determine the best rate and institution to get our loan.

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The Dalton Conservation Commission (DCC) wrote to Casella asking for a site visit. No answer has been received as of yet. The offer to visit the grounds in June 2023 deemed unnecessary since there were no active permit applications showing where the proposed landfill was to be placed or other details about the project. The DCC is asking the Board to reach out to town counsel to determine their necessity of involvement. Tom stated that the DCC refused the visit 2 times, (note: only 1 time, before an application was refiled, as noted above) and said it's w/legal at this point, as mentioned by John Gay during their January 15, 2023 presentation. The DCC requested current vernal pool season visits on January 15, 2024, with no answer received as of today's meeting date. Tom would like the Board to draft letter in lieu of getting our attorney involved; he would like to review. Jo Beth motioned for her to draft and send a letter to Casella asking them to respond to the DCC request. Waiting for review at the next Select Board meeting in two weeks would delay the process too long. Carol provided a second. Tom voted nay. Tom went on to state that the DCC is run on Jon's accord with no approvals or oversight from the Select Board ever happening. Jo Beth reminded Tom that the DCC is not governed by the Select Board.

With the flow meter and SCADA system now in place, Jo Beth would like to setup a follow up meeting with Lunenburg to review the agreement. Jeanette will reach out to the Lunenburg group and get something setup.

Jo Beth asked Jeanette to read aloud the list of candidates for the Town Election on March 12, 2024. Jeanette read allowed those who filed for town office positions.

Carol introduced the RSA regarding the formation of one office for the Tax Collector and Town Clerk positions. Jo Beth read the RSA and thought it may be too late since it'd have to be done by petition warrant article.

Jo Beth stated that the Town Report needs dedication. She asked if anyone had ideas. Many good names were mentioned as possibilities. It was determined we would have multiple dedications for the 2023 Town Report. Carol motioned for Tom McVetty, Linda Greenwood, Jessie Wentworth, and Susan Bean to all be included. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call. Jeanette will work on gathering information and photos for each.

Jo Beth asked if there were any public comments. Tom had a budget question. He asked why there wasn't a 2nd budget hearing since we changed the budget. Jeanette reminded Tom that there is only a 2nd hearing required if the requested budget appropriations are changed. The only items change were past expenditures, which we just updated to include more recent data (from January 10, 2024 through January 30, 2024), so no meeting was needed. He stated he didn't remember the Board giving approval for those updates. Jeanette confirmed it wasn't necessary, since only past expenditures were updated, not budget appropriations. Many comments were made, randomly, regarding the updating of the expenditures which occurred in 2023 but had not hit the accounting system until January of 2024. Jeanette explained this was a normal process in accounting, as some companies don't invoice until the last day of the month, making it impossible to process things in the current month or year. Expenditures will be finalized and completely closed once the audit is completed. Tom mentioned that the department managers should be writing down their expenditures and providing them to Jeanette on a regular basis. Jo Beth stated that our department managers are busy running the town and not sitting at a desk making lists of purchases – that's what the accounting system is for. Pam Kathan asked why Jeanette wouldn't know what invoices are outstanding. Jeanette let Pam know she gets invoices directly

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and/or from the dept. heads regularly, but there may be a lag from the time of every day purchases by all the departments.

The town's subsidy of the Transfer Station came into conversation. Tom is working on gathering information to review costs vs. revenue in detail. Jo Beth noted that a preliminary general analysis has been done, outlined the town subsidy for the past three years.

As a public comment, Jeanette commented that the Board alone can't do everything and that people shouldn't only be coming to meetings to raise issues with no solutions. The transfer station has been brought up for well over a year and yet no one wants to assist with problem solving and improvement. If we want things to improve here, then we all need to work together and bring possible solutions with us when we present problems. Instead of jumping on the band wagon to come throw gas on a match erroneously lit and based on someone's personal opinion, come to the meetings ready to help the town. Michael Trudeau asked if it may be advantageous to add the Transfer Station to the Building Committee agenda/responsibility list. Jo Beth stated that may be a good idea and should be presented to the Building Committee to see if they would be interested in doing that. Tom stated that'd be fine, but he still plans to work on it as well.

Jo Beth motioned to go into nonpublic at 8:32pm for personal and legal. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 8:51pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to seal nonpublic #1. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

Carol motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 02/26/24 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Carol Sheltry

Carol Sheltry

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil

