

**Monday, February 26, 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: Warren Green, Michael Trudeau, Brian Parks, Christina Fintonis, Jeremy O'Neil, Mark Jacobs, Carl Lindquist, Pam Kathan, Vic St. Cyr, Terri Parks, Cathleen Fountain, Ron Sheltry, Tom Arrison, Paul Deveno, Amanda Deveno, Alice Andrus, John Andrus and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from February 5, 2024, with one minor correction. Carol motioned with a second from Tom. Approved via roll call.

Carol motioned to approve the February 5, 2024 nonpublic meeting minutes #1 (personal). Tom second with approval via roll call.

Floor samples for the vinyl plank tile were presented to the Board, as requested. All members looked at the tile and agreed it would be a good option to have installed once the abatement work is completed. Tom would like to meet and talk with the contractor. Jeanette asked why he didn't ask for this last week when we discussed it. The contractor has been here twice to measure and drop off samples. Jo Beth reminded Tom we have been talking about this getting done for nearly a year. Carol stated that we should vote on it and Tom can speak with the contractor at any time prior to the work being done. Vic St. Cyr asked about a contract and having access to it; Jeanette let him know there was no contract yet since the Board hadn't yet decided on the work or the contractor. Jo Beth asked Vic to stop speaking out of turn, but he continued, speaking over her comments and repeated requests. Carol motioned to move forward with the abatement and flooring replacement work. Jo Beth provided a second. Tom voted 'Nay'. Vic continued to speak out of turn despite the repeated requests from the Board to stop. Jeanette reminded Vic this was a working session.

Jo Beth reminded the resident audience that while she prefers to have open dialogue during meetings, it must be done in an orderly manner. Shouting out and talking out of turn won't be tolerated. If dialogue cannot be done orderly, we will return to having public comments at the end of the meeting only.

Jeanette presented DRA's Assessment Audit to the Board for their review. Carol asked if the DRA notes get added/updated in our system. Jeanette wasn't sure, as it's an assessor work item and not something she is allowed to perform.

Jo Beth presented a letter from the Select Board supporting the Dalton Conservation Commission's analysis of the Wetland Permit Applications for the proposed GSL Project. After reviewing the letter, Tom asked if the letter was from legal. Jo Beth explained it was not, it is from the Select Board. While the Board does not oversee or control the Conservation Commission, it's beneficial for the town to support their findings and request that any public hearings for the project be held in the North Country so that residents can easily attend. Carol motioned to sign and send the letter to DES. Jo Beth provided a second with Tom voting 'Nay'.

Jeanette presented the Municipal Assessment Data Certificate for the Board to sign since it was not completed by our assessor prior to his departure. Tom asked what it was for. It was explained that this was for the revaluation that was completed last year on the town's properties, and requires Select Board signature for submission to DRA. Tom stated he was not going to sign it because it was asking

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him to acknowledge his review of the data. He stated he didn't review any data because he was never given the opportunity to do so. He went on to state that this happens all the time. Furthermore, he doesn't agree with the increases Gary reported on town properties. Tom was reminded that Gary Fournier came and spoke with the Board at a public meeting to explain the rules, the process and the data. All Select Board members received a copy of the data at that meeting, and Gary answered questions from the Board and the audience at that time. If Tom had questions, that would have been the time to make the inquiries. Jeanette asked what other items Tom was asked to approve or acknowledge when he hadn't been provided the information beforehand. Tom stated he wasn't going to get into it because he didn't want to start an argument.

Tom asked why a petition warrant article wasn't brought before the Board for approval. He claims it was slipped into the Town Warrant without his knowledge. Jo Beth explained to Tom that the Board has no control over Petition Warrant Articles. These are documents residents file with the Town Clerk, during specific timelines set forth by the state. The Town Clerk is responsible to confirm the quantity and validity of the signatures on the articles. Lastly, he was reminded that Petition Warrant Articles must be placed on the Town Warrant exactly as they are submitted to the Town Clerk. Tom asked who authored the warrant article. Jo Beth let him know there is no requirement for the author to reveal his/her identity. Tom asked for a copy of the petition warrant article. Jo Beth asked if he wanted copies of them all. Tom responded, "Yes, I'd like them in paper and via email." Jeanette will provide.

Meeting was going to be adjourned; however, two of the three board members planned to stay for the "Meet Your Candidates" event at 7:30pm. Tom left; Jo Beth and Carol remained. There was a break between 7:15 and 7:30pm. For record keeping, the participants in the event were: Kristina Ennis, Jay Ennis, Michael Trudeau, Warren Green, Terri Parks, Cathleen Fountain, Jeanette Charon, and Carl Lindquist. Betsy Manzelli was the moderator who asked questions and MCed the event. The Meet the Candidates event took place until approximately 8:50pm.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm. Carol provided a second. Pam Kathan didn't hear that the meeting was adjourned and asked for it to be done. The room was called to attention and the meeting was adjourned a second time at 8:55pm, with Jo Beth motioning and Carol providing a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 03/11/24 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Carol Sheltry

Carol Sheltry

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Thomas Dubreuil