

Monday, March 4, 2024 6:30 PM
Regular Session
Dalton Select Board Meeting

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

Public attendees: Warren Green, Jennifer Green, Michael Trudeau, Christina Fintonis, Pam Kathan, Vic St. Cyr, Eric Moore, Diane Lyon, Michael Ryan, Don Merchand and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

Jo Beth could not be physically present at the meeting and called in to participate for as long as she could be present. Jo Beth left the meeting at 6:48pm.

Jo Beth prepared a brief PowerPoint presentation, which was shared with the other Board Members in print, at the meeting, to be discussed for use at Town Meeting. She felt it was a good idea to explain how municipal accounting works, with oversight by DRA and guidance by the state's RSA's. The presentation would be discussed later during in this meeting with feedback being provided to Jo Beth.

Jo Beth asked about the contracts for the asbestos abatement and replacement flooring. Jeanette let the board members know that we received an order acknowledgement from Carpet Connection for signature. Skip from GEM stated that they don't generally issue contracts for jobs this small. He stated that they generally just get their proposal approved by the Board. Carol motioned for the approval of both proposals, again, asked the other members for a second. Jo Beth provided a second with Tom voting 'nay'.

Jeanette presented an estimate from Certified Computer Solutions for adding hard-wired internet w/all hardware and software, in the gymnasium and the room to be used for the Internet Café. Tom thinks it's good idea to proceed with this work. Carol agrees and asks if this can come from the Technology Capital Reserve Fund. Tom did ask about the probability of success of the Internet Cafe project since there was an internet café here previously that failed. Jeanette explained that Cathleen Fountain explained to her the previous café had to close when the state tightened their requirements on internet access security. The café could no longer share the connection with the state's system (Town Clerk). Since we have the upgraded security hardware in place now, it shouldn't present an issue for the new Internet Café. Jo Beth agrees with use of the Technology capital reserve fund to cover the cost, and motions for the expansion of internet in the building, using CRFs. Carol provides a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth discussed the updates made to the Budget Hearing spreadsheet for 2023 expenditures, noting that no changes were made to the requested appropriations. The original report used for expenditures was from 1/10/24 and the update was made from a report dated 1/30/24. Tom concurred the changes were made only to the expenditure side but it looked funny that things moved around/changed after the meeting. Jo Beth reminded him that we discussed possible updates/changes to the expenditures due to late-in-the-year 2023 expenses posting to the books in January and corrections that needed to be made due to items being misapplied in QuickBooks. We also transitioned to a new software in October/November which has a municipal coding system specifically for fund accounting, and not QuickBooks which is for general accounting uses.

There is no update on the information Tom is gathering for the Transfer Station. He has made some progress but he's not ready to present anything yet.

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The 2023 audit is in progress. No date or time for the onsite testing process has been received from Veroff CPA yet. Jeanette will inform the board once she has that information.

The Select Board is scheduled to accompany Sansoucy at Ampersand Hydro on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 9am for the site walk-thru necessary for their property revaluation. Jo Beth and Tom are both expected to be in attendance. Jeanette will be sure to post the offsite working session.

Tom asked about the Petition Warrant Article that was slipped in on February 6, 2024. Jeanette let him know that all petition warrant articles were received on that day, the last day to accept them. He thought the other 3 petitions were received at the budget hearing. Jeanette stated that they may have been drafted at the meeting, but none were submitted until February 6, 2024.

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from February 19, 2024, with one minor correction (changing Tuesday to Monday). Carol motioned with a second from Tom. Approved via roll call.

Carol motioned to approve the February 19, 2024 nonpublic meeting minutes #1 (legal) and #2 (personal). Tom second with approval via roll call.

The Board reviewed the working session minutes from February 26, 2024. Tuesday was corrected to Monday. Tom reviewed the minutes and asked why there weren't minutes showing what took place after he left. Jeanette commented that the meeting continued because Carol and Jo Beth had decided to stay for the Meet the Candidates Event starting at 7:30pm. Just as discussed on that evening and prior to Tom's departure, the minutes reflected that he left and they stayed for that event. No town business took place during the event so there were no minutes to record. That meeting was adjourned after the event. Tom insisted there should be minutes. Diane Lyon asked about the town business that took place and again, Jeanette stated there wasn't any. The meeting was only held over because there was a quorum of select board members in the room for the event. Carol asked Tom about the notice and meeting minutes for the March 2, 2024 Concerned Citizens Meet the Candidates event. Technically, she and Tom were both in attendance and it should've been noticed and had minutes taken. Tom stated he wanted to wait until the next meeting to vote on approving the minutes so that he could look at the RSA's. Don Merchand stated that having the event in the Municipal Building and old school was wrong. Jeanette stated that it was allowable per RSA, which states that campaign material cannot be distributed onsite. Michael Trudeau had posted information on his campaign at Jeanette's direction previously. Jeanette realized she gave that direction in error and she removed his flier. He replaced the flier a second time and Jeanette removed it the morning of Monday, February 26, 2024. She let Mike know she made a mistake and apologized for it. Mike had fliers for the event but was told he could not distribute them unless he did so outside in the campaigning area. Don stated he didn't care what the RSA said and that it shouldn't have happened on public property. When asked about the Concerned Citizen's event at the Old Town Hall, also public property (town owned), no one provided an answer.

The Select Board reviewed the municipal accounting slides sent over by Jo Beth this afternoon. Details were updated by Jeanette for bullet points Jo Beth highlighted. Both Carol and Tom reviewed the slides. Carol thought it as a good idea to provide these to the residents. Tom didn't think it was necessary. Jeanette will finalize and send the slides to Jo Beth for her final thoughts. Pam Kathan asked who would present these slides. Jeanette stated it'd likely be Jo Beth, as Select Board Chair. Pam was concerned

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over the amount of time that would be spent on this since counting of ballots still needed to be done that evening. Jeanette stated it shouldn't take long but it really depends on the questions from residents.

Jeanette read aloud an email from Melissa Elander from Clean Energy NH regarding Tom's mentioning of Granite State Solar's free structural roof assessments. She had read about the comment in February 5, 2024, meeting minutes on our website. While developers do offer this service, it is generally not free and is only done when a signed contract is in place. It's generally built into their proposals. They do not provide these structural analyses for free.

Tom stated the email with petition warrant articles from Jeanette was duplicative. Carol pulled the email up and it didn't show duplication. Many of the petitions had multiple pages with only a few signatures. It appeared there were multiple people obtaining the signatures and then they put all the pages together. Tom would check again and let Jeanette know if there was an issue.

Property owner Henry Lee asked about the Twin States Energy Link Project status. National Grid did a presentation last year when they were submitting their proposal for the work. As the project start grows near, they are expected to come back to the communities affected to provide updates. He asked if the board objected him reaching out to National Grid regarding project status. The board confirmed they had no issue with him doing that.

Carol motioned to go into nonpublic session for 1 legal issue at approx. 7:49pm. Tom second. Approved via roll call.

Carol motioned to return to public session at 8:11pm. Tom second with approval via roll call.

Carol motioned to seal minutes for nonpublic #1 regarding legal. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call.

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. Carol provided 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

Thomas Dubreuil

