

Monday, March 11, 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 physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

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

The Board signed AP checks.

Tom doesn't agree with issuing the deposit check to Carpet Connections for replacement flooring until the budget is passed. He was reminded the work is being funded through the capital reserve fund for Building Maintenance. Jo Beth reminded Tom that the work has been discussed for months and was already voted upon and approved. She explained to Tom that every year the Board is required to spend money before the budget is passed in order to keep the town running, because the Town's fiscal year starts January 1st and the appropriation budget for that year isn't voted on until the Town Meeting in March.

Jo Beth confirmed with Jeanette and Pam that everything was prepared for the Town Election on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Select Board members will be in attendance: Tom in the morning, Jo Beth late morning, afternoon and evening, Carol in the afternoon and evening. All members will be present for Town Meeting.

Select Board offered to read warrant articles as Pam's Rules of Order state she likely will not. When asked, Pam stated she would figure it out at the meeting. The Board determined they would motion articles as follows: Jo Beth: WA #'s 2-4-5-6-7; Carol #'s 8-9-10-11-12; and Tom #'s 13-14-15-16-17.

Cathleen Fountain is prepared to complete resident/voter check-in for Town Meeting with a sufficient amount of help.

Town counsel, Naomi Butterfield, will be present at Town Meeting.

The Board reviewed the working session meeting minutes from February 26, 2024, again. Tom refused to approve the minutes because he feels there should be notes on the Meet the Candidates event that took place after the town business portion of the meeting was complete. The meeting remained open because two select board members were in attendance at the candidate event; Tom chose to leave, as noted in the minutes. No town business was discussed during the event leaving no minutes to report. The event itself was not a Select Board sponsored meeting. Jo Beth motioned to approve the minutes. Carol provided a second. Tom voted 'nay'.

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from March 4, 2024. Tom wanted Carol's comments stricken regarding the Concerned Citizens for Dalton Meet the Candidate Event from March 2, 2024. Carol had raised this issue as an illustration of an event similar to the Meet the Candidates nights, even though not all candidates were invited. Both Tom and Carol were both present at this event for a period of time; no notice was posted nor were minutes provided. Tom feels this is not the same as the February 26, 2024 event where no minutes were taken for the candidate event that took place *after* the town business portion of the meeting had ended. Diane Lyon ~~shouted out~~ comments. Jeanette reminded her this was a working session and there is no public comment. Don Merchand stated it wasn't up to Jeanette to

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determine that it's a working session. Jeanette reminded Don that Jo Beth stated this when the meeting was called to order. Tom ^{told} yelled at Jeanette to stop interrupting select board discussion since she's not part of the board. Jeanette noted that she is part of the board as the administrator. Jo Beth called the meeting to order. Tom ^{told} yelled at Jo Beth to not yell at him. Jo Beth responded that she would not raise her voice unless necessary and she asked Tom to refrain from raising his voice. Jo Beth reviewed the minutes silently and eventually made a motion to approve the minutes, agreeing there was no town business that took place during the candidate event. Carol provided a second. Tom voted 'nay'.

The Board reviewed non-public #1 minutes for legal from March 4, 2024. Jo Beth abstained since she was not present during that part of the meeting. Tom felt the minutes were incomplete because what he considered criticism of himself was not included. Carol motioned. Tom voted 'nay'. The minutes will remain draft minutes and be sealed.

Jeanette presented January's bank reconciliations to the board for review along with the transaction detail report for January 2024. Tom refused to sign off on the transaction detail report despite reviewing it during the meeting and having no questions or comments. When asked why he didn't initial the report, he stated that he looked at it but that he isn't 'doing those'.

The maintenance for Dalton's Picnic Area also referred to as Adam's Pool has come into question multiple times over the past couple meetings. The Dalton Conservation Commission does not have the volunteer capacity to maintain the property. Jo Beth would like to table the topic and will bring it up as new business at the Town Meeting, as requested by Diane Lyon. This will make more residents aware of the need for volunteers to maintain the space for future use by town residents and visitors.

Jo Beth brought up HB1479, a House Bill up for consideration that would limit the use of tax funds for lobbying purposes. This bill would prevent towns from using public funds (including tax revenue) for programs such as New Hampshire Municipal Association to provide information and guidance on bills in the House and/or Senate. Diane Lyon asked if this is something we pay for. Jo Beth responded, yes and it's very helpful for the town. Tom wants to read more about the topic before he decides. Jo Beth noted that all Select Board members had received information on this bill from the NHMA, and that it had been discussed by the board previously, when the board authorized to Jeanette to draft and send a letter on the Board's behalf. Mike Trudeau asked if the legislature is trying to do away with this service. Jo Beth replied, essentially, yes, as the bill would require non-public funds to support it and that is not a feasible alternative. Jo Beth stated that the bill goes to the floor soon, so there is no time to delay until another meeting. Jo Beth motioned to have Jeanette draft a letter on behalf of the Select Board and asked each member of the Board to send a letter as well. Carol provide a second. Jo Beth forwarded the most recent email to Tom to ensure he had the latest notification. He has no issue sending a letter personally because he knows they (NHMA) are good. Mike Trudeau stated we may need to lobby to the Senate as well. Cathleen Fountain stated that they have an online system where people log in to submit their letter/testimony.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm. Carol provided a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 4/1/24 (date)

with modifications noted

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Jo Beth Dudley



Carol Sheltry

Thomas Dubreuil

