

Monday, March 18, 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 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, Warren Green, Thomas Schmidt, Mark Jacobs, Kris Ennis, Jay Ennis, Amanda Deveno, Robin Pilotte, Eric Pilotte, Ron Sheltry, Kurt Hall, Terri Parks and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

The Board signed payroll and AP checks.

The next meeting for the Broadband Expansion Committee is Thursday, March 28, 2024. Carol asked where the meeting was taking place. Jeanette forwarded the notice to Cathleen Fountain and Erik Johnson, our reps, but she didn't print it. She thinks it's a zoom meeting though.

Jo Beth asked about the old landfill report from Eastern Analytical. Jeanette confirmed it should be arriving soon since it's due March 31, 2024. She will contact Horizons who completes and submits the report for the town.

Jeanette presented a tax interest abatement request to the Board for signature. The resident paid taxes in November and a credit was stored in lieu of being applied taxes on a second parcel. The resident came into the tax collector's office to address a notice of intent to lien along with a receipt showing the credit. Jeanette entered the payment receipt date for January 1, 2024 (as far back as it could be posted) and let the resident know an abatement would be requested for the outstanding interest being charged. Tom stated the document says the Board would vote, but no vote took place. Jeanette stated no vote was required, only board signatures. All members signed the abatement request for \$14.08.

Ron Sheltry was present with a Federal Excess Property Co-op Agreement from the NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, Forest Protection Bureau for a boat, trailer, and motor sent to the Dalton Volunteer Fire Department for use in water rescue. The state agency is allowing the Fire Department to use the equipment, *free of charge*, as long as the town insures the equipment and maintains its condition. The FD has been searching for a water rescue boat for nearly four years now and hasn't found anything affordable for the town. Tom asked if the game warden controlled/investigated water rescues. Ron replied that they do, but we would have to wait for the warden to arrive. Tom asked if training is necessary. Ron stated that we currently do water rescue training and that would continue. Tom asked if we are required to insure the equipment. Ron stated that we've added it to our policy and that it won't cost much since it's grouped with our other fire department equipment. Jo Beth motioned to approve and sign the agreement. Carol provided a second. Approval via roll call vote. Tom asked for a copy of the contract for his records.

During our budget preparation, budget hearing and town meeting, the offering of the state retirement plan was discussed, with no public opposition expressed. Jo Beth motioned to have the town officially enter into the plan for full-time employees. Carol provided a second. Tom voted 'nay'. When Jo Beth asked why he was voting against this now when he was for it in our previous budget discussions, he stated that he was for looking into it – which in his opinion, hasn't been completed. Motion carried.

Jo Beth asked about the meeting with Erik Johnson regarding the cyber security options from Certified Computer Systems. Jeanette has not heard back from Erik yet. She will reach out again.

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The State has not yet released the RFP for the Solar Power grant. We await the RFP to determine the need for a structural assessment on the Highway and Fire Dept. buildings.

No additional information has been received from our proposed new assessor. Jeanette will reach out to see if he's made any progress with obtaining his NH license for assessing.

Dalton has partnered with Lancaster for a Special Hazardous Waste Collection event on August 3, 2024. More information is forthcoming.

Certified Computer Systems has received the executed estimate for running internet cabling into the gymnasium and the internet café space. Once that work is completed, schedule pending, the remainder of the internet café work can be scheduled/completed.

The Building Maintenance Committee met prior to today's meeting. Brian Parks will provide the door dimensions for Jeanette to order the replacement door for the Boiler Room. The work at the Police entrance will be planned once the weather allows. Jay Ennis provided quotes for bathroom partition replacement in the boys and girls bathrooms. The current partitions are falling apart and in need of being replaced. Tom asked about the quote and Jay provided a copy to him during the meeting. Tom asked if they will extend to the floor; Jay stated no – it would be a violation of ADA. They will be approximately 12" off the floor. Jay explained that there would be no toilets added or removed, but there would be a slight change to the layout to enlarge the space inside each compartment. Jeanette will work on getting a quote for the repair of windows with broken seals and exterior plastic trim framing the windows.

The Building Committee agreed to pull the Transfer Station into their scope. Included in this will be the financial analysis of the station along with ideas for improving service and efficiency of the station. Jo Beth asked Tom to share the information he received from Jeanette in February so the group could begin working on the analysis. Tom asked for contracts we have for transfer station services. Jeanette let him know there were no current contracts in place. Jo Beth stated that contracts were initially entered into and the services have automatically renewed from year to year. Mike Trudeau stated during the building committee meeting that separating the metal could yield the town more revenue for recycling since the items have varying prices per pound. Jo Beth notified Tom that the next meeting is Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 if Tom wanted to attend to discuss the Transfer Station with the committee. Bob Wentworth and Kyle Mac Bean will be asked to attend to participate in that discussion. Jo Beth inquired to Ron about the number of toilets needed for the building's capacity. Ron stated there was a formula but he believes we are ok considering the current use of the building.

Jo Beth confirmed that Twin States informed her that they were pulling out of the Canada to New England energy transmission line project. The project is on hold indefinitely.

Jeanette informed the board that we received a letter from Lunenburg Fire #2 regarding a sewer rate increase. No additional details were provided in the letter. Jo Beth would still like to meet with them to discuss renewing the contract for waste services now that we have a better idea of the volume being sent to their facility from Dalton. Jeanette will inquire again.

Fire Chief Ron Sheltry discussed the need for replacing the department's heart monitor/defibrillator. The current unit (purchased refurbished) has been in service for nearly ten years and is technologically

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outdated. The EMS Equipment CRF has approximately \$31k and can more than cover the cost of a refurbished unit that with the latest technology, approx. \$25k. This newer unit would allow EMS to have two-way communications with Littleton Regional Hospital or Weeks Medical Center in cases where heart monitoring is necessary. Jo Beth motioned for the purchase to be made utilizing the department's capital reserve funds. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth asked if there was a defibrillator in the building. Ron confirmed. Tom asked if it's tested regularly. Ron confirmed it is, and batteries are checked/replaced regularly, as well.

Ron confirmed the Emergency Operations Plan is currently being updated. This is past due because of delays from Covid. It should be completed soon.

Ron notified the Board that he has been contacted by the state regarding opening our EOC (Emergency Operations Center) during the period prior to and including the Solar Eclipse taking place on Monday, April 8, 2024. He does not anticipate needing additional services in Dalton compared to up north; however, he is monitoring the reports and ensured the board that the VFD will be prepared to assist, as necessary.

Jeanette presented Amanda Deveno as her choice for Deputy Tax Collector since Nancy Crosby successfully won the Treasurer race in the town election. Nancy has been sworn in and will be taking over those duties shortly. Jeanette provided Amanda's resume to the Board. Tom asked if he could meet Amanda before agreeing. Jeanette pointed to her in the audience and stated she was present for questions, if any. Tom recognized Amanda and stated he didn't have any questions; he just wanted to put a face with the name. Jo Beth reminded the Board that the statutes state the Tax Collector shall appoint the deputy, whereas the Town Clerk may appoint a deputy. Jo Beth motioned with Carol providing a second. Approval via roll call.

We have received three (3) requests for election result recounts. Requests are as follows: Warren Green for Select person, Pamela Kathan for Moderator and Emily Thompson for Planning Board – 3 year. Recounts will take place, one at a time, starting at 2pm on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in the Municipal Building gymnasium.

Jo Beth motioned to enter non-public for one legal issue at 7:21pm . Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 7:30pm. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session #1 for legal. Carol provided a second with approval via roll call.

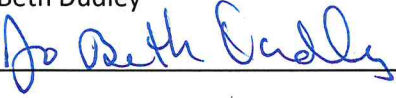
Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:31pm. Carol provided a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

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

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Jo Beth Dudley



~~Carol Shetry~~



Thomas Dubreuil

