

**Thursday, January 16, 2025 7:00 PM**

**Town of Dalton**

**Special Town Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm by Moderator Jay Ennis. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Thomas Dubreuil (Tom), and Eric Moore were physically present. Town Clerk, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

Moderator Jay Ennis opened the meeting with a brief overview of the Moderator's Rules of Procedure.

Jay read aloud petitioned warrant #1 and asked for a motion.

**Article 1 (Original):**

**It shall be the policy of the Town of Dalton that the select board may not enter into any agreement with Granite State Landfill, LLC owned by Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (or any subsidiaries or agents of Casella Waste Systems, Inc.) unless:**

**1. A committee consisting of the members of the select board, planning board, and conservation commission negotiates and develops the agreement with GSL on behalf of the town.**

**2. The resulting agreement is approved by the governing body (Town Meeting).**

**The committee will engage legal counsel and experts experienced in such agreements to help it negotiate the best possible deal for the town of Dalton. The final agreement will be voted on by the committee and will require a simple majority to be put forth to the town for vote at Town Meeting.**

Cathleen Fountain provided the motion and requested an amendment. Moderator asked that the warrant be motioned and second prior to any amendments. Betsy Manzelli provided a second.

Pam Kathan asked for speaking to be limited to Dalton residents only. Michael Allin provided a second. By hand card vote, this unanimously **passed**.

Paul Deveno presented background on Article #1:

I would first like to thank everyone for being here tonight. Regardless of how you vote on these issues it shows your care and concern for the town of Dalton. For too long Dalton has been divided by pro landfill or anti landfill. Tonight's warrant article vote about the host community agreement does not fall into that category though. In my opinion, the warrant article is a vote for Casella or a vote for Dalton. For over 30 years now I have been lucky enough to run, manage and work with large scale companies and I have been a part of countless multi-million dollar deals with them. I am no lawyer, but I can assure you I have seen enough of these deals and spent enough time with the lawyers to identify when an agreement is flawed. There are multiple flaws in the proposed agreement that Casella has brought forth. An example of these flaws can be seen with Casella's language around a "suspension event" which provides them 6 different reasons that allow them to stop their payments to the town. Casella also identifies in the agreement that the first payment to be taken out of the \$2M is their own taxes. I know many in town are hoping to see their taxes covered by this agreement. What if Casella halts their payments or there is not enough left over for all of us after they have deducted their own annual tax bill? The current agreement is written with rosy language to catch our eye and then it is backed with legal bite to protect them from possibly ever paying the town anything. Tonight's vote simply asks that we allow more eyes, more perspectives, more thoughts and more ideas by having more people review and form this agreement in order to develop the best deal possible for the town of Dalton. This proposal is not pro landfill, this proposal is not anti-landfill, this proposal is smart business for the town

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of Dalton. Let's also not forget that once a new agreement is developed it must be put forth to you, the voters, to approve it. This is not "stripping your rights away" as some have claimed. This is an effort to develop the best business deal for Dalton. I am sure Casella had a broad-based team put their deal together, why should Dalton not do the same for its counter offer? I encourage you to vote yes on this warrant article and I thank you for your time.

Kristina Ennis presented comments on Article #1:

In the spirit of full disclosure, I do not live on Forest Lake. Some people here are saying that you should vote NO to protect your rights. I think they have it backwards. Don't we have a right to get the best deal and the most money for our town in a Host Community Agreement with Casella? Our Select Board wants to skip negotiating, take the first offer, leave money on the table and get the town committed to who knows what sort of future trouble. They are clueless and they don't even want help to understand what they are signing. This town meeting is the legislative body in the town and the Select Board is elected to carry out our wishes. Our right is to vote for the Select Board to do what we want, and what we want is for them to have some informed supervision and negotiate to get the best deal for Dalton. To protect your rights, you need to vote YES on this article.

Pam Kathan stated that it's nice to have the advice of business leaders in the community however to insinuate that the town's people and Select Board are not capable of doing the negotiating with the supervision of the conservation commission and planning board, which the conservation commission has an interesting chair, she thinks it's wrong because they voted the Select Board to do the work and bidding of the town. Vote no.

Martha Trudeau commented that the tone of the article, calling some people fools, that people shouldn't talk like that. You don't call people fools; that's wrong.

Christine Ordinetz has been on the sidelines with everything going on having been moderator, with the landfill and the host agreement, and she does agree that maybe a panel of 5 Dalton citizens should be part of the negotiations, but she strongly disagrees with the conservation commission and the planning board. They could be prejudice. She would like to see members of the community; maybe someone with experience in finances and with experience of how other companies negotiate host agreements with a little more solid background in it. But the conservation commission and the planning board should have no part of this. They have specifically designated duties to the town and negotiating a financial deal of this magnitude is not in their wheelhouse and she would rather see people with better financial interests for the good of the town and all the town can gather from this deal. She would like to amend the proposed article to remove the wording for the conservation commission and the planning board and insert a 5-member panel of Dalton residents who are not in any way connected in other aspects of running the town. Christine asked if she could do that. The Moderator asked how we would select those people as that would have to be determined now. Christine stated that interested parties can submit their interest and at least a general background to the select board. Since they will be working with the Board, they can determine who's best qualified to help. A pause in speaking took place while Jay worked with Jeanette on new wording for the article. In an attempt to capture Christine's proposed modification, we would insert the language that says, "five members of the town of Dalton who do not currently hold any official role and have volunteered to the select board. The select board chooses who will participate based on business, financial, and legal background." Christine stated that sounds good but she would like to specifically removed the conservation commission and planning board. Jeanette clarifies it would read 'a committee consisting of the members of the select board, and five members of

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the town...' and planning board and conservation commission would be removed. Christine asked if it would be good to say that interested parties should submit a written statement of their qualifications or resumes to the planning board (should have been select board). Jay stated that if the Board will choose that they can put out a request for that. Jay is aware of another amendment they would like to put forward and asked if the residents would like to hear them all at once or do one at a time. One at a time was requested. Doug Ingerson started yelling profanities at Jon Swan while holding up his middle fingers. A woman in the background shouted 'point of order'. Ingerson continued with his tirade. People were waiting for a request from the Moderator for the state trooper to handle the situation. Jay gave the 1st warning to Ingerson. Ingerson continued. Jay reminded him that his language needed to be appropriate. The state trooper spoke with Ingerson and diffused the situation. Jay summarized the amended article, 'a committee consisting of the members of the select board, five members of the town of Dalton who currently do not hold any official role for the town. The select board will choose volunteers to participate based on a background in business, financial, and legal. Planning board and conservation commission have been crossed out. This group negotiates and develops the agreement with GSL on behalf of the town. Christine was satisfied with the amended article. Christine moved the motion for the amended article. Verna O'Neil provided a second. Jay opened the floor for discussion on the amendment as stated.

Cathleen Fountain wanted to add one additional piece to the amendment. In section two, there is a section that says 'approved by the governing body', and she would like that changed to the 'legislative body' and then in parenthesis 'Town meeting as defined per RSA 21:47'. Jay states he understands that is a clarification. Cathleen confirms it is a clarification as to who is to do the approving. Cathleen moves that amendment and asks if there is a second. Kristina Ennis provided a second. Jay opened up comments on the amended article.

Cathleen Fountain stated that with this amendment she believes this is fair for the citizens of Dalton and they will have an opportunity to have a voice in any of the negotiations if they wish to be a part of that group. Gordon Jobe greeted the Moderator, Board and his fellow citizens. He's been here since 2007 and is concerned. He does not believe the intent of the warrant article was to say the Board is not capable of doing good communication and negotiation of the agreement. He read aloud a line from the Caledonian and Littleton Courier that stated the Board members intended to proceed with negotiating the HCS (Host Community Agreement) on their own without seeking knowledgeable and experienced negotiating advice from legal counsel. Gordon continued to state that more input will be better for this committee. He suggested Casella post a performance bond as a form of insurance. This covers the town in case they don't perform a portion of the agreement. The additional members will bring negotiating skills and backgrounds all to the benefit of the community of Dalton.

Jay reminded the audience that the floor was open for comments on the amended article and asked for others to focus on that so the vote can be taken on the amendment.

Michael Ryan read aloud asking why the group would petition this meeting. He stated that the meeting was held to stop progress and to keep kicking the can down the road like they have been doing for the last six years. He continued stating that there were benefits the town has lost out on in the last six years. The small group who brought the petition forward wants to stop negotiations between Casella and Dalton; and they want to create wasteful spending like this meeting. Dalton does not want high taxes and more spending. There was a meeting back in July with Casella about the host community agreement, since then I feel like the select board has been making significant progress; the select board talked to Casella about a lot of things including covering the costs of legal fees. The Moderator asked if

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Michael had anything to say about the amendment. He answered 'no'. The Moderator asked him to hold his comments until after the amendment. Michael stated it was no problem.

Robert Fountain voiced full support of the amended version of the article, for the formation of the committee to negotiate the best possible deal for the town, should GSL ever come into existence he believed that leaving it up to just the Board would have led to a less favorable agreement for the town. This is nothing personal against the select board members; however, he does feel that they should have the benefit of expertise and this will surely be required, having 9 people will allow more viewpoints, great knowledge and the ability to consult with experts in negotiating such agreement and reaching the best possible agreement for the town of Dalton.

Wendy Roberts spoke stating she dovetails on what Mr. Fountain said. The amendment calls for a committee of eight which generally never works because you can wind up with a tie. Typically boards are made up of an odd number so you don't wind up with a tie. She is new in town and understands that the next article calls into question the confidence of at least one of the select board members so she proposes only having one select board member on the committee as a representative of the Board and then having towns' people who have some expertise with negotiating and other specialized knowledge. All due respect to the select board, she doesn't believe anybody on the Board has any legal background or real financial background or used to negotiate agreements with multi-billion-dollar companies. She asks that the article to be amended to one member of the select board and six members of the public.

Pam Kathan suggested for an amendment that it is a committee of seven Dalton residents; we don't need six or seven financial advisors – one will do. The regular people in town need to have their say. They need to be able to express what they want, not letting other people decide for them. As far as the selectmen, we are the advisors to the selectmen so they do not need to be appointed to the committee.

Ron Renaud knows Mr. Dubreuil as an honest and good man. He knows Jon Swan and understands where he is coming from. He is not for the dump; however, if he were Mr. Ingerson, he would be. He understands that sentiment and the difficulty in it with the time we have to work all this out. He's as small a government guy as anyone in the room, however, here we are in the case where we actually need the government to make a decision. Antagonistic forces are needed to push this around. He plans to vote no because he doesn't know who the people are. He suggests to slow it all down and take our time.

Mary Wellington agrees with Ron. She doesn't think Casella has another Dalton in their back pocket that we are competing against and we need to slow down and do this right. The amendment is good except they're being selected by the select board. The people, five, or six, or seven, however many, should be selected by the Town. She would appreciate the input from both the planning board and the conservation commission because they have knowledge she doesn't have after their years of dedicated service planning the town and preserving the natural environment. They should have a say in it and she will vote no on the amendment.

Betsy Manzelli stood to read a letter received by Mildred "Bee" Thayer. Attached herein. Jay asked Betsy to hold the letter until general discussion as we are still trying to get through the amendment.

Cathleen Fountain asked that the number be changed for residents to 4, so that the combination is 7. Jay plans to ask the original petition amender to come back up to see if she agrees to the amendment of changing the number to four. Jay asked if there was any further discussion to changing that article and amendment. Paul Deveno suggests having the select board take the applications and select a specific number – if we are looking for 4 individuals, maybe they select eight, and those eight appear on the

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ballot at Town meeting. This way the residents have a say. Jay stated that idea can be included in this amendment if agreed to by the original amender, or it can be taken up as a separate amendment after this one is voted on. Christine Ordinetz is concerned with that logical route dragging it out and dragging it on. She thinks the Board has enough of an open mind to select people based on their qualifications and not make it a political issue. This is about the best benefits for the people of Dalton. There are many that are elderly and there are some that are brand new with little kids. This agreement will benefit everybody. Some of us will wind up in the apple orchard eventually, but the young families coming in – this can make a huge significance in quality of life for the people of Dalton. Whether you're a young family moving in – this is to hopefully help the roads, benefit the children, benefit the elderly. Jay asked to keep it to the amendment topic. Placing her faith in the Board, she chose to have the Board select the candidates for the committee based on submitted resumes and appropriate background.

Carol Sheltry stated that it seems that for the last year at select board meetings, that there is no discussion. One makes a motion and the other votes right away. She doesn't believe it will work for the Board to pick the people. The other way will work better – people should vote. This is why we are here tonight.

Connie Russell stated that if you look around the room, are there actually four people in this room who could step up to the plate and say "I'd do that".

Mark Haskins finds it astonishing that we are here talking about this article and to have the selectmen have a say to that and our second item here is the confidence in a selectman. Why are we not addressing the elephant in the room? How can these people considered to be competent to decide on this matter if there's an article saying they're incompetent to run our town. You have two-thirds of the select board who are obviously always on the Casella side of things. He urged anyone in the room who can't make it to the selectmen's meeting to start watching to comic show on YouTube.

Martha Trudeau asked if it is just about a month and a half till town meeting. It was confirmed to almost be two months. It seems like it is going to take about that long anyway for people to submit resumes to the Board to have them ready for town meeting. Nothing is going to go faster by not having a town meeting vote. It's just going to end up about the same timing, in her opinion.

Pam Kathan does not believe there needs to be resumes involved. They know who are the financial people. They need regular people. Regular people in town need to be helping on this. It's not fair for others to decide what they think is right for the majority of the people.

Ron Renaud believes it's best to vote for the people and slow down the action.

Kristina Ennis asked for the motion to vote.

John Lyons suggests all the town's people have a voice in this. Majority rules. Everyone has a say in the committee.

Betsy Manzelli stood again in an attempt to read a letter received by Mildred "Bee" Thayer. **Attached herein.** Jay asked Betsy to finish as the topic was a bit off from the topic.

Michael Ryan read aloud asking why the group would petition this meeting. He stated that the meeting was held to stop progress and to keep kicking the can down the road like they have been doing for the last six years. He continued stating that there were benefits the town has lost out on in the last six years. The small group who brought the petition forward wants to stop negotiations between Casella and Dalton; and they want to create wasteful spending like this meeting. Dalton does not want high taxes

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and more spending. There was a meeting back in July with Casella about the host community agreement, since then I feel like the select board has been making significant progress; the select board talked to Casella about a lot of things including covering the costs of legal fees so that negotiation doesn't cost the town a dime. Casella doesn't have to offer the town anything at all, but they are trying to work with us the town. The town has received a good offer of over \$2M a year, beyond taxes for 18 years. This would debts, bills and help to stop raising taxes on people with fixed incomes who have been living in Dalton for generations. Jay interrupted Mr. Ryan letting him know this is about whether we should have a committee doing this. If he could keep his comments on that – he cut Betsy off for the same reason. Mr. Ryan continued stating there is no law in New Hampshire stating Casella had to offer these host communities benefits. The town should be negotiating, bringing in other boards and the known activist who is 100% against the landfill to negotiate on behalf of the town is a deal breaker. These people know it and that's what they want. They want to ruin the possibility of the town negotiating with Casella. The town voted down zoning for a reason. The town voted Tom in for a reason. Jay attempts to get Michael to stop speaking. Michael continues – the town voted Eric in for a reason. Jay let Mr. Ryan know the meeting has already moved to an amendment that is different. Michael closed by stating that the meeting is nothing more than a New York scam and he is voting no.

Kristina Ennis would like to amend the amendment that the town will vote at town meeting for four members who applied to be part of the committee. Jay asked for a second which was provided by Verna O'Neil. Jay asked for discussion. No discussion took place.

Jeanette worked on the wording for the vote.

Ruth Duval stated the last amendment was very confusing. The town will vote on all applicants and not just 4, because 4 will be chosen. So, the town needs to vote on all applicants. Jay stated we are working on the verbiage. Jeanette asked if those who amended the article have a realistic way of vetting those who apply so we don't end up with 50 names on the ballot in March to avoid counting for two days. Kris Ennis didn't have a suggestion for vetting but was more concerned about finding 4 people who would volunteer but she could be wrong and we could have the whole town. Christine Ordinetz stated she would request proof of a background in business negotiations or finance or municipal negotiations or someone who has a business who has negotiated contracts. She's not aware of everyone's background in town. She recognizes the difficulty in getting anyone in town to just run for office. It can be difficult but this isn't a task for the town, it's a task to make significant improvement. It should be someone who knows the ins and outs of negotiations. There is information on the web. Someone who can read contracts with companies and other towns. She read the agreement with Coventry and there was a lot missing out of the agreement that was presented to the Board in July. She suggests interviewing them. Cathleen Fountain proposed an event where people can put forth their information to everyone. Erik Nielsen asked that in the event we don't get 4 people who are willing to serve, the original article be reinstated. Ron Renaud states there is no way they will pick four people to reach a common goal so Dalton gets the very best deal. If there is no concrete way to vet the people, he would like to see the original article be voted on. Nicholas Bean asked what we do if there is not four people. Joe Orzich congratulated the room on making it more complex and kicking the can down the road. The town would still have a voice and vote on what was agreed. Wendy Roberts pointed out that with all the people in the room, is it really a concern that we won't have 4 people step up to the plate? Jay read the amended article aloud.

By hand card vote, this article **passed**. 113-91

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Town's legal counsel stated there is a conflict in the article as written. The original amendment stated the Board would appoint the committee. Now the member will be voted in by the residents. The statement for appointment by the Board should be removed by a motion. Wendy Roberts made the motion with a second from Charlie Mae Johnson. A gentleman, unnamed, asked how many will the public vote for. Moderator responded 4 will be elected. As many as would like can run for a position.

Final Amended Article:

***It shall be the policy of the Town of Dalton that the select board may not enter into any agreement with Granite State Landfill, LLC owned by Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (or any subsidiaries or agents of Casella Waste Systems, Inc.) unless:***

- 1. A committee will consist of the members of the select board along with only four residents of the town of Dalton who do not currently hold any official role for the town. This group negotiates and develops the agreement with GSL on behalf of the town. The resident candidates will appear on the ballot at town meeting and will be voted for at town election on March 11, 2025.***
- 2. The resulting agreement is approved by the legislative body (Town Meeting). The committee will engage legal counsel and experts experienced in such agreements to help it negotiate the best possible deal for the town of Dalton. The final agreement will be voted on by the committee and will require a simple majority to be put forth to the town for vote at Town Meeting.***

Pam Kathan originally wanted a secret ballot vote but prematurely asked for same. Jay asked if the secret ballot request still stood. Pam Kathan stated she did not wish to move forward with the secret ballot. Cathleen Fountain moved for the vote to be via secret ballot. Jay asked for 5 people signing the document. Mark Haskins presented the formal written request for secret ballot.

Colored secret ballot cards were distributed to registered voter residents.

By secret ballot vote, this article **passed**. 145-49

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Jay read aloud petitioned warrant #2 and asked for a motion.

**Article 2:**

To see if the town will vote to inform Selectman Tom Dubreuil that the town has lost confidence in his ability to perform in his role as a Dalton Selectman for reasons regarding some or all of the following:

- **Selectman Tom Dubreuil is routinely unprepared to comprehend, discuss or vote on the town's business at select board meetings.**
- **When Selectman Tom Dubreuil has accepted responsibility to follow-up or take action on town business, Dubreuil routinely fails to deliver a result.**
- **Selectman Tom Dubreuil risks significant legal expenses to the town by refusing to respond and/or delaying response to legal Right to Know requests.**
- **Selectman Tom Dubreuil routinely abstains from voting on motions before the select board.**

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- **Selectman Tom Dubreuil championed the replacement of the Town's legal firm with a new legal firm that quickly exceeded Town's annual budget for legal expenses addressing his issues.**

Connie Russell provided a motion for the article. Arianna Buschan provided a second.

Mandy Deveno presented on the article:

I am speaking to the Vote of No Confidence of Mr. Dubreuil. It has become necessary to confront the violations that have occurred in his tenure as a select board member. The ethical behavior of all public officials is of significant concern to us taxpayers. Elected officials act on behalf of us, their constituents, and should have a good understanding of state laws, avoid conflicts of interest, properly use authority, treat people fairly, follow through with assignments, and be trustworthy.

It should be obvious that if one decides to campaign, become elected, and then serve as a select board member, that they have some previous experience or will quickly gain the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill that position. I do not expect anyone to know everything as there is always a learning curve. I do, however, expect them to have the ability to come prepared to a meeting and discuss town business. On too many occasions Mr. Dubreuil has not had his notes available at a meeting or claims he did not receive the information for the meeting beforehand, even though the other board members did.

Training is supplied for all Dalton select board members at the cost of the town through the New Hampshire Municipal Association. This is money well spent to help support the newly elected select board member. The newly elected select board member learns about the Right to Know Law, RSA Chapter 91-A. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure both the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussions and records of all public bodies, and their accountability to the people. Denying or delaying access to public information is a violation and could harm the town in legal actions and erodes the trust of the public. We as taxpayers could be flipping the bill for a select board member's ignorance of RSA 91-A.

Mr. Dubreuil has denied and/or delayed requests to his constituents on several occasions. This should be a red flag to every Dalton resident. It is our right to have access to this information to stay properly informed about our town government.

RSA 91-A also covers public meetings. Taking a meeting into non-public for the discussion of PUBLIC topics takes our rights away. It is unethical and in violation of the law which puts the town at risk for legal action. Mr. Dubreuil followed through with a motion to discuss the hiring of new town legal counsel in a non-public session even though it was brought to his attention that it was a violation. As a result, the public was not privy to any discussion or information until the meeting minutes were unsealed. His reasoning for changing legal firms was insubstantial and lacked reasoning. The public never had a chance to ask questions. As you will hear from other residents, this decision is costing us taxpayers dearly.

Select board members maintain access to NHMA (New Hampshire Municipal Association) which the town taxpayers pay for. Select board members can contact them for questions and not utilizing this service is a waste of money. NHMA also publishes a book, "Knowing the Territory" which is provided to each board member. Many questions can be answered by reading the book, contacting NHMA, asking more tenured members and employees for guidance before seeking expensive legal counsel.



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Unfortunately, Mr. Dubreuil has sought out guidance first through legal counsel and has cost the taxpayers money on questions that could have been answered via NHMA or other resources available to him.

Mr. Dubreuil volunteered to collect data for the transfer in January of 2024. These numbers are crucial in understanding profit/loss from the transfer station. As the year went on, in meeting minutes, you can see where he failed to deliver the necessary information. Select Board Member Jo Beth Dudley was able to collect the data within a few days. Why was Mr. Dubreuil not able to accomplish this task in 10 months?

Understanding how meeting minutes work is part of the responsibilities of board members. Mr. Dubreuil has been on this select board for almost 2yrs and still does not have a good comprehension of how meeting minutes work. At the November 21, 2024 working meeting, neither he or Mr. Moore understood that accepting meeting minutes is accepting what was discussed and not agreeing with the topics discussed. Then, by not approving the minutes calling for the non-public to be sealed, the minutes were accessible and read by the public. When learning townfolks knew of the contents they were upset when told the minutes were never sealed because they refused to sign the meeting minutes. How many times has he abstained from meeting minutes because of this thinking? Or, was it due to a conflict of interest? Abstaining from approving meeting minutes is not a violation, but it would be helpful to understand why our elected official abstained from several meeting minutes between March and October, when it was brought to his attention.

He has also created a hostile working environment in which has been notified. If this behavior is allowed to continue, he once again puts the town at risk for legal action.

The town of Dalton has attracted the attention of the New Hampshire Right to Know organization. They have been reviewing meeting minutes and videos and have identified several red flags could lead to legal challenges for the town.

Please understand that these issues need to be addressed, or the town and the taxpayers will be the ones to pay for his mistakes. A "Yes" vote sends the message that we are not going to continue to allow our rights to be infringed upon by an elected official.

Thank you for your time. ~

Kristina Ennis spoke:

I am here to speak on two things: the alarming number of hours our Select Board at the request of Tom has consulted legal counsel and about Tom's lack of response to Right to Know requests. As of yesterday, our town has been invoiced for almost \$17K in legal fees for 2024 and it is estimated there will be another \$10K worth of invoices through December for a total of \$26K for the year. As a comparison, our legal fees in 2023 totaled \$8700. We are looking at almost a \$20K increase of which a significant amount came from Tom insisting on consulting legal when calling New Hampshire Municipal Association or just looking up RSA's could have answered his questions. Over \$1800 dollars were spent on legal fees regarding Right to Know requests, of which I submitted two. The first was about the August 6 meeting that Jo Beth had warned the Select Board was illegally posted as a non-public meeting and should be canceled, Tom and Eric posted it anyhow. Just 45 minutes before the posted meeting was to occur, Tom took down the meeting post without putting up a notice the meeting was cancelled leaving

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over 30 residents of Dalton waiting at the municipal building. On August 7, I submitted a Right to Know Request to the Select Board asking for all correspondence about that meeting. There was no response from Mr. Dubreuil. This same meeting was again posted this time as a public meeting scheduled on August 19 and then canceled and again on August 21. As many people had rearranged their schedule a second and then third time, I was curious as to why these last-minute cancellations were occurring and I submitted a Right to Know request asking for all correspondence between the select board about these meetings. Again, no response from Tom. On November 1, after the Select Board had been put on notice and threatened with a possible lawsuit by another town member for lack of response, I finally got a response from Tom that I deem insufficient. Fearing that Tom will again send it to legal, I have decided to spare the town additional fees and so am no longer pursuing answers. Although Tom should be well aware of RSA 91-A:1 and his obligation to answer Right to Know Requests, he surprisingly has consulted the town's legal team for about approximately five Requests since July and incurred at least \$1817 in expenses to the town for 8 hours of a lawyer's time. Not only has Tom put the town at risk for lawsuits by not answering simple Right to Know Requests, but has unnecessarily spent town funds consulting about a perfectly clear law. In addition, not once, not twice but three times Tom stated in Select Board meetings that my Right to Know Requests constituted harassment. I have a funny feeling our town's legal counsel didn't agree with him.

Pam Kathan stated this meeting is a waste of money and meant to humiliate and berate a selectman. If the town really doesn't want him in there, don't vote for him again. This is a waste of time and money and who's to say what did happen with those right to knows. If someone gives as much information as they have, that's all they can do. Why try squeezing more blood from a rock.

Gordon Jobe is concerned about lack of leadership from Mr. Dubreuil. Gordon quoted from the town of Dalton's Selectman's Rules and Procedures, dated June 2019, specifically, section 4, titled "Conduct with other Selectman, Public and Staff". Section B-2, stating that selectman will treat all staff as professionals. Mr. Dubreuil violated that rule evidenced by the Town Clerk advising the Board that Mr. Dubreuil is creating a hostile work environment through his dealings with the Town Clerk. Those specifics are not being discussed in this forum. Additionally, Section 4, C, 5 required select board members to treat with respect the rights of all members. Mr. Dubreuil has violated this procedure by making comments at public board meetings in which he belittled and ridiculed another board member. For these offenses and for the good of Dalton, a vote of no confidence is warranted by Mr. Dubreuil's actions.

Mandy Deveno wanted to provide an answer to Pam Kathan's questions about what was used for the right to knows. She was able to use the information from the right to know in regards to the \$25,000 Casella was offering to pay. Her questions were reasonable and important prior to the agreement being signed. It was withheld from her for several weeks.

Robin Pilotte spoke to say she was floored to see such ridiculous accusations against Tom Dubreuil. These are nothing but biased baseless cheap shots at a public servant. The warrant claims that Tom is not ready to comprehend subjects at meetings, and I have even seen attacks on Tom being called names like moron and slob. This has no place in town politics. Tom has openly stated that he has dyslexia. I myself have the same disability and am disgusted on the attack on his disability and the statement that he is not ready to comprehend subject matter. Dyslexia makes you slow down, take more time to think about before you react, and to make sure you know what you're talking about before you sign anything or say anything. That is a problem with dyslexia, but it makes you think. I am a resident of Dalton and I submitted a right to know request on July 30, 2023, for two items and I still have not gotten these

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documents to date. So, if you want to talk about right to know, I still haven't gotten them and another one too that I haven't gotten in 2023 too. And I guess you're not supposed to say names as to who was on the chair and who they went to. My right to know was ignored, but the response from the selectmen, one of them, was that I could go blank myself. And that was right at a selectboard meeting. My point in this is that what I have witnessed from Tom Dubreuil is not refusal to respond or fulfill the right to know, as previous selectmen have done, Tom took his time and he takes his time before he reacts to make sure he's doing it legal and there won't be any court case. And I have seen complaints against Tom, I've heard them, and I also know that everybody's saying that he's causing the town legal, but actually, so is the planning board from what I hear and I even heard it in the selectman's office, so if we're going to throw stones, we're going to throw mud, we're going to throw it at all the different offices here. As far as I'm concerned, Tom Dubreuil is doing everything that we expected of a selectman. So, in my opinion, let's not throw mud if we have mud that can be thrown at you too.

Jennifer Green spoke:

I just wanted to speak regarding the meeting minutes. I have attended more than half of the select board meetings in the town and then the ones that I don't attend because of work I look for the meeting minutes in order to review them. If those aren't available, I watch the videos that are posted so that I can review them myself, and regularly Tom does not approve the meeting minutes and often those meeting minutes have to be posted as draft so they're not official, but you can review them as a draft. The reason meeting minutes are so important is it's a record of what's happening within the town and they need to be available to town's people to review especially if you can't make it to those meetings. I have asked Tom multiple times why he is not approving or signing these meeting minutes and the response that I got on two occasions were that they're not accurate. When I received that response, I asked for him to please detail the inaccuracies because there's a lot of innuendos around things not being done accurately or false statements. He stated at that time there were too many and he couldn't articulate it and he needed time which; I would absolutely agree with if you are presented with something. Sometimes we need extra time to get those thoughts together; I asked if he could bring to the board at the next meeting all of the concerns and the inaccuracies of the meeting minutes and his response was; 'I hope so'. At that next meeting when I asked for those meeting minutes and if he could articulate the inaccuracies of those meeting minutes, he could not and refused to answer me. This has happened multiple times, more than half of the times with the meeting minutes. The problem is if you can't answer the inaccuracies, if you can't articulate what is wrong with it, and why you're not voting, it leaves it up to everyone else who's watching imagination. The innuendos that there are things that are nefarious that are happening behind the scenes is left open for interpretation and that is a problem. You continue to do the same thing; you continue to abstain from voting and say it's your right and you continue to not let anybody know why you're not doing this and that leaves it open for interpretation and it's a problem.

Christina Fintonis wanted to say that after listening to everybody how disgusted she is how people have insulted Tom. They voted Tom in for a reason. If nobody likes the job he's doing and when he comes up to vote, they can not vote for him – vote for someone else. As far as the positions for the town, this isn't the big city. This is not how it works here in small towns. These positions are for everyday people. There is training offered, if needed. So, for someone to come up here and say we need someone with more experience or some kind of background, that's not how this works. This is local everyday people who want to run who care about their town. To come up here and to degrade him like they did is disgusting and she thinks everyone should vote no on this. We voted him in. We want him on the selectboard bottom line. This witch hunt needs to stop. She has witnessed the exact opposite at town meetings

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more people should attend them and see cuz the hostile environment is not coming from Tom Dubreuil. She's seen it come from the clerk and other selectboard members towards him. She has seen how he is in a hostile environment, if anything. He is not causing the hostile environment; the people around him are. And she couldn't believe the disrespect when she attended the meetings. People should attend them more. And there are recordings because people record the meetings and if they've seen even half of them they would be disgusted as well. She thinks the witch hunt needs to end and they people need to vote no.

Cathleen Fountain asked the Moderator to call for a vote if everybody has spoken.

Michael Ryan read: This meeting has been brought up to try to get Tom out of office so he cannot continue to negotiate with Casella. They want to kick this can down the road. They do not want to get anything done and its time that we stop this. The town voted Tom in for a reason. The town voted Eric in for a reason. They want things done. They're tired of getting things kicked down the road and nothing done.

Mark Haskins delivered the request for secret ballot voting for article #2.

By secret ballot vote, this article **passed**. 93-84.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 9:39pm.

*Jeanette T Charon*

January 14, 2025

To the Dalton Select Board,

My name is Mildred Thayer, a resident of Dalton since 2001 and property owner since 1969. I regret that I am not able to be in attendance at this meeting tonight. I am submitting this letter to indicate my support for the petition requesting that the Town create a committee consisting of the members of the Select Board, Planning Board and Conservation Commission to negotiate and develop the agreement with Granite State Landfill (GSL) on behalf of the town and that the resulting agreement be approved by the governing body at Town Meeting. With all due respect to the knowledge and expertise of our Select Board members, the Town should seek experienced negotiating and legal counsel for this very important issue. Residents of Dalton should be in control of every aspect in developing the Host Community Agreement, NOT GSL. More importantly, we should not enter into an agreement at all to allow a landfill in our Town and in such close proximity to Forest Lake. As noted in remarks made 10/29/24 by our newly elected Governor Kelly Ayotte, *"It makes no sense. This is a beautiful state park. People love this place. ... It represents the beauty of New Hampshire, and this just defies common sense. We cannot let that happen."* GSL would cover 147 acres of forest and wetlands, an area 75% the size of Forest Lake and be located in the middle of the Ammonoosuc River watershed. They have chosen our small town because they think we do not value our beautiful landscape, pristine water resources and diverse wildlife. That we would not mind having 1800 tons of trash dumped in our town every day for years, with half of this trash coming from outside the state of NH. That we are not aware of facts documented by the EPA that all dumps leak toxic "forever" chemicals, and these leaks are even more widespread in areas such as the Forest Lake site with porous gravel soils and fractured bedrock. Well, Dalton residents ARE aware, ARE knowledgeable, and do realize the future health and safety of our children, families, and friends and visitors are at stake if this landfill is approved.

I am also in agreement with the Town that Select Board member Tom DuBreuil is not able to perform his role as a Dalton Select Board member based on the accusations listed in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The fact that he was unwilling to vote on simply the approval of prior meeting minutes at the 11/21/24 Working Session of the Dalton Select Board demonstrates this fact.

It is very important that we all work together on this issue. Thank you for consideration of my input tonight.

Respectfully,

Mildred N. Thayer

Dalton, NH

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**Request for Secret Ballot**

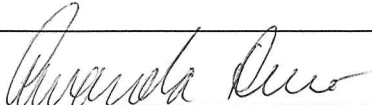




**Warrant Article #1:**

It shall be the policy of the Town of Dalton that the select board may not enter into any agreement with Granite State Landfill, LLC owned by Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (or any subsidiaries or agents of Casella Waste Systems, Inc.) unless:

1. A committee consisting of the members of the select board, planning board, and conservation commission negotiates and develops the agreement with GSL on behalf of the town.

2. The resulting agreement is approved by the governing body (Town Meeting). The committee will engage legal counsel and experts experienced in such agreements to help it negotiate the best possible deal for the town of Dalton. The final agreement will be voted on by the committee and will require a simple majority to be put forth to the town for vote at Town Meeting.

**We the undersign, hereby request a that the vote for Warrant Article #1 be made by secret written "yes-no" (RSA 40:4-a)**

Name	Signature
Amanda Deveno	
Evelyn Blakely	
Kristina Ennis	
Jon Swan	
Tamera Swan	

Dalton, NH

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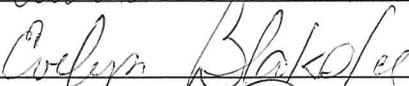


**Request for Secret Ballot**

Warrant Article # 2:

To see if the town will vote to inform Selectman Tom Dubreuil that the town has lost confidence in his ability to perform in his role as a Dalton Selectman for reasons regarding some or all of the following:

- Selectman Tom Dubreuil is routinely unprepared to comprehend, discuss or vote on the town's business at select board meetings.
- When Selectman Tom Dubreuil has accepted responsibility to follow-up or take action on town business, Dubreuil routinely fails to deliver a result.
- Selectman Tom Dubreuil risks significant legal expenses to the town by refusing to respond and/or delaying response to legal Right To Know requests.
- Selectman Tom Dubreuil routinely abstains from voting on motions before the select board.
- Selectman Tom Dubreuil championed the replacement of the Town's legal firm with a new legal firm that quickly exceeded Town's annual budget for legal expenses addressing his issues.

**We the undersign, hereby request that the vote for Warrant Article #2 be made by secret written "yes-no" (RSA 40:4-a)**

Name	Signature
Amanda Deveno	
Cecily Blakoloe	
Kristina Ennis	
Jon Swan	
Tamiq Swan	