

Monday, February 3, 2025 6:30 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by Eric. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Thomas Dubreuil (Tom), and Eric Moore were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

Public attendees: Robin Pilotte, Mandy Deveno, Paul Deveno, Carol Sheltry, Jen Green, Kris Ennis, Cathleen Fountain, Kurt Hall, Shawn St. Cyr, Michael Trudeau, an officer from Troop F, and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

The Board signed AP and payroll checks.

The Board signed the 2024-Q4 Sewer Tax Warrant.

Eric signed two pistol permits

The Board signed Troop F's service agreement for 2025 police services for the town. Jo Beth provided the motion with a second from Tom. Approval via roll call vote.

The Board signed the KRT revaluation contract previously approve at the December 26, 2024 meeting.

Jo Beth motioned to approve the January 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Eric provided a second with Tom voting 'nay'.

Jo Beth provided nonpublic minutes #1 from January 20, 2024. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second provided by Eric. Approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth provided nonpublic minutes #2 from January 20, 2025. Tom requested a change on the last line. He doesn't like the wording and requests it be discussed in nonpublic.

Jo Beth provided nonpublic minutes #1 from January 27, 2025. Jo Beth motioned for approval. A second was provided by Eric with Tom voting 'nay'.

Jeanette provided another detailed review of the proposed 2025 budget appropriations. Jeanette asked the board members if they had any questions now that they've had time with the proposed budget and revenues. Eric asked about a 25% increase in tax collector pay account 4150-112. Jeanette couldn't find a 25% increase on the mentioned account. Eric asked about the increase for 4150-110 but no increase from last year's budget is being proposed. Eric asked about the Avitar contract and whether or not it was PM. Jeanette didn't understand his question and asked for clarification. Eric asked if they come here to check out the system. Still unsure, Jeanette stated that Avitar is software. The charge for this line is for the Tax Collection software and support Avitar provides. The balance of this budget is for our computer consultant and the software/security software we utilize on our system. Eric had no other questions. Tom asked about account 4152-390 where Sansoucy and Under Canvas are listed in the comment section. Tom stated we weren't doing anything with Sansoucy for Under Canvas. Jeanette disagreed because the town voted to execute an assessing contract with Sansoucy when the planning board asked for help with assessing the property. Sansoucy has already attended a Planning Board meeting regarding same. Tom disagreed. He asked for a copy of the contract. Jeanette confirmed she would send it to the Board.

Paul Deveno asked to speak at this time, although it was not public comment period, since his comments had to do with the proposed budget. Eric allowed it. Paul stated that from his perspective, it's a great idea to look at the numbers in the present as well as for the future. The town is lucky to have

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Ron as Fire Chief who doesn't really do his jobs for the money. The town better get prepared for his retirement because you won't find another person to fill his shoes for what you're paying him. And our Road Agent is being sought out by other towns. This is tribal knowledge. The town will lose all of Adam's knowledge as well as pay more for someone less in tune with the town and its needs if he leaves. Lastly, Jeanette is completing all the FEMA documentation when she really isn't required to do so. Explaining 10% merit pay increases for employees will be much easier to do than explaining a \$1M shortfall on the revenue side later.

Tom took Paul's words into consideration but due to what happened last year and what's happening now, he's voting no for the raises. Jo Beth stated that our town saw a minimal increase in the 2024 tax rate which really covered the school and county tax increases. Adam and Jeanette are marketable elsewhere and the work that they do will not be done if they leave. Eric agreed with Tom that he is not comfortable doing it. Jo Beth let the room know that Jeanette's increase would cost taxpayers \$.042 per thousand on their tax bill. A \$300,000 home would have an increase of \$12.60 on their annual tax bill. Jeanette asked the Board about Adam's raise. He essentially can get one because his raise is already in his budget number. Is that the case-Adam gets a raise but Jeanette doesn't? Tom didn't answer. Eric looked at Jeanette and raised his shoulders with no verbal response. Jo Beth would like to include the increases in the budget so there isn't a shortfall in the end of the year, reminding the Board that budgeting for raises is a separate process from actually giving employees a raise.

Robin Pilotte asked about the 3% cost of living increase in the budget for Jeanette. She asked if Ron is getting that increase. Is Adam getting that increase? Does that go away. Is everyone getting 3%? Jo Beth answered that 3% barely covers the cost-of-living increase. The raises for the highway department are already in their budget line item. After a lengthy silence, Jeanette asked if there was anything else with the budget. All board members replied that had no other questions. Jo Beth asked if this budget is what we are using for the Budget Hearing on Thursday? Eric stated he was ok with it and motioned for approval. Jo Beth provided a second. Tom voted 'nay'. Jo Beth asked what would we do if she also voted 'nay.' Tom replied that he didn't know. Jeanette asked if there was something he wanted discuss. He stated that he doesn't understand the process - even though he sees the reports monthly, quarterly, and annually. He stated that if he had the reports that are supposed to be provided that maybe he would better understand. Jo Beth reminded him that the Board sees those reports every month. He stated he did it differently when he ran his business. Jeanette stated this is not like a business budget. It is different. Tom stated that since he can't have the reports, he can't vote yes. Jeanette defended her position and stated that she has those very reports with Tom's initials from monthly, quarterly and a year-end review. She asked if he has come to the office to see the reports for more time or to have questions answered. No answer was provided. Jo Beth voted 'yay' and the motion passed.

Michael Trudeau asked if the budget was going to be posted on the website. Jeanette stated it would be.

Jo Beth mentioned that the revenue may be slightly different due to the payments made to the DCC and PPB fund after this report was run. Jeanette confirmed it likely would be.

Jeanette provided the update on rebuilding Smith Road. Eckman Engineering is finalizing the plans for the rebuild as well as the mitigation plans for approval. Their survey indicated that the town should

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request an easement from the abutters. The engineering firm will provide more information. Jo Beth asked if the Board would need to sign the completed documents. Jeanette confirmed.

The FEMA call for tomorrow has been delayed a week, pending completion of the mitigation pricing for Blakslee.

Eric asked for candidates for the Town election be announced: Select Board candidates are Jo Beth Dudley and Shawn St. Cyr; Tax Collector/Town Clerk is Jeanette Charon; Trustee of the Trust Funds is Susan Zielinski; Library Trustee is Nancy Smith; Planning Board candidates are Robert (Tom) Arrison and Emily Thompson; Road Agent is Adam King; and HCA Negotiation Committee candidates are Karel Bean, Michael Crosby, Paul Deveno, Pam Kathan, Richard Nadeau, Wendy Roberts, Robert Sampson, and Corey St. Cyr. Town Election and Town Meeting are on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Polls are open from 8am to 7pm. Town meeting will begin shortly after polls close.

Jo Beth provided copies of the draft warrant articles for Dalton Community Power, a new Capital Reserve Fund for Road Maintenance; additional vehicle registration fee surcharge of \$5 for funding the road maintenance fund; and the Solar Panel Installation on the Highway Garage. Jo Beth motioned to approve these warrants. Eric provided a second. The motion passed by roll call vote. Tom provided no vote, stating he was in favor of some but not all of them and wouldn't specify which ones.

Jeanette provided the town reports from departments as well as Jo Beth's draft of the Select Board town report. Eric's dedication to those who assisted in rebuilding the town's infrastructure was slightly modified by Jo Beth. Eric reviewed the revision and was good with it. Tom agreed to use it as well. Jo Beth will revise the Select Board's report to remove parts she put into the dedication piece. Jeanette has not received anything from the planning board yet. Jeanette asked Tom for the dedication to Vic St. Cyr. He provided a short paragraph provided by the family. A picture has not been provided yet. Jeanette asked that it be emailed to her from the family so it's clear enough to use; we don't have high quality photo scanning capabilities.

Public Comments:

Kris Ennis provided a petition warrant article for the live zoom, recording and posting of Select Board Meetings. Jeanette accepted the petition.

Kris Ennis also asked about RSA 149-M and the Casella contract. She would like to know if the Board has looked into this yet and or do they intend to ignore the requirement. Eric stated that he will look into it.

Monday, February 17th is a holiday, so the Board agreed to move that Select Board Meeting to Thursday, February 20th. Either Tom or Jo Beth will sign the payroll checks prior to Thursday's meeting.

Jeanette stated she has one nonpublic regarding an abatement. She wasn't sure if it was legal or not. Jo Beth stated it would be considered personal RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Jo Beth has one nonpublic for RSA 91-A:3, II(d). Eric motioned to enter nonpublic at 7:52pm. Jo Beth provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Robin Pilotte asked if there would be any other business after nonpublic. Eric stated there wouldn't be anything but sealing minutes.

An attempt was made to approve the nonpublic minutes discussed and corrected in nonpublic meeting #3. Jeanette stated it needed to be done in public session.

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Eric motioned to go back into public session at 8:04pm. Jo Beth provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Attendees were still in the hallway and Jeanette invited them to come back in if they wished to.

Eric motioned to seal the minutes from all three nonpublic sessions. Jo Beth provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Eric motioned to approved nonpublic minutes #2 from January 20, 2025, as amended. Jo Beth provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Eric motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Jo Beth provided a second with approval via roll call.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 2/10/25 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil with Attachment

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore

From: Thomas Dubreuil
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Town Admin
Cc: E Moore; Jo Beth Dudley
Subject: February 3, 2025 minutes

He Jeannette,

* Second page, second paragraph; what happened should be **(July's Disaster)** last year and **(school and property taxes)** are what's happening now.

* Second page, second paragraph, eighth line; Tom didn't answer. **(that was prior to the disaster that happened and because we weren't sure about Adam taking the same charge as Bob Wentworth, so Adam was allotted less for a certain amount of time, bringing Adam up to an approved point.)**

*Second page, Third paragraph, seventh line; Jo Beth asked what would we do if she voted no? **(I'm not saying this budget is wright, I'm not saying it's wrong. But we don't have monthly documents on where and how these numbers are coming about, I'm can't stick my head out on this budget. Jo Beth mentions the reconciliation papers every month. Tom replied reconciliation papers doesn't cut it viewing ten or fifteen minutes once a month. When I ran my business, Jeannette interrupts, but this not the same as a business, Tom, well it kind of is, Jeannette I'm sorry to interrupt, but it's not.**

Tom because I mean, these numbers are not put out, I don't know how to put it in words not to offend you or anything, but there should be documents and what not backing everything up all the way through. Jeannette do you want me to go grab the files that are this big, that you initial, all the documents to back up everything that's in here.

Tom, we asked for itemized billing statements for each month per department. If that was done every month you could see the revenues, expenditures.

Jeannette, shall I go get them? because this is boarder line saying I'm not doing my job.

Tom, I'm not saying that you're not doing your job. Jeannette that is what you're saying, you have been, you get them every quarter every month and once a year.

