

Monday, April 14, 2025 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, Thomas Dubreuil, and Eric Moore were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom.

Public attendees: Warren Green, Mike Ryan, Kurt Hall, Michael Trudeau, Robin Pilotte, Terri Parks, Cathleen Fountain, Paul Deveno, and via zoom Mandy Deveno, Pam Kathan and Jacky. 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 Co-op Agreement for the Boat, and the Fire Warden Roster to be returned to Forest and Lands.

Jo Beth executed two pistol permits.

The Board reviewed and executed three veteran's credit recommendations from the Assessor. Two parcels received approved credits and one was denied.

The Board reviewed and executed four intents to excavate.

One gravel tax warrant was presented to the Board for approval and signature. Jo Beth motioned to approve and sign, with a second by Eric. Approval via roll call vote.

The minutes for Monday, March 31, 2025, Public Hearing on unanticipated funds were presented to the Board for review and approval. Jo Beth motioned with a second by Eric. Approval via roll call vote.

Select Board meeting minutes for Monday, March 31, 2025 were presented to the Board for review and approval. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second from Eric. Approval via roll call vote.

Nonpublic minutes from sessions 1, 2, 3, and 4 from March 31, 2025, were presented to the Board for review and approval. Jo Beth motioned to approved all sessions. Eric provided a second to approve all sessions. Tom voted to approve sessions 1 and 2 but not 3 and 4. Jo Beth asked if there were edits that needed to be made. Tom stated they were accurate but he did not agree with the issues. Tom rescinded his nay vote and agreed to approve minutes from sessions 3 and 4. All nonpublic minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Jo Beth asked if the sale of pay-per-bags for household trash has been set up with the Dalton Country Store. Jeanette is coordinating with Sam.

Upton & Hatfield replied to Jo Beth's concerns about the legal invoices going back to November and December through February. A 25% discount was provided by the legal firm so the invoices could be paid to date. The discount does not include the amounts due for the investigator's work. Tom and Eric did not provide their comments on the invoices as previously agreed. However, legal counsel provided documentation of those interactions. Jeanette cut the check for the amount due and the Board signed it at the start of the meeting. Jo Beth asked Tom and Eric to be sure to use the legal log of which she provided a sample at the last meeting so that invoices can more easily be reconciled by Jeanette. Jo Beth asked Tom and Eric to go back to the beginning of February and complete the log. A new invoice was received by the firm, to which Jo Beth found a billing item that is likely in error, as it appears to be for another client. Jeanette sent the new invoice to the board members earlier on April 14, 2025.

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The Bean property purchase is moving forward. Jeanette scheduled the two public hearings for the select board with the planning board's public hearing taking place in conjunction with the select board's first hearing. The ½ acre parcel will be sold to Karel and Pamela Bean who will then merge it with the Grange Property, allowing the Grange to be renovated and have water and septic added. The conservation commission will discuss the sale of the ½ acre at their meeting on April 15, 2025, and provide their approval, as required by state statute. Jo Beth, because this has dragged on so long, in discussing and providing an update on the sale process with the Planning Board, completed and submitted a subdivision application to the planning board on April 2, 2025. The Select Board voted to approve that action, retroactively, as it was done to keep the sale moving forward. Jo Beth made the motion; Eric provided the second with approval via roll call vote. Tom asked for a copy of the signed application. The public hearings are April 28 and May 12 at 6pm. Legal counsel provided the quick claim deed and purchase/sale agreement. Jo Beth provided a copy to Karel Bean for review. It was noticed the water easement was not included on the deed completed by Nate. Jo Beth asked Terri Parks if there was anything that was missed from the planning board meeting. Terri stated the deeded rights to the spring for the Streeter and Stannord properties wasn't included. Jo Beth stated the water easements were't clear. As long as the town is allowing them the rights to access the water rights, that's what is important. Jo Beth will ask legal counsel to add the language to the new deed, upon confirmation of the draft by the Bean's. Terri Parks added that the planning board approved the sale of the town's property. Jeanette will make sure the conservation commission gets the information required to approve the sale as well.

The agreement between the town and Casella to reimburse the town for legal costs involved with negotiating the host community agreement was just returned. Casella changed the effective date to April 2, 2025, from December 26, 2024. Jo Beth requested changes to the agreement that the Board denied in December. There is approximately \$450 of costs that would have been covered. Tom stated they will pick that up and pay it. Tom recommended sending Casella the invoice so they can reimburse the town for the costs.

The Building Committee has not met since last year. The flooding from last year took precedence for the town. Jo Beth would like the Board to sit down and develop goals for the coming year. Hopefully the Building Committee can start meeting again to get some of the goals met this year. The highway department won't have any capacity this summer with a heavy road work schedule. Additionally, we are down one employee on the highway department so we have placed an ad on Indeed.com for that fulltime permanent position along with an ad for two temporary seasonal positions to assist with road work this summer. Tom asked when Adam can start on the roads again; asking if the frost is out of the roads yet. Frost is not out yet and it will likely be another week or two.

Tom had no update for the conservation commission but mentioned wanting to talk in nonpublic about it. Jo Beth asked if there were any other updates. Tom stated there was nothing else. Jo Beth asked about the road cleanup and Tom stated he had nothing to do with that so he didn't know. Jo Beth stated it's a conservation commission topic that should be talked about at the select board meetings. The cleanup is taking place on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9am to noon with a BBQ taking place at the fire station afterwards.

The Host Community Agreement committee had their first meeting prior to the select board meeting. Jo Beth asked Paul Deveno, committee chair, if he wanted to give an update. Paul stated the committee set ground rules and determined the dates of their first couple of meetings along with topics to discuss. The

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next meeting is May 19, 2025. The committee will start to dissect other agreements and figure out how the committee will open it up to the town to get feedback on what others would like to have included in the agreement. The committee's goal is to form the best agreement for the town based on what the people want.

Jo Beth inquired about the solar grant work. Jeanette stated we were just waiting for that kick-off meeting. Jeanette will inquire on whether we need to obtain additional pricing or if we can move forward with the contractor who was included in the grant application. Jo Beth asked for the date; Jeanette will provide.

Hazard Mitigation grant work is ongoing. Meetings are posted on the website. Jo Beth reminded others they are invited to participate, along with other select board members. Meetings are held via zoom.

FEMA repair funding is still under review for Blakslee. Once it gets through that process, it will go into obligation and then we should receive some funding. Jo Beth asked about a timeline and Jeanette doesn't have one. The review process is lengthy with many people signing off. Jeanette is working on the last mitigation plan that she hopes to have completed in the next week or two. Roads have sites, and each site has its own plan, and then it's submitted; similar to putting together a construction bid. The data from our proposed plan can be used for the hazard mitigation planning. Tom asked if Smith Road was all taken care of by the Engineer in regards to finances. Jeanette stated that we pay the contractor directly. FEMA will reimburse the town once payments are made. The engineer did the design and the bid and can help as we move along with the job. Jeanette mentioned that she spoke with Cristina Chamberlain regarding easement for work on her property. Cristina stated there was no problem with us doing what was necessary to fix the road. Jeanette informed her nothing will be visible above ground when the work is completed and seeding will be done afterwards. Again, Cristina stated it was not a problem. Jo Beth asked if we needed her to sign the easement; Jeanette didn't think so. Jo Beth asked if there was a contract ready to award to the contractor.

Jeanette issued the agreement to the Board for review and execution. It's a typical contract, included in it are the original specifications for the project. The Notice of Award (NOA) and Notice to Proceed (NTP) are also ready to be executed. Jeanette explained each document and its purpose. JA McDonald is working on their bond and will send it once received. Jeanette confirmed the contractor will not be able to mobilize and work until the bond and insurance are in place. Jo Beth motioned to approve the contract, NOA and NTP. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Jo Beth asked if Consolidated's line was moved. Jeanette thinks it was done; she will ask Adam. Jeanette asked who will be designated at the town's representative. Jo Beth asked if it's administrative or hands on? Jeanette said it'll likely be a little bit of both; everything is done by drawings and specs. Changes would be required to come before the board for approval. Jeanette can go to Adam or the Board with any issues. Jo Beth motioned for Jeanette to be the designated representative for the project. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

White Mountain Regional School District would like to have a school board meeting in Dalton. May 8 and May 22 are options. The board agreed on May 8, 2025. Jo Beth asked if the board needed to be represented with a member. Jeanette didn't believe so. Thursday, May 8, 2025 was chosen. Jeanette will inform the SAU. JO Beth suggested we post it on our website. Jeanette let her know all their meetings are posted on our website and in our building because we are part of the school district.

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The landfill post closure report was due on March 31, 2025. We received the report from Horizon's on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. There are a few outstanding issues that need to be addressed. Jo Beth motioned to approve the report so it could be signed and submitted to DES. Jo Beth asked Tom or Eric to go through the report and come up with a plan for taking care of the items. Eric stated he wanted to look at it closer prior to signing it. Jeanette stated it only requires one signature. Tom asked if it was for Casella. Jo Beth noted that we are just signing the report, as provided to the board a couple of weeks ago. Jo Beth explained the report is for the old landfilled that has been closed. Tom stated there were some items from last year that he didn't believe we had done and that he needed to look at it closer. Jo Beth again asked Tom and Eric to take it on as a project so the items can be resolved. Tom agreed to read on it and see what he can come up with. A couple items are easy but others will need some work. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

SB297, according to information received from NHMA regarding pooled management programs, would be devastating for Health Trust, our health care insurer for town employees. If the bill passes, Health Trust would not offer health benefits to municipalities any more. NHMA provided a sample template that municipalities can complete to oppose the bill and ask for revisions to make the bill more possible for risk pools to manage. Jo Beth read the template out loud; asked if other board members have changes or additions and motioned for the board to complete the opposition document. Eric provided a second with Tom abstaining. Motioned passed 2-1. Jo Beth asked Jeanette to complete the documents and send it to our senators. Jeanette confirmed she could get it done. Other items sent out by NHMA were regarding zoning, which Dalton does not have, but the pending legislative bills target taking away local control. Tom asked if these were at NHMA's location. Jo Beth stated that the hearings are at the State House. Even though we have no zoning, we follow state regs. We don't want to lose our local control on what happens in our town. She gave an example about town sewer and losing the ability to approve or deny adding to that system. The hearing dates are Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Jo Beth encouraged the board members to submit their opposition before midnight. Jo Beth explained the process, briefly, and the members stated they would look at the email from NHMA. The bills are both House and Senate bills.

Tom asked for help with Dropbox. Jeanette explained the process to him and stated she would do her best at providing directions on how to set up their own account. Jeanette had sent Dropbox items previously and encourage Tom and Eric to contact her if they had any concerns about emails they've received. They can forward emails to her if they're unsure, or call, or text.

Public Comments:

Terri Parks asked about the cemetery sexton email and Jeanette forgot about checking on it. She will check on it Tuesday. Jo Beth asked about the planning board email group for Jo Beth and Emily Thompson. Jeanette confirmed she took care of it and will send a test email, per Jo Beth's suggestion.

Terri will get a count of flags for the cemeteries for placement prior to Memorial Day. She will let Jeanette know how many need to be ordered. She also asked if there are proposals being accepted for mowing this year. Jeanette confirmed they were already received and that Nelson Property Services was given the work again this year. There will be some additional cost to fix Cushman cemetery roads due to Smith Rd. washout.

The Blakslee family is asking for space at John's River Cemetery for two granite benches they had made and wish to place at the cemetery, at or near the Blakslee family plots. The public is welcome to use the

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benches. The lots in the past had just been pieced together. There is plenty of space around the Blakslee sections. Jo Beth asked if the cemetery had been surveyed yet. Terri spoke with Mark Vender-Heyden and Gardner Kellogg to do the work but she never heard back from them. Terri reached out to another surveyor who she is also waiting to hear back from.

There are two areas they'd like to place the benches. Jo Beth wanted to make sure it wasn't going to need to be moved in the future. Terri pointed out the open spaces and inventory of the available lots. The family plans to do concrete pads to place the benches upon. Jo Beth motioned to have the cemetery sextons work with the Blakslee family to place the benches. Eric provided a second and approval via roll call vote.

Terri had one other item, being the renovation of the Town Pound. This was flooded out from Blakslee Road last July during the flood. John Bean was hoping to gather volunteers with some light equipment to remove the gravel that was washed into the space. Additionally, one post will need to be replaced but the sign should be ok. The Historical Society would like to see the stone walls exposed again. John Bean also thought perhaps the pumper truck can hose down the stone wall to clean out some of the gravel from around it. Mike Trudeau also expressed interest in removing the gravel from the site. Jo Beth motioned to authorize volunteers to rehabilitate the town pound and make repairs to the sign. The volunteers can utilize the washed in gravel and sand as needed at the site or otherwise. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Robin Pilotte stated she picked up her right to know response and was charged \$80 for 43 pages. Jeanette stated there were 43 pieces of paper; are most of the printed front and back? Robin stated the charge is per page. Jeanette stated the cost is not per sheet of paper, it's per page. Robin stated that if it's one piece of paper, it's one dollar. Jeanette stated we could go back and look at the statute again. Robin also stated there is a question on the amounts paid out of the accounts for the work done last year and what is left in them. The answer provided does not provide the answer. Robin states that money was taken out of the road crew paving budget and she wants to know what is left in that budget. Jeanette stated there is no paving budget for the road crew, we have a capital reserve fund for paving. Robin wants to know what money is left so Adam can pave. Jeanette stated the capital reserve fund balance is in the town report. As explained at the budget hearing, all of the money that was paid out for the road work was coded to a special code so it could be tracked easier. It didn't come out of regular line-item budgets. At the end of the day, as far as the Dept. of Revenue Administration is concerned what is measured is what we spent based on total approved expenditures, not our separate buckets. Jeanette can't provide a better answer than she's already given, as explained previously. All repair work was coded to the flood damage code. Robin asked if Adam has any money to start any of the paving because French Road and some of the town roads are a disaster. Jeanette explained that asphalt paving won't likely happen this year. The Highway Department is focusing on getting the top coat of stone on all of the roads, which is considered paving, but not asphalt paving. There is no asphalt work planned this summer that Jeanette is aware of.

Robin stated that the comments she asked be added to the meeting minutes have not been added. Jeanette stated that her comments were included in the minutes from the meeting in which she made the request. There was no action taken by the Board for that request, no board vote or guidance, and the minutes were already approved by the Board and posted. Robin is asking that the minutes get changed. When things are said, they should be in the paperwork for people to read. Jeanette stated the Board has

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to address that. Jeanette asked what meeting the request was made. It was meetings from January 20, and January 27 of 2025. Robin stated her comments weren't in those minutes either. Jeanette will look, she remembers typing it.

Tom added that the amount of money people are paying for right to know...he did the good governance class and that it's legit for people to pay \$1 per paper for the first 10 and then after that pay \$.50 per paper. He doesn't know if the price was set by the town but it seems pretty hefty. Jo Beth stated she wasn't sure whether it's per page or piece of paper for our current policy. Last year Jo Beth brought forward some changes that were taking place regarding the right to know statutes but it was never discussed. Those changes include the ability to charge for electronic documents, and that is likely what Tom is talking about. She can bring that information forward again along with the NHMA recommendations for the Board to discuss. Jeanette stated that if a paper is printed both sides, that's two pages. Tom states we should just be covering the cost of the paper and ink and not trying to make money. Jo Beth stated that it's not just the paper and the ink, it's also the printer cost, maintenance, etc.

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic session at 8:33pm for litigation/legal RSA 91-A:3, II(I). Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Tom had a topic to discuss that could go into legal. Jo Beth asked if it's advice from legal. Tom stated he wants to talk about it in nonpublic and if it needs to go to the next meeting for public, that's fine.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 9:15pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to seal nonpublic sessions 1 and 2. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 4/28/25 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil 4/28/25

Eric Moore