

Monday, April 28, 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 and Thomas Dubreuil were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom.

Public attendees: Warren Green, Kurt Hall, Robin Pilotte, and videographer Emily Thompson; via zoom Carol Sheltry and Pam Kathan.

The Board signed AP and payroll checks.

The Board signed a tax abatement for lot 408-065-001, per our assessor's recommendation. The lot was misassigned as a lot separate from 408-090. The owners of 408-090 have paid the appropriate taxes, inclusive of the space included in 408-065-001. Our assessor has made the correcting adjustment in the assessing system. The abatement would remove the old taxes past due on the erroneously labeled lot. Jo Beth motioned to approve the abatement. Tom provided a second. Approval via roll call vote.

The Board signed Sewer Tax Warrant 1 of 4 for 2025. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second from Tom. Approval via roll call vote.

The Board signed a Yield Tax Warrant. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Tom. Approval via roll call vote.

The Board signed two gravel tax warrants. Jo Beth motioned with a second by Tom. Approval via roll call vote.

Two notices of intent to excavate were signed by the Board. Jo Beth motioned with a second by Tom. Approval via roll call vote.

The meeting minutes from April 14, 2025 were provided to the Board. Jo Beth motioned. Tom suggested two edits: (1) adding the amount received from FEMA for the A/E work on Smith Road of \$43,308.75. Additionally, he asked that it be added that Jo Beth's initiation of the lot line adjustment application to the planning board happened prior to the Board's approval. This was already included in the wording of the minutes. Tom provided a second with the addition of the dollar amount for the unanticipated funds hearing minutes of 3/31/25. Approval via roll call vote.

Nonpublic minutes for sessions 1 and 2 were presented for Board approval. Jo Beth motioned for approval with Tom providing a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Jeanette provided the Board of Land Tax & Appeals (BTLA) document confirming the tax process for the town for 2024. A correction was made to the form showing there were supplemental tax warrants/invoices issued that *could be appealed*. Jeanette will return the form to the BTLA.

The Dalton Country Store has the town's trash bags now for sale at the store. They started with 25 rolls of each size of the bags.

The work on Smith Road is ready to start once we receive the contractor's insurance certificate and payment & Performance Bonds. Jeanette will reach out again Tuesday.

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The White Mountain Regional School District will hold their May 8th school board meeting in Dalton at the Municipal Building at 6pm.

Jo Beth raised issues with the February 2025 Upton & Hatfield invoice. Most of the items billed were from Eric. The Board chose to wait for Eric's log with information on the calls and emails sent to Nate for legal services.

The planning board status included the Bean property sale update with details from the preceding hearing. The Select Board requested the subdivided ½ acre to be sold to the Beans which they will merge with the Grange property lot. The quit claim deed will include water rights prior to being executed, and information regarding the recording of the subdivision.

The closed landfill report had some issues that need to be addressed. Tom and Eric will develop a plan for corrective measures. Tom spoke with Valerie Carr from Horizons Engineering who will be completing the site inspection in the upcoming month or so. Jo Beth questioned how the methane would be monitored if there are no vents. This is one item Tom plans to address with Horizons when he attends the inspection yet to be completed.

Tom provided the update for the Dalton Conservation Commission (DCC). The roadside cleanup was completed. Jeanette added that it was actually postponed to Sunday, May 4, 2025, due to the rain. There were residents who picked up trash prior to the event that were picked up and taken to the transfer station. Tom asked about the trash that has been dumped at the turn around on State Road 135. Tom wanted to know who would pick it up, the state or the town. Jeanette stated that it will be done during the roadside cleanup. There are mattresses and bags of trash that have been dumped there. Tom motioned to post cameras. Jeanette stated that it's a state road and the abutting property doesn't belong to the town. Jo Beth asked how the cameras would be monitored. Tom stated there are wildlife cameras that link to your phone. Jeanette stated there is a cost to that since you need Wi-Fi to get the information off the camera and to a phone. Jeanette stated that the start would be an ordinance for dumping. Jo Beth asked if this would need to go to town meeting. She asked if we had one now; Jeanette stated we didn't that she saw. Tom stated he could ask his brother who is a hunter and could likely provide some information. This is a topic the Board agreed to continue discussing.

The planning board update was provided with the Bean property update.

The Host Community Agreement Committee (HCA) will meet again on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:30pm. JO Beth sent the agreements for Coventry as well as Bethlehem. Wendy Roberts will be sending additional agreements.

The Solar Grant funding is in place with the state, as required by the warrant voted at town meeting. Tom asked for a copy of the email providing assurance of funding availability. Jeanette will forward. Jo Beth asked if the work is ready to take place. Jeanette stated we are set to start once we have the kick-off meeting on May 6, 2025.

The next hazard mitigation meeting is set for May 21, 2025. The April meeting was cancelled due to the brush fire that took place in town just prior to the meeting time.

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The town needs to submit a letter from DES regarding 3 culverts requiring a permit or a letter from DES stating no permit is required. FEMA is asking for this prior to completing their cost loading for the last twelve roads. Once the cost loading is complete, Jeanette can complete the mitigation plan for FEMA's review and approval. Jeanette spoke with Adam that afternoon and he said he will get what we need in order to move forward with the pricing. Union, Harriman and Briggs Roads are with the state for their final review. It will then come back to the town for final review/sign-off and then go to obligation and funding. Blakslee needs some verbiage changing between the two groups in FEMA. They were waiting on the details to complete those notes. Jo Beth asked if the funding was still available, and Jeanette confirmed it is. Also, the Smith Road contract has been sent to FEMA as well. Adam has ads out for the 1 permanent and 2 temporary positions. Interviews will be scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30pm for a working session.

Jeanette presented the email received from Nelson Property Services regarding the incorrect proposal amount provided by the company for town lawncare for 2025. The increase in the proposed amount was nearly 20%, to match last year's amount of \$12,960. Additionally, there was a proposal for over \$2000 for spring cleanup due to lawn damage from snow plowing. The option for in-house lawncare was discussed and cost options were roughly configured. Brian Parks did confirm there were some bad ruts at Cushman; which can be expected since the Smith's only access to their property is that route. Tom recommended Webster in Northumberland for purchase of a zero-turn mower. An industrial mower won't likely be necessary as it won't be used for 8-10 hours a day like a landscaper would. Other equipment will be needed as well, but this would allow the town to do the work. Jeanette did speak with Adam, our road agent, about completing the spring cleanup work and covering the work and he thought it was doable, possibly making it necessary to employ one additional temporary employee for the season. Tom motioned to move lawncare in-house. Jo Beth provided a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth inquired about the audit. Jeanette stated it is pretty much done. The documents and sampling documents were sent. We are waiting on the draft audit report. The MS-535 was completed with a couple changes sent back to Steve (the auditor). It will be submitted to DRA for approval. Jeanette explained what the MS-535 was, showing appropriations and expenditures for 2024; the same as reviewed and discussed at the budget hearing and town meeting. It was also distributed in the budget hearing and in the town report. The Board executes this form for formal submission to DRA.

Jo Beth asked if there were any public comments. Jo Beth added that she looked at Robin Pilotte's comments regarding missing comments in the minutes from January 20, 2025 and January 27, 2025. The request to have previously approved minutes changed was made and noted in the February 20, 2025 minutes, including the wording Robin asked to be added. Since these were comments, and did not change the outcome of any decisions or votes the Board made, and since the comments are included in the meeting minutes of February 20, 2025, she stated the original minutes will not be updated.

Tom noted that the town should invoice Casella for the legal costs incurred to date regarding the HCA agreement and the associated agreement to pay legal and related costs.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

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Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 5/12/25 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore