

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Jo Beth. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Eric Moore and Thomas Dubreuil were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom.

Public attendees: Kris Ennis, Robin Pilotte, Pam Kathan, Michael Carrier, Paul Deveno, Mandy Deveno, Andrew Weiland, Susan Weiland, Tom Arrison, Michael Manzelli, Karen Crowe, Carol Sheltry, Ron Sheltry, Gordon Jobe, Christine Rouillard, David Spreadbury, Brian Parks, Carl Lindquist, Warren Green, Terri Parks, Cathleen Fountain, Melody Champagne, and Michael Ryan. Via zoom: Jon Swan and Cathy's iPad.

The record disposition committee is meeting first. Jeanette as Town Clerk and Tax Collector, Nancy Crosby as Treasurer, the select board, and the assessor gave his input already by signing the list of assessing documents he agrees to have disposed of. Jeanette provided copies of RSA 33-A regarding the state's guidelines on record retention. Jo Beth read aloud what constitutes the committee for the municipality. She confirmed the Town Clerk was responsible for election records. Jeanette provided a list of municipal files, some going back almost 13 years. Some files are required to be kept, but not all of them. The files pulled are those Jeanette felt need to be reviewed and considered for disposition. PA-28's are required to be held for 5 years. The files we have go back to 2011. Jeanette provided a list of the election files that have been destroyed. We had election ballots going back to 2012. The town doesn't have the space to save these items longer than statutorily required. The PA-28's all fall within the time frame to be disposed of. Nancy stated that most bank documents like deposit slips, statements, etc. are only required to be kept for 6 years. She produces very little paperwork and it fits in one little box. She can keep everything for 6 years and then dispose of them. Jo Beth noticed some boxes have multiple items with varying disposition requirements. Jeanette state the boxes will have to be gone through and items required to be kept longer will be re-boxed and labeled with the appropriate destroy dates. Audits generally happen the after the year-end fiscal year. We will need to look at the audit dates to ensure we keep things as long as the statue dictates. Jeanette confirmed the state is very specific in what you're keeping and what can be destroyed. We just need to follow the statute. Jo Beth asked about a 2022 AP box. AP is kept one year after audit, with some items that are required to be kept longer. It's a process. Jeanette stated that we should just follow the state statute and do the work. Cathleen Fountain and Jeanette went over the statute and worked to pull their files that needed to be reviewed and considered.

Tom stated he talked to the Secretary of State and they told him the ballots need to be kept for a full 7 years. Jeanette stated that is not true and asked who Tom spoke with and when. Tom stated he didn't remember. Jeanette stated that was not true. Tom stated he did talk to them and wouldn't lie. Jeanette met with the Deputy Secretary of State and she gave the same guidance as RSA 33-A. Jo Beth read aloud the statute regarding the ballots and election materials for absentee ballots (22 months for federal or 60 days for non-federal elections). Jo Beth stated it's clear that the PA28 and election files don't need to be reviewed any more. Eric confirmed the assessor already signed off on the assessing documents and the Town Clerk handled the election documents. Jo Beth confirmed the person with the most knowledge of what's in the boxes should handle the process. That would be Jeanette. Eric confirmed she handles everything anyways. Nancy handles the Treasurer files, current and past. Tom stated he was ok with disposing of everything 2017 and older but nothing else. Jo Beth asked why and Tom stated he just wasn't ready for that. Jo Beth stated that if we are talking 6 years, that would be 2019 and older. There are items that are required to keep less than 6 years. Jo Beth hopes to get caught up and do it by state statutes. Eric stated that Tom's already signed off on it anyways but Tom still doesn't agree. Jo Beth motioned to authorize Jeanette to destroy the PA-28 forms listed on the report. Eric provided a second with approval via majority vote of the committee; Tom voted nay. Jo Beth

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

motioned to have Jeanette, with the assistance of the Treasurer, if necessary, to dispose of the municipal files listed in the report according to the RSA. Eric provided a second. Tom asked what page Jo Beth was talking about. She confirmed it was the first page of the packet Jeanette provided. Approval via majority vote of the committee; Tom voted nay.

The Board signed payroll and AP checks.

The Board received and reviewed the July bank reconciliations and transaction report.

The Board received, reviewed and signed the new Returned Check Policy, approved in the August 18, 2025 meeting. Jo Beth read the new policy aloud and motioned to sign the revised policy. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jeanette presented a tax abatement for \$86.00 for the railroad property. This abatement is being issued because the ownership of the property was erroneously changed leading to a tax bill being issued. Jo Beth motioned for approval of the abatement request. Eric seconded and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeanette provided the MS-1 from the assessor for the Board to review, approve and sign (as provided to the Board prior to tonight's meeting). Only one signature is needed for the Board. Jo Beth motioned to approve and sign the MS-1. Eric provided a second. Tom abstained. Jo Beth signed the report.

The Board reviewed the minutes from August 18, 2025. Tom asked for a change to be made regarding the comment regarding the nonpublic meeting minutes from August 4, 2025, being incomplete. He stated they are complete. Jo Beth stated they are incomplete because there was no appropriate box to check for going into nonpublic and there was no appropriate box to check for sealing the minutes leaving the minutes incomplete. Tom stated that was her opinion. Jo Beth motioned to approve the minutes as-is. Tom provided a second. Jo Beth voted yay; Tom voted nay; Eric did not vote because he wasn't at the meeting. The minutes will be posted in DRAFT form.

The meeting minutes for nonpublic session #1 from August 18, 2025, were presented to the Board for review and approval. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second by Tom. Approval via roll call vote.

Jeanette received pricing for a Rhino Shelter from a vendor at the Lancaster Fair. The price is being reduced by \$1000 to \$1,448 with delivery and installation being another \$1,495. The Board discussed the option and agreed to purchase the shelter with delivery and installation. Jo Beth made the motioned with Eric providing a second and approval via roll call vote.

The Building Committee hasn't met yet. A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5:30pm.

Tom did not attend the DCC meeting due to a personal issue. Jo Beth asked if anyone else was present from the DCC who could provide an update. No one was available.

The Planning Board has not met since the last select board meeting.

The HCA Committee has not met but the flyers were sent out for the survey that is available online. Paul Deveno provided an update with survey options. Tom setup an open house with Casella on September 20, 2025, in Bethlehem. The town has an open meeting on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 10-12 noon at the Municipal Building to give residents another option for voicing their opinions on what the HCA should include in

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

the draft agreement for the proposed GSL landfill, should the state award the permits for construction and operation. Jeanette mentioned that Casella's postcards had a different start time than what the committee had on their postcard. Casella states it is 10 to 2pm, not 9am.

Jo Beth asked about an update on the solar panels. Eversource approved the installation and the materials are being delivered on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Installation is expected to start around September 9, 2025. Jeanette mentioned the additional work that needs to be done to the electrical panel at the garage. Also, during the hazard mitigation plan meetings, adding an emergency generator to the highway garage is one of our short-term goals. Ron confirmed this is something we need to address. Jeanette will ask the electrician for a price for the new panel along with the price for the generator hookups. Eric thought this was already going to happen and the contractor would just charge us extra. Jeanette stated the expenditure needs to be approved by the Board. Tom asked about the generator and the hazard the solar panels may pose during an outage. Jo Beth stated there has to be a safety shutoff. Ron stated the new panel may as well be done now with the transfer for the generator so we don't have to have them come back later. Jo Beth motioned for the extra work with Eric providing a second with approval via roll call vote.

Ron provided an update with the hazard mitigation plan. Our work is done; we are waiting for the final draft for review and approval by the Board. Once it's approved by us, it goes to FEMA for approval.

Smith Road is done with exception regarding the fence. Tom asked what the fence is for. Why there is a fence being installed if there is guardrail. Jeanette stated the guardrail stops cars and the fence is to stop people. Jo Beth asked if we got the adjusted estimate/savings for the revised installation technique for the fence. We have not gotten anything regarding a price difference or credit.

Mitigation work is proceeding slowly.

FEMA funding is still in the approval process. One job, with twelve roads, is considered a large job by FEMA standards, so it is in Large Job Final Review. After that it comes back to us for approval and then it goes to DHS for their approval – which takes 6-8 weeks, generally. The state then gets the project and we can get reimbursed. Two other projects are already signed and are awaiting DHS to review and put their stamp on them so the state can provide funding.

Jo Beth asked that with the delay in funding, are we going to need to look at cash flow. Jeanette stated we would need to take the funds available to pay the contractor and school district. Nancy checked with Bar Harbor Bank (new owners of Woodsville Guaranty Bank) and found out the Town can borrow against the existing TAN for the \$300,000 not originally utilized. We can't legally have a tax payment due date prior to December 1st. Jo Beth motioned to tap into the available TAN loan funds for the town. Eric provided a second. Tom asked if we had enough in our own account. Jo Beth stated no. Jeanette stated we have less than half a million in the bank right now. Jeanette stated that the governor, politicians locally and in DC have all been noticed that funding is being delayed and it's having a very negative affect on us.

Jeanette received pricing from CN Brown for 5100 gallons at \$2.659/gallon. Jeanette believes we paid almost \$3.1/gallon last year. Jo Beth asked how long we have to respond. Jeanette stated the price expires on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Jo Beth asked if anyone was familiar with oil price trending. Michael Manzelli stated the prices should be going down. OPEC has a huge reserve. He stated he's speculative but anything affects that. Jo Beth confirmed it's a moving target. He suggested to lock in at \$2.56. Mike said it was a great price. Jo Beth motioned to lock in the price. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Tom asked if

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

they had offered the insurance package on that price. Jo Beth stated she thought that was only for residential contracts. Mike Manzelli stated we should be able to get price guarantee insurance on that quantity but it may cost another \$.50 per gallon. It may not be worth it. Tom agreed.

Jo Beth asked about the revised revenue estimate sent out. The MS-434 is due. Jeanette explained the couple of negative numbers due to refunds for overpaid property taxes and the shared amount of the land use change tax funds for the conservation commission. Jeanette codes the refunds/checks to the same code to keep the credits and debits together. Jeanette will check with the bookkeeper to see why there are no receivables listed on the miscellaneous tax accounts; she knows we have received payments. The Board and Jeanette reviewed the estimated revenues and the current collected to date numbers. Jo Beth read numbers from the printed report while Jeanette filled in the spreadsheet in Excel due to only having a small screen. Multiple items were updated and Jeanette would pull backup for other items so the report could be finalized at our working session on Monday, September 8, 2025. Jeanette will look into the rooms and meals tax changes to see what we can expect for this calendar year.

We received a letter from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust just letting us know what will be changing over and when for our accounts.

Ron informed the select board that the fire department is doing a station cleanup on Saturday, September 20, 2025. There are a lot of items that are old and antiquated that aren't needed. The department will start cleaning things out and anything that can be salvaged will be. There may be some funds raised for this but likely it won't be much. People want old hose to build benches and he is ok with that as long as the hoses aren't out in service. There are light bars that need to be destroyed so someone doesn't try to use them.

Terri Parks had a question regarding a lot in Cushman Cemetery purchased in 1987. One party is in the lot but there was a divorce, the gentleman remarried, and the children from the original family want to use the lot. They want to understand who owns the lot and whether or not the heirs or children of the original family can use the plot. The most recent widow does not plan to bury her husband there, as he is recently deceased. She is fine with the original couple's children using the lot. One child has passed and they wish to bury him there with his mother. They also wish to remove the headstone and replace it with something to accommodate the new parties in the lot. The select board did not see an issue with this. The newly widowed woman could write a letter to the town letting us know. Cathleen Fountain has handled similar issues at Tri-County Cap, stating that it would go to the next of kin. Heirs, descendants, etc.

Terry presented an estimate for the John's River plotting plan from Vander-Heyden Land Surveying. She is awaiting an additional quote or two. The board will wait until the end of September to act on the estimate.

Public Comments:

Gordon Jobe: The electrician will need to know the size of the anticipated generator. Jo Beth asked if Ron knew the size. Ron stated as an electrician, they can give a suggestion on what will be needed for the building.

David Spreadbury voiced concern regarding the road crew delivering road spoils to a residence in Whitefield. He asked who pays the town crew – the town of Dalton or the town of Whitefield? Jo Beth confirmed it's Dalton. David asked why Dalton is paying for another town to get fill. He claims there were 20 loads of fill delivered to a residence in Whitefield at \$125/hour. Jo Beth asked him to put his complaint in writing so the board can respond. David stated the landowner told him the Board approved it. Jo Beth stated she does not

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

have enough knowledge on it to respond. David asked why Dalton is paying to haul fill to another town. The Board doesn't have enough knowledge to act on it. Our policy asks for complaints to be put in writing and give specifics so it's not a general thing. Jo Beth agrees with what he is saying, if it is true. The Board needs the detailed information in writing. David stated he has pictures. David stated that if he sees them out there again, he will be back and be making a bigger stink. David Spreadbury gave the address and told the Board to write it down. Jeanette asked David to submit it in writing so the Board can ask Adam about it. David stated no. He then stated that he wasn't talking to Jeanette, he is talking to the Board and that she needs to sit there and be quiet. Jo Beth interrupted David and told him that he can be respectful to the Board and the staff or he could leave the meeting. She asking him again to put the information in writing, according to town policy. David continued in a loud voice; Jo Beth stood up, hit the table and told David he is interrupting her. He claims she interrupted him. She stated she is the chair to which he replied "whoppie". She again explained the policy that all complaints are to be put in writing and that is so all the information is available for the Board to review. The first step is to put the complaint in writing and then the Board will act upon it. Tom stated it has to go in writing; it's one of the policies. David stated he will have it there in the morning. He demanded the email address and Jo Beth stated it is on the website or he can get it from them tonight.

Karen Crowe stated the recordings and quality of information is really great. She suggests having people identify themselves before they speak. She asked about a mailing that went out Dalton residents that included confidential material regarding the hostile work environment investigation report – of which the first 58 pages are missing. She would like to have information on this. Jo Beth did not receive the letter. Karen asked if Jo Beth had the report from the attorney. Our town counsel advised the Board it was subject to Right to Know with some limited redactions. So in doing so, it was provided to the person who submitted the right to know request. Karen thanks Jo Beth for the explanation.

Paul Deveno added that he also received the letter. In speaking with his attorney, it which he continues that it's important to know that only 5 people had access to that report. Jeanette, Tom, Eric, and Jo Beth as well as a resident who requested it via right to know – to which he would not say who that was since anyone in the room could find that out, just like he did. Regardless of intent, the letter could be viewed as threatening, intimidating, or harassing. The US government and the US postal service have very strict guidelines that support this point of view. Under US Code 876, even minor infractions can result in charges that could result in fines and imprisonment. Each letter represents an individual instance, where charges could be stacked. While Paul stated this is not his intent, he wants people to know it is an available option.

Carl Lindquist also received the letter. The two law firms, Upton & Hatfield and the other firm was hired to do the investigation. Opening the letter and looking at the front page marked confidential to see that it was sent to people who weren't involved in it is obviously disturbing. The law firms would likely not be happy to know it had just been sent out in part to everybody. Jo Beth stated to see an excerpt doesn't give you the context of the whole document. Our attorney was very general about what should be redacted. NHMA was more specific about what should have been redacted. She shared that NHMA said all identifying information regarding the witnesses and victims should have been redacted. Unfortunately, the Board did not receive such specific information about redaction from their attorney before it was released for the right to know. Karen Crowe confirmed names were not redacted in the report copies. Jo Beth confirmed that is true and she wishes the town attorney would have provided more specific guidance.

Kris Ennis shared concern regarding the ability of our legal team. She has lost confidence in the legal team and she would like the Board to consider coming up with a different legal team. The attorney was changed due to a

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

couple people not having confidence in our prior attorney and there are many more people now that have no confidence in our current team. Jo Beth has made many motions previously to change our legal counsel and she made one again. Eric stated he will not second that.

Pam Kathan asked since when does the public make a decision for legal change – either by legal change or because a decision upsets people because they don't agree with it.

Jeanette Charon excused herself from the table to make a public comment. She reminded people that the reason Eric and Tom wanted to change legal firms was because two individuals approached them about what happened at town meeting. They were unhappy about it and that's why they chose to make a change. So one resident, two residents, 10 residents or 600 residents - what difference does it make when you've lost your competence in the way legal counsel guides your town to make legal decisions and they make those decision frivolously? She stated that puts the town at legal risk. She reminded that the Board is supposed to be there for the good of the town and to protect the town. She continued that she recognized the hand writing to which Pam replied, "you did huh, prove it". They're supposed to make sure the town is protected from legal issues such as this. When they receive very broad legal guidance from an attorney, it's a legal issue in her opinion. Any other professional would be held accountable for that and she doesn't see why this attorney should be any different.

Pam Kathan stated she had a comment. She continued to ask how much did the legal cost? Jeanette told her to ask the person who submitted the right to know and already has it because she doesn't know it off the top of her head. Pam continued asking how many times was Tom Dubreuil harassed about spending lots of legal? It's all his fault we have this suit. Jo Beth stopped her, stating that we are not getting into it. Pam continued by stating that if Jeanette accuses her of anything else, she better be able to prove it because she's getting tired of it. Jo Beth continued by stating there is a different standard between an employee and a member of the select board member. Members of the board are subject to whatever anybody puts out there. They have no control over what people put out there; it's different than an employee relationship.

Carol Sheltry asked if there should be some kind of report done on this and maybe talking to the AG to see if what was done is ethical for our attorney. Pam Kathan mentions more legal fees. Carol stated it's not more legal fees. Talking to the AG office – there was a mailing sent out before that she was asked about; has anyone reached out to them? Jo Beth stated she didn't know. Jeanette stated this just came about last week, Tuesday or Wednesday. She started receiving calls from a couple elderly residents asking what they're supposed to do with it. Residents were calling or coming in and confused. It appears it was sent out to random people. At this point, nothing has been done. Carol stated there should be a report and discussion with the AG. Jeanette agreed.

Kris Ennis asked that Jo Beth keep all comments directed to the Board. Mumbling or private comments should be stopped. Jo Beth states she will try, sometimes she does not hear them.

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic session for legal at 8:03pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Karen Crowe asked if the public session would continue after nonpublic. Jo Beth stated it'd likely be just to seal the minutes. Jeanette added, if they needed to be sealed.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 8:07pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to seal nonpublic meeting minutes #1. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 9/15/25 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore