

**Monday, September 22, 2025 5:00 PM**  
**Working Session**  
**Dalton Select Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by Jo Beth. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Tom Dubreuil, and Eric Moore were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom. Via Zoom: Carol Sheltry

Public attendees: Ron Sheltry and Michael Carrier.

Fire Chief, Ron Sheltry, was present to provide explanation to the Fire Department/EMS budget. The budget was discussed in detail, with Ron providing explanations for any increases. The discussion included a reminder of 6 additional EMT's added to the department this year and an increase in the paperwork side of Ron's four positions with the town. Eric stated the budget wasn't bad for gear replacement. Tom asked about gear purchases and whether that has been done. Ron tries to purchase a couple new sets of gear each year because it is very expensive at almost \$3000 per set. He is waiting until we are closer to the end of the year so the town has hopefully received more reimbursement from FEMA for last year's storm damages. The town's solar array should cover the town's electricity in its entirety although that may not be until next year since the panels were just installed this month. A new tanker will be in the town's future but not for years ahead, in his opinion. The trust fund balances were reviewed and discussed with Jo Beth asking about the titles on the trust funds reports. There is one for EMS vehicle maintenance and repair and then there is a fire department equipment. Jeanette stated the larger account is for the vehicle and the smaller account is the equipment. Jeanette will check into those details with Sue, the chair of the trustees about the possibility of changing the titles to ensure they're more in line with the funds' uses. Jo Beth asked if it was time to get someone to help with some of Ron's duties. Ron stated that it was time to start looking at who will take over his positions once he retires. That's still not determined. He has handed off some of the chore type stuff. Many positions, such as the Health Officer, require certification, classes, training, etc. and people don't want to step into the positions and make those commitments. He plans to be around for a while. The conversation touched on preventative care, home health care, etc. The programs are helping reduce EMS calls and will remain as long as the funding doesn't get cut.

Jeanette reviewed the numbers she inserted into the proposed budget for the executive, town clerk, financial admin, personnel admin sections, planning board, government buildings, transfer station, street lights, pump station, loans, etc. Small increases were added to certain sections since everything has been increasing over the past months. Services for online subscriptions are increasing, insurance was plugged using last year's increase percentages, and postage increases were added – especially to cover the three elections and the cost of absentee ballot mailing. Some items such as supplies and dues, registry fees, payments to Lunenburg sewer, and other employee benefits, along with highway department salaries were decreased for various reasons. Jo Beth asked to setup another meeting with them to discuss the sewer status, perhaps in Lunenburg this time since they usually come to Dalton. Jeanette can set that up.

Tom asked about the dog tags, asking why it's on the budget when those purchasing the tags pay for them. Jeanette explained that the revenue side is separate. An appropriation must be made in order for the town to spend the funds. Everything is mashed together with other data to determine what the tax rate is with DRA.

Jo Beth suggested maybe increasing our welfare budget with so many assistance programs being cut by the government. Jeanette stated we probably should, but hopefully we can keep it on the lower end.

The proposed budget came in at \$1,180,779, slightly more than \$107k. Tom asked about FEMA money and it offsetting the budget. Jeanette explained that it doesn't offset the budget, but it does offset the tax rate

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setting. Reminding him those funds go into the general fund revenue and at town meeting, the community votes on where that money needs to go. Funds could be replaced in capital reserve, where they were taken from, and also replace funds from our general funds. The unused fund balance does include unpaid taxes for the town. We need to be mindful of keeping those funds at a healthy level. We were approved to use \$175k from those funds in 2024, but we thankfully only used about \$32k.

FEMA funds are coming in but slowly. Blakslee Road hit obligation and once the federal side sends the funds to the state, we will be reimbursed for what work has been completed on Blakslee – there is more to do. Smith Road and the last project with 13 roads have not been obligated yet.

The board to executed an intent to cut.

Jeanette also mentioned a program FEMA has that pays interest on the loans we had to take due to the damages from the storm. She will get more information on that for the board.

A proposal was received from Main Electric for the generator work. The chair signed the proposal, as it was in line with what the board previously approved. Add-ons, such as the cold weather package, were discussed but pricing was not provided. We can add them later if it's deemed necessary. Jo Beth executed the agreement.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 9/29/25 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

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Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore