

Thursday, October 16, 2025 5:30 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Eric. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley (late arrival), 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: Amanda Deveno and Paul Deveno. Via zoom: None

The Board signed AP checks and reviewed payroll signed by Jo Beth Dudley on October 15, 2025.

The Board reviewed the September bank reconciliations and transaction report. The Board also reviewed the transaction report for January through September.

Tom and Eric reviewed the Health Trust medical, life, short-term, long-term and life insurance renewals documents.

The Board reviewed the Dept. of Revenue's 2023 Property Documentation Assessment. Jo Beth asked for the assessor to review the report and respond.

Jeanette provided an elderly exemption recommendation from the assessor. Jo Beth motioned to approve the exemption. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

The Board executed the pay increase document for Jeff Shepard, previously approved on October 6, 2025.

Jo Beth motioned to accept a \$100 donation made from a town resident for use of the town's table and chairs. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes for September 29, 2025. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second from Eric. Approval obtained via roll call vote.

The Board reviewed and approved nonpublic meeting minutes #1 for personnel from September 29, 2025. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Eric and approval via roll call vote.

The local election accessible voting system tablets will come from the state; this allows the town to remove the estimated amount from the 2026 budget. The town will still be responsible for the programming of the town election information. A new vendor has not been chosen yet so we will include \$600 for that expense (same as last year).

Jeanette presented VoIP phone quotes from Ring Central and Vonage. Jeanette hasn't spoken to Fidium yet but she will ask them about the phone system as well. Jo Beth motioned to have Jeanette handle the decision based on her interaction with the companies. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. After additional discussion, Jo Beth stated she could review the motion to wait for Fidium's pricing and interaction.

North Star Canine provided additional details regarding their proposed use of the gymnasium for dog training classes. The Board approved a rate of \$25/hour. Jeanette was given the authority to negotiate the price if required. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second from Eric and approval via roll call vote. Paul Deveno raised concerns with opening up the facility to businesses. Accepting one means the town would have to objectively accept other businesses. The town does have this included in their property use policy already. Tom asked if the obedience trainer had insurance; she stated she is fully insured. She would need to provide her certificate of insurance with the town named as the certificate holder.

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The building committee work days resulted in the brick on the front of the municipal building being cleaned and pressure washed. No additional work was completed at this time. If work is not done prior to winter, it will remain on the work list for spring.

Tom had no update for the conservation commission. Jo Beth asked about requesting for reimbursement from Casella for the costs the town incurred for conservation planning/investigations in preparation of the proposed GSL landfill project. Tom stated he would not ask for reimbursement.

No update was available for the planning board since they had not met since the last meeting.

The Host Community Agreement (HCA) committee held an open house on October 4, 2025 where a small group of people were present. An additional open house was scheduled for October 23, 2025, from 6:30-7:30pm. Paul visited the Bethlehem NCES facility on October 15, 2025. The next HCA meeting is November 3, 2025, at 6:30pm.

The solar panels are complete and we are awaiting the Eversource tie-in along with the internet connection needed for monitoring.

The generator for the highway garage has been installed. A propane tank is needed for the highway garage generator. Jeanette will obtain pricing for the tank installation and propane.

The hazard mitigation plan won't be done until 2026. The invoice will not come until 2026 as well; we will include the expenses in next year's budget.

FEMA funds have been coming in. The town received an additional \$529k; public hearing scheduled for 6:30pm on Monday, October 27, 2025. A discrepancy was found on labor totals for repair work and that has been corrected. The town will receive some additional funds due to that correction. The headwalls were delivered and are being installed on Blakslee Road.

A proposal for PDF tax bills with Avitar was presented to the Board. This option would allow residents to opt-in for receiving tax bills online via the town's online tax kiosk in lieu of mailing them (per state statute a physical bill must be made available or sent to all property owners). Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second from Eric. Approval via roll call vote.

A quote from textmygov was presented to the Board for review. This would allow the town to push data to residents with information. Residents could also text the town with information. This is one of the many items being addressed due to our hazard mitigation plan being updated. At this time, it was decided that the cost is exorbitant. Additionally, incoming text messages would be difficult to manage for the town since we have limited manpower. Competitive quotes can be obtained in the future should the town wish to move forward with a program similar to this.

In January, as passed in HB2, NH DES will start charging a \$3.50/ton surcharge on landfill tipping fees. Municipalities will be able to file for reimbursement of the fees from the state.

The 2026 Health Trust increase is approximately 9.2% on medical coverage and short-term disability increase is 5.5%. No changes were put in place for other coverages offered by the town.

A notice was received from NH Recycles (used to be NHRRA) that dues are increasing from \$125 to \$200 for the year. The per capita rate is increasing from \$.08 to \$.09/resident.

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Ampersand Gilman Hydro safety and monitoring report was submitted earlier in the year and has been found to be in compliance with the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC) for continued operation of the dam.

Public Comments:

Amanda Deveno asked about expenses the conservation commission is asking be reimbursed by Casella. Jo Beth provided an explanation of what the DCC asked the Board to request reimbursement for from Casella. Tom and Eric both state they are not interested in asking for that reimbursement. Tom states that Jon did not go in front of the board for approval, as required and has been working on his own by choosing to do those things. He did not obtain Board approval. Jo Beth stated the DCC used their funds for the work. Jo Beth reminds Tom that the Dalton Conservation Commission (DCC) incurred these expenses on behalf of the Town. The purpose of the DCC is to protect the town's natural resources. Asking for reimbursement benefits the Town as the DCC is part of the Town. Eric states that he isn't putting his name on the request. Amanda asks why they wouldn't do this since it would help the town. Eric states that he will look into it.

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic session for welfare at 7:33pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 7:40pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

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

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 12/8/25 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

