

Monday, January 12, 2026 5 PM
Working Session
Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Jo Beth. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley and Thomas Dubreuil were present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom.

Public attendees: Ron Sheltry, Michael Carrier, Cathleen Fountain. Via Zoom: None.

Jeanette provided the Board with the agreement for the NH State Police-Troop F for patrolling services. Jo Beth motioned to approve the contracts. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Jeanette mentioned the error in our address on the agreement. Jo Beth made those corrections and initialed them.

The Board reviewed one intent to cut. Tom motioned to sign. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jeanette presented the December 22, 2025 meeting minutes held over from last week's meeting. Tom still had not reviewed them – stating he had not received the email Jo Beth forwarded during that meeting. He reviewed the minutes at the meeting. Tom asked for a revision to the number of meetings he allegedly missed for the conservation commission. Jo Beth motioned to approve. Eric asked about Tom's requested change. It was determined that the number of meetings stated is from reading allowed the memo received by the commission and cannot be altered. Eric provided a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Tom stated the candidates looking for approval for placement on the conservation commission need to submit a letter of interest. Jo Beth asked where they saw that protocol. Eric stated that's was what they do for the planning board. Jo Beth reminded him that board is elected now. The DCC asks interested parties to attend meetings ahead of asking to join and gaining select board approval. Tom stated it wouldn't be a big deal. Jeanette stated that the commission functions off their by-laws and that if they wanted to implement this change, perhaps it's something Tom can bring up for discussion at the next meeting. Since it would require a change in the commission's by-laws, it would likely not go into effect right now. Tom agreed that was a good point.

Jo Beth motioned to renew Gina Damiano's position on the DCC for an additional three years. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to approve Mandy Deveno to the DCC as an alternate. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jeanette received an inquiry on whether or not the HCA committee would provide a report. Jo Beth started to draft one and Paul Deveno, committee chair, had started drafting one as well. Jeanette will assume that means they will be providing one. Most of the other departments have submitted their report. Jeanette will provide a printed copy of what she has in hand so the Board can review and comment on that during our next meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026.

Jamie at DRA responded regarding the date to use for funds. That date is when they were accepted by the Select Board. This will slightly change the dollar amount being voted on at town meeting. That number is now approx. \$1,030,000. We will not need to have a meeting for the solar grant reimbursement because it was on our anticipated revenue for the year. Another \$2,195.65 was received from FEMA for fringe benefits for Roads 111 for work already completed.

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Jeanette received an invoice from Horizons Engineering dated June of 2025, received in November 2025. They are billing for a 2018 sampling, a 2022 report, and a 2022-2023 report. Jeanette asked about the timeliness of their invoice. They think what's not billed or spent should be carried over. They're looking for \$6,250.00. \$2500 is from 2024 and the balance is over a year old. This company used to do the sampling on the old landfill. Jeanette will see if she can find anything on these charges. We have switched systems since then. Jeanette will see what she can find – these charges are old. Jeanette will check the agreement.

Jeanette sent the checks copies for the conservation commission expense the Chair is asking for a reimbursement request to be made from the Board to Casella. Tom confirmed he received that email. This satisfies Eric's request for documents.

Jo Beth drafted the select board report to the town report, due today. The board reviewed the report and had some discussion. Tom asked that there be an addition to the report stating he was cleared of the hostile work environment charges. Jeanette reminded Tom that he was found to be innocent based on her being part of a protected class, not point blank. Jeanette contested that idea stating that she has let go the fact that the attorney released the report without making sure it was fully redacted along with the fact that a resident sent that to 90% of the town. Tom stated that it was included in the report last year. Jo Beth didn't believe that was the case. She read allowed what was in the previous year's report – no names were included. Eric stated he has been asked quite a few times to have the people who works for Dalton have their pay in the report. Jo Beth stated that was not something that would go in the Board's report. He agreed. Jo Beth motioned to use the Select Board draft she put together. Eric provided a second with Tom abstaining in his vote.

Kyle MacBean resigned from the transfer station effective immediately on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Tom asked if there was a written resignation. Jo Beth didn't believe so. Tom wanted to have a meeting with Kyle first. Tom stated that if it's not written then it's....Jeanette stated that he resigned to Adam. Tom wants to meet with Kyle. Jeanette stated that she will ask Adam to invite Kyle to the meeting to discuss the issue. Adam was his supervisor so he should make the request.

Jeanette updated the expenditures with approximately 99% of the expenses in the system. The bookkeeper was still working on the reconciliation of the operating account so there may be some changes still. Jo Beth brought up a cost-of-living increase across the board of 3%. Jeanette stated no increases were included in the proposed budget except for the highway department. Jo Beth recommended that all staff received a 3% increase. Items regarding printing and election advertising as well as election workers were discussed. Jeanette asked if there were any questions regarding executive or town clerk. Additionally, professional and technical services was increased. Postage costs continue to increase – this is required for all tax collector invoices, notices, etc. Avitar will be working with us to have tax bills via pdf format instead of being mailed.

Seasonal/lawncare line items are being added for the 2026 budget year. The total doesn't change much but the labor will be tracked separately. Employee benefits and insurance costs have increased this year. We also are carrying one additional employee on benefits this year. Ron hasn't heard from Whitefield yet about the ambulance services. He will let us know as soon as he knows. Ron revamped his budget to match the format of the town. Jeanette updated the numbers which were slightly adjusted by Ron. Ron stated he would also like to discuss adjusting the payroll in the near future. Other department budgets were reviewed, including highway, fire, transfer station and the cost of trash transportation and trucking. The new municipal dump fee along with a recycling issue the town is working on caused an increased of \$8,000 to that line item. Jeanette discussed the

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analysis Tom is going to complete which will give us a better idea of the summer versus winter volume. Mike Carrier was on hand and spoke about the situation with the recycling. Mike can take the recycling to the landfill in NCES because the transfer station has run out of space. The welfare budget was blown through in 2025. After discussion, the direct assistance line item was increased to \$8,000 from \$5,000. The increase was \$62k, or 6% initially. After more discussion and some number changing, the board got the proposed budget down to a 3% increase of \$41,241. Jo Beth asked Ron for any suggestions. He stated that the increase we have now is amazing. He sees the budget as being very reasonable considering the state of things. Eric didn't see any other places where it could really be cut. Jeanette cut the annual wage for tax collector and added a small amount to town clerk since there are more elections and hours to be worked there. A quick scrolling through the budget didn't turn up any obvious cuts to the proposed number. The next step will be to look at what is wanted for warrant articles. We will need Adam to come in again to discuss that. Tom asked for a copy of the proposed budget. Jeanette agreed.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn at 6:27pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 1/19/26 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore