

Monday, January 19, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm 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: Michael Carrier, Mandy Deveno, Carol Sheltry, Ron Sheltry, Adam King, Connie Russell, Larry Russell, Kyle Mac Bean, Kris Ennis and Warren Green. Via Zoom: Cathy's iPad

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic session for personnel at 6:33pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Adam King and Kyle Mac Bean were included in the meeting, but Tom asked Jeanette to leave. Jo Beth stated that Jeanette should be there for note taking and Tom stated she could take notes; he just wanted only the Board. Jeanette asked why he didn't want her there and he stated he didn't have an answer for her. Jeanette left the nonpublic session.

The Select Board returned to public session at 7:15pm. Kyle Mac Bean left the meeting.

Adam King, Road Agent, was present to review and discuss the highway budget and transfer station budget. Adam asked about winter sand's budget for 2025. Jeanette stated that we are in a new budget year now. It's hard to tell where we will be for the end of the year. Getting more sand now would come from the 2026 budget. Road sand was increased to \$35k; Diesel increased to \$35k; Road Material was ok'd at \$50k since all of the roads received a decent top coating of gravel this past summer; Repairs parts ok'd at \$20k; Jeanette recommended an increase to Repairs & Maintenance; we can't keep going over budget and towing and repairs are very expensive. \$70k was spent in 2025. The line item increased to \$60k; and Maintenance & Repair Supplies increased to \$15k. The highway department spent over \$624k on a \$465k budget in 2025. Other items were discussed.

Disposal and transportation for the transfer station increased from \$40k to \$80k. Littleton no longer takes our recycling which leaves us with Casella for recycling. Our contract with Casella is currently \$55 per ton. If we use Casella for transport as well, a dumpster rental is \$150 per month with transport for the dumpster being \$435 per round trip. Jo Beth mentioned the plan on the table is to have a manager of the transfer station and possibly have a second employee. The wage line item will need to go up but there is no dollar amount yet. Jeanette asked if these are both part-time. They are; Jeanette asked if we were then doubling the wage budget. It increased over \$17k. Training went from \$200 to \$1k. Jeanette asked about the training type; Jo Beth stated it would be management training for the manager to report to the Board instead of Adam. Michael Carrier took the recycling last week, and he took 4 loads to clear out the building, except tin. It's 48 miles roundtrip. Adam believes the runs are weekly, he believes. Jeanette stated that if all the recycling is going to Casella, they're single-source. We don't need two people. Everything goes into the dumpster, they come pick it up and bring us a new one. Why would you need another person? Jo Beth asked if our facility could take another dumpster. Jeanette stated we could get a smaller dumpster that would be picked up nearly every week. This allows for the recycling to go into one place and go where it's supposed to. Summer months may see higher volume with more people in the area. Jeanette suggests adding \$30-35k to the line item to add recycling to the Casella services. Jo Beth suggested \$80k. Jeanette suggested increasing the price of our bags. Jo Beth stated that may be necessary. Kris Ennis asked if recycling was now having to go into blue bags. Jeanette clarified that recycling won't go into bags – it will just go into the recycling dumpster. The cost is the same as getting rid of trash, but this way it at least doesn't go into the landfill and gets recycled. Eric stated we wouldn't need two people and should drop that down. Jo Beth stated that stickers were suggested by Tom, and she noted more discussion and review is needed. If that starts, then someone will need to monitor the stickers. Tom suggested Kyle to go

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find out all the prices and logistics of what is being discussed. Jeanette stated that we already have the prices. Again, Jeanette stated there wouldn't need to be anyone inside to watch people put zero-sort recycling into one dumpster; the attendant could watch what's going on outside – that's one person. Adam agreed. Jo Beth asked Adam what he'd like to see for backup coverage. Jeanette stated that regardless of whether it is person A or person B, the wage should be about the same unless someone got a really big raise. Jo Beth suggested the wage line item for the transfer station to be at \$20k. Jeanette asked if \$1k was still needed for training. Adam didn't believe so. Jo Beth said \$500. She asked Tom and Eric. Tom asked about reports and stuff that have to be done. He stated that some education would be needed for that. Jeanette stated there is no formal training. Environmental companies do the reports and we finalize them. She stated it would be great if someone else could do those reports. Jo Beth stated that would be a good expectation. Jeanette asked if there was anything more for the transfer station. No one had anything else to offer.

Jo Beth continued that this likely concluded the budget items for the highway and transfer station. Jo Beth provided some spreadsheets for highway capital reserve suggestions for equipment. The grant opportunity currently available could provide 95% of the truck's cost. Jeanette has been asking for quotes since November. We are still waiting on the retrofitting of the new truck we are pricing. Jo Beth put together a few scenarios for getting a new truck, in addition to a used one in the near future. It was suggested, after some discussion, to increase the capital reserve from \$25k to \$55k. If this isn't considered, then we would need to take out a loan or bond for a truck in the near future. Tom asked if our old trucks can be traded in. Adam confirmed they would just need to be sold outright. They have very little worth once we are ready to replace them. Adam continued by stating that the International 7600 10-wheel dump truck is very old. It is very tired and has little life left at this point. Adam will work on getting the complete quotes so that Jeanette can write the grant application to apply for the grant. Jo Beth reminded Adam that once the funds are gone, or on March 31, 2026, whichever happens first, the grant is closed and we will lose the opportunity. Therefore, we should move quickly.

Jo Beth asked about the 3% cost of living increase mentioned at multiple board meetings. She asked Jeanette if she added that information. Jeanette stated that she did not because it was discussed but no one asked her to do so. The increase is included in the highway but nowhere else. Jo Beth asked Tom and Eric if they agree with the 3% cost of living increase. Tom asked if she was talking about wages. Eric stated that a lot of people got wage increases this year. Jo Beth stated that was last year and we are talking about just cost of living here, not merit raises. She asked again if they are in agreement. Tom stated that it'd be nice to do this but when are we going to start thinking about the cost of living for the elderly. Jo Beth stated that a cost-of-living increases is given with social security. The items Tom and Eric want to do with the transfer station add to our budget. The highway department has to be funded appropriately. She has asked them what in the budget they think should be cut. Ron Sheltry stated that he needs to discuss with the Board about increasing the pay for his department. He makes it clear that if we don't keep decent people here, we will have a bigger issue. We have a decent group and we need to keep them and make sure we don't get too far behind other towns. Jo Beth asked if Ron built that into his budget. Ron confirmed he did, for the first time since 2020. Tom asked how much a 3% increase would change the budget. Tax collector and town clerk would increase to \$20 per hour. Town admin would increase about \$2k. The current 2026 budget would already cover those increases. Treasurer would increase to \$3370. Jeanette did a couple calculations and stated it'd be \$3-\$4k total. Eric and Tom both agreed they were good with that increase to cover the cost-of-living increases.

Ron Sheltry, Fire Chief, is also working on obtaining quotes for a new tanker. The town's tanker is still in decent shape; however, it's starting to show its age and really should be replaced with an automatic transmission. The

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available trucks won't fit in our station so we need pricing for a custom-made truck. Tom asked if the old truck would need to be destroyed if the new truck was obtained. Ron stated that it would be. The trucks don't have much value when they're ready to be replaced. You can't give away fire trucks.

2025 expenses came in \$968 under budget. This is due to the adjustment after the reimbursement from the solar grant and capital reserve distributions. The total proposed budget for 2026 is now \$1,318,036. This is an increase of approximately 10% or \$117,150. Considering the increases for the highway department and transfer station, that increase isn't bad. Jo Beth asked Tom and Eric for any suggestions for where to cut the budget. None were provided. Jo Beth motioned to move forward with this preliminary budget for 2026, pending any minor adjustments that may be required. Eric provided a second. Tom confirmed this is not approving it, it's approving using it to go forward. Jo Beth confirmed. Approval via roll call vote. Motion carried.

Jo Beth asked Ron about warrant articles. He suggested an increase in the FD vehicle capital reserve fund. Jo Beth asked him about the grant for diesel vehicles. It is available for the fire department too. Ron is trying to get quotes for a custom-sized tanker. Ron stated there will not be money for a new engine when it is needed. We need to start planning ahead so we are prepared. Ron will work on a list of the fire department equipment so Jo Beth can run some scenarios like she did for the highway department capital equipment plan.

The Board reviewed the amount for the capital reserve warrant articles. Jeanette provided last year's warrant for each member to review. Tom asked how the warrant was developed already when we haven't done the budget. Jo Beth stated it is from last year to use in discussion while we are developing this year's warrant. After discussion on each warrant item, the proposed CRF contributions are Town Building \$15k; Sewer Pump \$2k; Highway Dept. Equipment \$55k; Paving \$75k; FD Vehicle \$55k; Fire/EMS Equipment \$10k; Legal Fund \$10k. Jo Beth motioned to proceed with these amounts for the capital reserve contributions on the warrant. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Jo Beth asked about drafting the warrant article for the FEMA money. Jeanette stated that she did not have those details from DRA yet.

Jeanette provided the board with copies of the draft Annual Report - for their review. The dedication needs to be decided. Jo Beth stated there were quite a few losses this past year. It was suggested that maybe we remember and dedicate the town report to those we lost who contributed to the wellness and growth of the town. A couple sentences can be included for each. Tom will handle Don Mooney and Rodney Rexford. Eric will handle Paul Moore and Julia Simonds. Jeanette can handle Linda Greenwood. Jo Beth will pull them all together. A picture is needed for the cover. Ron will look to see what he can find for the fire station.

The Board signed AP checks and payroll.

Jeanette provided the CAI Technologies renewal service agreement. Jo Beth motioned for approval and execution. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

The January 5, 2026, meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Eric. Approval via Jo Beth and Eric voting yay. Tom abstained.

Nonpublic #1 and #1 were provided to the Board. A minor correction was made by Jo Beth on #2, changing the meeting number from 1 to 2. Jo Beth motioned for approval with Eric providing a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Meeting minutes from January 12, 2026, were provided for the board's review. Jo Beth motioned for approval with a second by Eric. Tom abstained. Minutes approved 2-1.

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Jeanette provided the bank reconciliation and transaction report for December 2025 for the board's review.

No update on the phone system.

Recycling is currently going to NCES while we look for other options. Lancaster is not able to take our recycling, as they do not have a DES permit that allows it.

Tom stated the minutes from nonpublic session #1 need to be sealed.

Jeanette is working on the grant application for a transfer station scale.

No updates on FEMA funding.

No additional updates or business.

Public Comments:

Mike Carrier asked where he stood on working at the transfer station.

Jo Beth motioned to go into nonpublic #2 for personnel at 9:27pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote. Jeanette asked if she was going to that nonpublic session. She joined the session and returned shortly thereafter; removing herself from the session.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 9:36pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth, answering Mike Carrier's question, stated that Kyle is going to be back working at the transfer station. Tom told Mike he did a great job and that he's a great guy and that he thinks the Select Board dropped the ball on some things and they're just going to try to revamp some stuff. Mike asked if he was out of it. Tom stated for the time being, not to say that he couldn't fill in like he was doing before. Jo Beth added that there were a couple different scenarios with two people but depending on recycling, that may change. Jo Beth thanked Mike for his hard work. Mike stated he figured everything out and took care of it last week. He thanked them. Jo Beth motioned to seal the meeting minutes from nonpublic sessions 1 and 2. Eric seconded with approval by roll call vote.

Amanda Deveno asked about the status of the analysis for the transfer station. Jo Beth asked Tom where he stood on that item. Jo Beth completed her comparison of prices with other transfer stations, and has it for discussion at a future meeting, given the late time at this meeting. Tom stated that he asked Jeanette for a report for Casella's expenses. She handed him a report that he asked for that afternoon. She told him that all their costs are coded to one line item, as shown on the budget. Jo Beth asked if they break it down on their invoices. Jeanette stated they did, but Tom asked for just a report of their expenses. Jo Beth stated that Tom should come into the office and look at the invoices in the file; it's not worth making additional copies. Tom stated it was worth it because he didn't have time. The Board pays Jeanette to do this. Tom thanks Jeanette for the report. Carol Sheltry asked if it was the best use of Jeanette's time to copy reports for Tom when he could just come look at the invoices. Jo Beth explained the process. Tom stated he would discuss the issue with Jo Beth later – him and her. He had enough of it. Jo Beth stated that Jeanette has gone above and beyond with FEMA and grant proposals, adding value to the town, and her time is better spent on those items. If the board wants a special report, they can take the initiative and time and do that. Part of being on the board is doing the work. Just like she has done many times.

Jo Beth asked if there were any additional public comments. There were none.

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Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:41pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 2/2/26 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore