

Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
Regular Session
Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by Jo Beth. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Eric Moore and Thomas Dubreuil were present. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom.

Public attendees: Mandy Deveno, Kyle Mac Bean, Kris Ennis and Pam Kathan. Via Zoom: Carol

The Board signed payroll checks. It was noted that there wasn't a check for Kyle, nor was his timesheet in the office. Kyle said that he hadn't turned in his timesheet. He gave it to Adam, who gave it back to him. Jo Beth noted that the proposed change in structure for the transfer station had not yet been approved by the Board in a public session. She noted that any restructuring needs to be discussed and voted on in a public session, and that likely caused confusion regarding Kyle's time sheet and payroll, and that the Board acted prematurely last meeting. Kyle said he would turn in the timesheet on Tuesday, Jo Beth noted that Jeanette would be back in the office on Thursday.

The Board signed an Intent to Cut.

Jo Beth motioned to approve the 1/19/26 regular session minutes. Eric seconded the motion and the motion passed with a roll call vote. Tom abstained.

Jo Beth motioned to approve the Non-public Session #1 minutes. Eric seconded the motion. Tom said material needed to be added to the minutes, and called for discussion in a non-public session.

Jo Beth motioned to approve the Non-public Session #2 minutes. Eric seconded the motion. Tom said there should be discussion of the minutes, and called for discussion in a non-public session.

Jo Beth noted discussion of restructuring the Transfer Station and having a position of a manager. Jo Beth shared her draft of a Manager Position Description, using one from another town as an example. Tom was going to do a letter of offer/letter of engagement and doesn't have it finished for this meeting. He'll have it ready for the next meeting.

Jo Beth clarified that Kyle's previous raise was approved effective October 27, 2025, and that Jeanette highlighted the change when she gave the payroll information to the bookkeeper who does payroll, complying with appropriate separation of duties. When Jeanette was notified that the raise had not been provided, she worked with the bookkeeper, and Kyle was paid the difference retroactively in the next payroll.

Jo Beth summarized Kyle's pay history, from time of hiring in January 2019, with raises in: July 2021, December 2022 (with his joint appointment to the Highway Department), and October 2025, noting that he has been getting raises since being employed.

Kyle reported that he put recyclables (card board, mixed paper and plastic) in with the blue bags. Kyle said it would cost \$175/ton for recycling at NCES. Jo Beth thought that it would be \$55/ton per our agreement with Casella/NCES (\$55/ton for municipal waste and demo). Kyle reported the forklift was down as well. Jo Beth questioned the weight, with plastics being lightweight. Eric noted that if we had a compactor, we could sell recyclables and make money. Jo Beth noted we need to look at options and work with other towns and DES. Jo Beth asked Kyle to look into options. Tom went to Lancaster and talked with them. He said you can store cardboard in a trailer box, and they get \$2400/truckload, and plastic is a money maker. Jo Beth said we should look into it. Paul Deveno

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asked if it has to be bailed. Tom replied that it does need to be bailed, and that we could pick up a used compactor for about \$9K. The problem is that we'd also need wiring, and it may need a three-phase power source. There was discussion of whether a compactor could fit in the existing building. Bales could be put into another box trailer for storage. Amanda Deveno noted that a quick Google search identified three possible grant programs for compactors to reduce waste going into landfills: DES, NH the Beautiful, and USDA Solid Waste. Jo Beth asked Kyle to come back with data and to look into these grant opportunities. She noted that Lancaster would be an excellent resource. Jo Beth noted that this is a good start to looking into options. Tom agreed. Tom noted that compacting the blue bag waste would reduce the trucking. Kyle said that Three-Phase power might have to come from the end of French Road. Jo Beth asked for confirmation of that. Tom asked if Three-Phase can be converted to 220, or if there are compactors that don't require Three-Phase powers. Jo Beth suggested we work with other towns to coordinate trucking if we start selling our own recyclables.

Kyle asked why Littleton stopped taking our recyclables. There was some discussion of this, and a question about whether plastics can generate revenue. Jo Beth noted that, per newspaper articles, Littleton had a problem with the amount of out-of-town demo materials and that led them to revamp their transfer station and stop taking recycling from other towns.

Tom motioned that we start having stickers for our residents. Eric seconded the motion. Tom reported that Littleton gets \$5.00 per sticker, with stickers good for two years. Jo Beth thought we had other things to work on prior to going with stickers, as who is going to monitor them, and how big of a problem is it if people are buying the bags. Kyle thought it is a problem as the volume has gone up since we started letting the Dalton Country Store sell bags. Jo Beth noted that it's a convenience for residents to be able to purchase bags at the store, and not have to use a check or money order at the transfer station. Tom brought up the cost of the bags. Jo Beth pulled up her analysis done a couple of weeks ago, at which time Littleton's current charges were not available on their website. We're in line with Whitefield, and less than Lancaster, who recently raised their rates.

Dalton: \$17/roll large bags, \$11/roll small bags;

Whitefield: \$17/roll large bags, \$12/roll small bags;

Lancaster: \$26/roll large bags, \$15.50/roll small bags, \$18/roll medium bags;

Littleton: not available on their website, which is under construction;

Franconia (tri-town): \$50/roll large bags, \$30/roll small bags.

Pam Kathan thought that bags sold at the Transfer Station should be validated as only sold to Dalton residents. Kris Ennis noted that if we can only sell bags from the town to residents, why do we need stickers? Kyle noted that Dalton used to use stickers, and the recollection was that they stopped using stickers when the town went to the bags. Jo Beth summarized bags prices. Paul Deveno said that the first thing is a control point if the transfer station volume is a problem. Then decide where we want to be -- i.e. how much do we want to subsidize the transfer station. Kris

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Ennis noted we don't want to make the bags too expensive and risk have trash dumped along the side of the road.

Jo Beth suggested forming a committee to look into this, and have Kyle look into it as well, and then decide what we want to do. Tom agrees with monitoring point, and is staying with stickers, and maybe go up in price. Tom called the vote on the stickers. Tom and Eric voted Yah. Jo Beth voted "Nay" noting that it was premature, and that we need to look at options, including the cost of stickers, whether they'd be stickers or hangtags, and who would monitor them, etc. Pam Kathan said if we use stickers, it should be semi-permanent, not hang tags. Jo Beth noted we need an implementation plan, with the details determined, how and when residents will be notified, etc. Jo Beth asked about the timing. Tom said 30 days, Kyle said at least that, Jo Beth suggested after Town Meeting. Kris Ennis asked why we're checking repeatedly, i.e. at time of bag purchase and with stickers. Jo Beth thought there are lots of good ideas, but we need to step back and look at our options. Jo Beth asked about having a committee to look at pros and cons. Tom said no, he's looking at it. Jo Beth noted we have various different approaches that we're talking about and that we don't have a cohesive plan. Kris Ennis thought we should work with other towns, and noted the redundancy of selling bags and monitoring stickers. Paul Deveno noted that increasing the cost of bags is essentially a tax -- residents can either pay more for bags or more in taxes.

Tom noted the differences in tipping fees over months. Pam Kathan suggested eliminating selling bags at the Country Store. Jo Beth thought we should look at options and come back for a decision. Maybe the Country Store would be willing to sell bags only to residents. She noted we've talked about multiple scenarios, and we should take time to make a plan and then move forward. Paul Deveno noted that we could take the action from pulling the bags from the store before implementing other measures.

Kris Ennis asked about due diligence and where is the analysis on the cost. How much do we need to charge for the bags, and for the decision, look at the budget and make an educated decision and don't pull things out of the air. Tom said "Don't tell me I'm pulling things from the air."

Tom rescinded motion on the stickers. Eric seconded and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Tom motioned that Kyle pull the bags from the Store. Jo Beth said Jeanette should coordinate it because she was the one who has been working with the store. Tom said Kyle could do it. Jo Beth noted that Kyle would need to do the inventory. The Board agreed that if the Store purchased the bags upfront, we would let them sell the remaining bags. Eric seconded the motion. Jo Beth voted "Nay" because she wants a more comprehensive look at things instead of moving forward in what feels to her to be a piecemeal approach.

Kyle asked about what he should do with the recyclables. Jo Beth noted he is going to check into options, working with other towns, recycling companies, and checking on compacting. So, we should store materials for now, although until we have options, we have no choice but to send recycling to NCES.

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Jo Beth shared a summary of Fire Rescue capital equipment replacement plans. Upon receipt of information from Ron, she had put it into the same format as she used for the Highway Department Equipment replacement plan. Looking at scenarios of what is put into the CRF, she projected balances based on the anticipated replacement dates and estimated costs, assuming 95% grant funding for Tanker One.

\$25K into CRF per year: \$417K deficit in 2033

\$55K into CRF per year: \$177K deficit in 2033

She suggested a discussion at town meeting. The question is the size of a Bond that would be required in 2033. Tom asked for clarification of the grant, noting that we would have to pay the upfront cost and then be reimbursed by the grant. Tom noted the repair cost of new vehicles. Tom talked about Highway vehicles, Jo Beth said we're only discussing the Fire Rescue vehicles at this time. She noted Ron had said the Tanker has to be customized to fit into the building. Paul Deveno asked if there was a regulatory reason for replacement, Jo Beth's understanding is that it's the end of life for these vehicles; he asked if cost was this year's cost or the cost in the year of replacement; and he asked if there is any resale value -- Jo Beth noted that at the last meeting Ron said there wasn't any resale value or market for them. At the next meeting we need to decide what we want to propose for the warrant article. The town will have the opportunity to decide how we want to fund these vehicles. Eric noted that Ron's costs are conservative, given how much Littleton just paid for their new tanker. Jo Beth asked if it were cheaper to customize the vehicle or to expand the size of the building.

Jo Beth shared copies of the Revenue report Jeanette had shared with the Board, in which a column for 2026 Anticipated Revenue had been added. She noted that we need to review this column and decide what figures are appropriate for the budget when we meet next week.

The Board discussed the draft Annual Report and Jo Beth noted she had made some edits and corrections on the report and asked Tom and Eric if they had any changes or corrections. They had not reviewed it. Jo Beth asked that they review it carefully. For the dedication, Jo Beth read a general preamble, the Board approved it without edits. It was noted that pictures and information have been received from Pam for Don Mooney and Tom provided one for Rodney Rexford. Jo Beth noted that we'd need the electronic version. Jo Beth asked Eric if they had gotten the materials for Julia Simonds and his father. She reminded him that he needs to get the material to Jeanette by Thursday. Jo Beth noted we had received a request to dedicate the annual report to Joseph Orzech. However, there is no indication that he served on town boards, as did the others included in this year's dedication, so the Board declined to include him in the dedication.

Tom reported on the last Conservation Commission meeting, noting that a new Chair would be voted on at the next meeting. The spring road clean-up will be held April 18th, weather/snow permitting, and Casella will set up a can for no cost.

Planning Board meets this coming Wednesday, so there was no new update.

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The HCA committee met just prior to the Select Board meeting, and Paul Deveno provided a summary. Minutes of prior meetings were approved, as was a revised summary for the Annual Report. Draft minutes have been posted on the town website. There was discussion concerning the Extension of an Option to Purchase land by Casella, and around the Warrant Article creating the HCA Committee. As follow-up to a meeting discussion of the Warrant Article, Paul read the first line of the Warrant Article, which states: "It shall be the policy of the Town of Dalton that the Select Board may not enter into any agreement with Granite State Landfill, LLC, owned by Casella Waste Systems, Inc. or any subsidiaries or agents of Casella Waste Systems, Inc., unless..." and it goes on to specify the activity of the HCA committee and final approval to be by the Legislative Body. Jo Beth asked Paul to send the revised summary for the Annual Report to Jeanette.

Regarding truck replacement grant proposals, we're still waiting for estimates from Adam and Ron.

Public Comments:

Pam Kathan: She asked who had signed up for the elections. Jo Beth reported that the candidates as of Friday afternoon (prior to the close of the sign-up period) were: Select Board: Pam Kathan and Warren Green; Planning Board: Carl Lindquist; Supervisor of the Checklist: Cathy Fountain; Trustee of the Trust Fund: Christine Ordinetz. No one had signed up for the Library Trustee position.

Pam noted usually there's a list posted, and thought it should already be posted. Jo Beth replied that we're required to post it with the Warrants for the town meeting, and that it'll be posted earlier than that, but that the candidacy sign-up period just ended Friday afternoon. Kris Ennis: Kris commented about the HCA meeting and trying to take a vote when they're not in a Select Board meeting, which is illegal. The Select Board can't call for a vote or discuss calling for a vote without being in a public Select Board meeting. Nothing to be done about it, but she provided it for education.

She also noted that there had been no discussion in Select Board meetings (and she had attended/watched all of them) about the Select Board agreeing to talk with legal about the HCA committee. She was surprised to hear that one of the Select Board members had talked with Legal again without Select Board approval and vote. Jo Beth asked Tom if he had already contacted legal, or was he going to talk with them. He confirmed he had already called Legal. Jo Beth clarified that the Board should approve all expenditures of funds for legal and that Kris' point was well taken and she agreed with it. Tom said we need to look at the budget and that "you guys have been doing this for years." Jo Beth asked for clarification, and Tom said "There'll be more coming."

Kris noted that when she comes as a resident and speaks to the Board, and somebody acts like she disrespects him, but she's just asking questions, and he's talked about her harassing him and she hasn't. She just wants the Select Board members to be more serious about representing the people of this town and not thinking that we're against them.

Jo Beth asked for constructive comments/edits for the non-public meeting minutes they would not approve earlier. Tom said it had to be done in non-public.

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Tom motioned to go into Non-public session for Personnel. Eric seconded. The motion passed by Roll Call vote with Jo Beth voting "Nay" because she feels that the minutes are already complete. The Board went into non-public session at 8:10pm.

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:34pm.

Jo Beth made a motion to seal the minutes of Non-Public session #1, Eric seconded and the vote passed by roll call vote with Tom abstaining.

Jo Beth made a motion to seal the minutes of Non-Public session #2, Eric seconded and the vote passed by roll call vote with Tom abstaining.

Jo Beth motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Second provided by Eric and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jo Beth Dudley.

Minutes Approved On: 3/2/26 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore