**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL SESSION
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Monday, March 22nd, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

**Members present:** Robert W. Bishop Jr., Chair
 Joseph A. Diver, Vice Chair
 John F. Boyle
 Marc E. Strout

**Also present:** Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 Sandra Albano, Interim Town Manager
 Dalton Community Television
 Deanna Strout, Dalton Police Chief
 Rebecca Whitaker
 Brian Duval, Dalton Building Inspector
 Dawn
 Pat Pettit
 Richard Lacatell
 Joe Durwin, iBerkshires
 Daniel Filiault
 John Roughley, Dalton Highway Superintendent

**Absent/ excused members:** Daniel Esko

**Call to Order:** Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by J.Boyle

**Intro.**  “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20 and the Governor’s March 15th, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Select Board will be conducted via remote participation. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the open session portion of the meeting may do so by viewing on Dalton Community Television on one of the three channels: 1301, 1302 or 1303. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the open session portion of the proceedings in real-time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.”

**Minutes:**

* **1/21/2021** J.Diver motioned to accept the minutes as presented, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”

**Public Address to the Board:**

* None.

**Appointments:**

* Sealer of Weights & Measures-
J.Diver motioned to appoint Brian Duval to Sealer of Weights & Measures as recommended, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
R.Bishop and the Board thank Mr. Duval for taking this on.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.
* Police Sergeant**-**J.Diver motioned to ratify the appointment of Bustin Buzzella of Dalton from temporary to permanent Police Sergeant effective March 9th, 2021, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout abstains, R.Bishop “yes”.
* Permanent Full Time Officer**-**J.Diver motioned to ratify the appointment of Trae Balardini from temporary to permanent full time officer effective April 6th, 2021, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
Balardini has been serving as temporary full time officer since October 26th, 2020. Balardini is required to attend the next Full Time Academy.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout abstains, R.Bishop “yes”.
* Permanent Full Time Officer**-**J.Diver motioned to ratify the appointment of Tyler Miller to permanent full time officer effective April 5th, 2021, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout abstains, R.Bishop “yes”.
* Temporary Full Time Officer-
J.Diver motioned to ratify the appointment of Joshua T. Bradley to temporary full time officer effective March 29th, 2021, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
To fill Officer Balardini’s vacancy while he attends the Academy.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout abstains, R.Bishop “yes”.
* Education Enforcement Coordinator / Health Inspector & Waste Management Coordinator-
J.Diver motioned to appoint Mary Stucklen of Hinsdale, MA to Education Enforcement Coordinator effective March 29th, 2021, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
The EEC position is 8 hours funded by a DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant which terminates December 31st, 2022.
The Health Inspector/ Waste Management Coordination is 8 hours and requested via Jayne Smith (Health Agent) to assist her with housing complaints, etc.
Combined positions total 16 hours/ week for 2 years.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Early Voting:**

* Memorandum read from the Dalton Town Clerk, Deb Merry:
The House Senate voted yesterday to enact Provisions for Early Voting. Part of this change to State Election Laws, provides for early voting by mail and in-person held on or before June 30th, 2021.
It is requested to hold in-person early voting in the office of the Town Clerk, 462 Main St. beginning on Monday, April 26th, 2021 through April 29th, 2021 and on Monday, May 3rd, 2021 through Wednesday, May 5th, 2021. The hours of early voting in-person will be available from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
It is recommended that polling hours for the official Municipal Election Day at the CRA be altered so that voting hours will be 11:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. As early voting is expected to decrease the number of voters who appear on Election Day. Election Day hours are currently 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
J.Diver motioned to accept the Town Clerk’s recommendations, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
The time change is for *Municipal* Election only.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

 **FY22 Budgets:
 Report via Sandra Albano**

* Public Works: Salaries of $338,741. Expenses of $143,248. One increase of $5K was made for street sweeping/ catch basin cleaning in order to comply with the storm water permit. Not fully staffed, down 2 people: a mechanic and operator to be advertised in a week or so. John Roughley’s winter help is to be moved to Building and Grounds/ Transfer Station position next week. “T.A.”
* Snow & Ice- Level funded. Salaries of $27,812. Expenses of $131,610. Total: $159,422. This budget remains level funded since not going over on expenditures and not spending the budget means losing the ability to deficit spend. Otherwise you can go over without question.
The Board comments that the roads were kept well this winter, thanks to J.Roughley and his team.
The Board agrees to change the term “unclassified” to “miscellaneous” on budgets with minor, catch-all expenses. “T.A.”
* Sewer- Salaries: $99,759. Level funded expenditures: $23,050. Total: $122,809. “T.A.”
* Cemetery Department- Salaries: $68,678. Level funded expenditures: $22,004. Total: $90,682. “T.A.”
* Parks- Salaries: $34,562. Level funded expenditures: $16,914. Total: $51,476. “T.A.”
* Police Department- Increase in salaries of $118,447 due to the addition of two full time officers due to the Police Reform Act. Expenses: $133,050. Total: $1,174,822.
D.Strout- the Police Reform Act stunted our hiring of reserve (part time) officers. This addition ought to lower our cost for 2023 and level out our staffing. We have 2 *permanent* reserve officers currently who will be attending Bridge Academy (200 hours of additional training) to then meet the new full time certification requirement by law; as they had opted out of working full time hours; this option lets us keep them. Bridge Academy is paid for via the Department. It is expected that people attending full time academy won’t want to work part time when they come back, they’ll take a better job.
“T.A.”
* Animal Inspector- Stipend budget. Salary: $1,660. “T.A.”
* Animal Control- Salaries: $22,706. Level funded expenses: $4,400. Total: $27,106. “T.A.”
* Landfill Closure Monitoring- Level funded. Salaries: $2,186. For the first time in approximately 8 years, this budget has not been supplemented by leftover funds from the landfill closure that the Town had. $5K of it was funded with the tax rate this past year, making it fully funded this year through the tax rate. Total: $16,136. “T.A.”
* Board of Health- Newly appointed Health Inspector & Waste Management Coordinator. Salaries: $52,734. Expenses: $6,575. Total: $59,309. Just under level funded. “T.A.”
* Public Health Nurse- Slight increase of contracted nursing expenses. Total: $6,599. “T.A.”
* Council on Aging- Salaries increased $117,141. Decrease in expenditures $39,870 of electricity and building repair/ maintenance. Increase in equipment repair. Total: $157,011. “T.A.”
* Maturing Debt & Interest- Funded by capital stabilization or tax levy. Budget reduced by $8,116. A dump truck was added, borrowed in June and the first principal payment will be in FY22. Pedestrian flasher engineering was included as well. Construction to soon follow. Total: $229,990. “T.A.”
* Maturing Debt & Interest Debt Excluded- One project is debt excluded, now on our last payment. We took out a 2 year bond knowing we were going to get major debt from the new high school build. This budget will paid off in FY22. The $410K from this will be helpful towards the new high school build. “T.A.”
* Sewers & Drains- This budget is in relation to the sewer rate. Total: $97,055 principal and interest. Down 13% due to sewer engineering study. “T.A.”
* Group Health Insurance- Down 2.86%. Eight new subscribers were added. The Town still gets a share from retirees. Total: $743,824. “T.A.”

**Board of Health Update:
Report via Jayne Smith**

* Solid Waste & Recycling- We are still waiting for Pittsfield, our newest employee Ms. Stucklen has a connection with them that should get things moving along.
* Household Hazardous Waste Day **-** Saturday, May 15th, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Lee Waste Water Treatment Plant, 379 Pleasant St. Lee, MA.
Dalton is working with the Tri Town Health Department to provide our residents a place to bring their hazardous waste for now until the fall. Pre-registration is required, call 413-243-5540.
*Do* bring: Pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, insect sprays, rodent killers, muriatic acid, flea powder, no-pest strips, chemical fertilizers, lighter fluid, moth balls, rust proofers, wood preservers, wood strippers and stains, paint thinners, lead and oil based paint, varnish, aerosol cans, sealants, adhesives, solvents, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, floor cleaner, metal polish, arts and crafts supplies, photo chemicals, chemistry kits, rechargeable batteries, fuel/ gasoline/ kerosene, brake and transmission fluid, car wax/ polish, engine degreaser, motor oil, swimming pool chemicals, driveway sealer, antifreeze, car-lead acid batteries, thermometers, thermostats, mercury, button batteries.
Do *not* bring: latex paint, medical waste, asbestos, fireworks and explosives, ammunition, construction debris, gas or propane, smoke detectors, radioactive material, fire extinguishers, fluorescent lamps, electronics, PCB’s, medications, or medical sharps.
* COVID- Numbers are going up county wide as people get more comfortable gathering prematurely. This is a temporary blip as most of the population has some immunity or has been vaccinated. The impact came from mostly older travelers and a birthday party in another town. It is important to be mindful and not go anywhere if you feel sick.

Vaccinations- Improvements are being made to online registration as the State gets a new vendor.

Schools- Schools implemented BinaxNOW which provides results in 15 minutes at the nurse’s office and it’s been great. Only the BinaxNOW testing is accepted in shortening of quarantine.

**Town Manger Updates:**
Report via Sandra Albano

* DESI has not signed off yet on a $41K grant via CBRSD efforts. It won’t be included in the budget at this time.

**Items for Future Agendas:**

* Stop sign at Central Ave.
* J.Boyle- East Housatonic St./ Carson Ave. bridge
* J.Diver- Citizen’s Energy Solar

 **Remarks of the Select Board:**

* J.Diver- Old Dalton High land?
S.Albano- Request from Dennis Adler. We have an outstanding purchase order if we’re going to split it into lots.
It is in limbo as a park due to flooding. Housing lots were put on hold due to this and working towards the Walker Brook grant, we need to explore “day lighting”/ open air study.
* Skateboarding equipment was accidently removed.
The Board offers personal lumber to replace it for the kids and to work out a better area.
* Our new Town Manager, Tom Hutcheson is coming for a tour on Friday.
* Our Town Planner, Rebecca Slick has resigned her position. The Town will feel this loss and the Board wishes her well in her new endeavor.

**Announcements:**

* **The Town Hall is now open** to the public effective Monday, 4/5/2021. Please see the Town of Dalton website for departmental information.
* **The Senior Center will remain closed.**
* **The Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled**, but the Dalton American Legion may do something in place of it in their parking lot.
* **Open Meeting Law Ruling**The Division of Open Government (DOG) recently issued a determination that it is a violation of the Open Meeting Law (OML) for the Chair of a public body to fail at the start of a meeting to identify by name the members of a board who are attending remotely (see the decision at OML 2020-138.) The OML regulations state “at the start of the meeting, the Chair shall announce the name of any member who will be participating remotely. This information shall also be recorded in the meeting minutes.” 940 CMR 29.10(7) (b). Failure to announce the name of any member participating remotely is a violation of the law.
* **The Transfer Station New FY21 Prices:**sticker price 1st vehicle $115.00
2nd vehicle $40.00
Bags price 30 gal. bag (large) $4.00 – package of 10 $40.00
15 gal. bag (small) $3.30 – package of 10 $33.00
For a complete price list go to Dalton-ma.gov and click on the Transfer Station button.
**New hours for** **compost and brush area:**
Tuesday/ Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday/ Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
The brush area will close until April 2021 or until further notice.
* **The Dalton Police Department is now open to the public.**
The Dalton Police Department lobby is now open to the public. Please feel free to stop in and see an officer. Social distancing and masks are required and only two (2) people area allowed in the lobby at a time.
**Processing of Firearm Permit:**
Firearm permits are processed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. by appointment only, please call 1-413-684-0300 to schedule your appointment. No walk-ins are being accepted at this time. A check or money order for $100 made payable to the Town of Dalton. Renewals over the age of 70 are free.
* **2020-2021 Winter Parking Ban**The Dalton Police Department is reminding the citizens of Dalton of the Winter Parking Ban which goes into effect on November 15th, 2020, and will be in effect until April 15th, 2021. There is no on street parking allowed between the hours of 1:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. during this time period.
* **The Dalton Library** is now open 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Thursday & Friday; 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday; and 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Anyone in a high risk population may schedule a time in the AM to come in by themselves with no questions asked. Lobby pickup continues for anyone who would rather not enter the building. Call 413-684-6112 for more information.
* Please note that **Dalton’s Official Meeting Postings, Agendas and Minutes** can be viewed at *mytowngovernment.org/01226*.

**Adjourn:** J.Diver motioned to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary

*The next (specially) scheduled meeting will be held on March 29th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.*