**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL SESSION
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Wednesday, January 6th, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

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

**Also present:** Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 John Ostresh, Dalton Cable Television Cameraman
 Sandra Albano, Interim Town Manager
 Jayne Smith, Dalton Health Agent
 Douglas Boyle
 Richard Lacatell
 David Flaherty
 Brittany Polito, iBerkshires
 Larry Parnass, The Berkshire Eagle

**Absent/ excused members:**

**Call to Order:** Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:08 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.”

**Public Address to the Board:**

* None.

**Board of Health Updates:
Reported by Jayne Smith**

* **COVID-19**-The Governor’s latest order is offices are to be filled only 25%. This is until 1/10/21 to see what the numbers are like after the holiday gatherings end.
-Vaccines will become available next week for first responders. Half will get them one day, half on another day. Those aged 75+ are bumped up on the list.
-Meetings have been weekly regarding school health and wellness; simply keeping an eye on numbers around us. School turns hybrid on January 19th.
* **Solid Waste**-The Education Enforcement Coordinator grant of $25K was given and in the works ($5K of it is matched by us). We will have a candidate for the position chosen in February.

 **Town Manager Recommendation:**

* 4 candidates have been recommended to the Select Board from the Town Manager’s Search Committee. The Board agrees to keep identities confidential until their public interview to protect their current employment status and not compromise it.
Letters from the Select Board will be sent out stating they are ready to interview. These will include the residency requirement of which some may change their minds about the position. For a Town Manager will reside within one year according to Mass Law and the Town Manager’s Act, not just our bylaw.
Interviews will take place on January 21st and 27th at 6:00 p.m.; two interviews per night.
D.Esko inquires if those interviewed first would have advantage. It is agreed to give the candidates questions in advance to combat that. D.Esko requests the Town Manager Search Committee’s 10 questions that have been asked and answered already so we do not duplicate.
S.Albano inquires about starting an advisory board to brief the Town Manager on information about the Master Plan, etc.
J.Boyle states that an ad hawk committee is all they will need.
J.Diver agrees that no formal, new structure is necessary; the new Town Manager can just meet with department heads as needed.

**Items for Future Agendas:**

* Education Enforcement Coordinator candidate chosen for February.
* J.Diver- Discussion for community advisory interview panels for the Police Chief.

**Remarks of the Select Board & Chair:**

* J.Boyle- Notarize/ sign Habitat for Humanity documents.
S.Albano- ^ closing goal for April.
* R.Bishop asks the Board to respond to his email.
* S.Albano- Dalton Community Television is willing to hold off on posting the Town Manager interviews onto YouTube.

**Announcements:**

* **The Town Hall, Senior Center and Highway/ Cemetery Offices** are now closed to the public effective Monday, 11/16/2020. All offices will remain staffed and will be available by phone or email during their normal business hours. Please see the Town of Dalton website for departmental information.
* **CRA Winter Wonderland** will take place on December 19th through January 31st. This event is a fun, safe, outdoor walk allowing families to celebrate the beauty of the holidays. Opening night will be a socially distanced event requiring pre-registration and masks. Visitors will pick up a CRA property map listing location of trees sponsored and decorated by local businesses. Mixed throughout the trees will be sponsored stations for kids to pick up goodies and crafts to go. You can call the CRA for details at 1-413-684-0260.
* **Significant drought** for Massachusetts regions in level 2remains unchanged from the previous month’s declaration.
* **Town of Dalton’s Community Choice Power Supply Program Consumer Notification**Dynegy Energy Services is the Town’s new supplier for its Community Choice Power Supply Program. The Town’s new aggregation rate is fixed at $0.09603 per kWh for all rate classes for 36 months (January 2021 to January 2024). You will see Dynegy Energy Service named as the supplier of electricity on your Eversource bill, unless you use another supplier. All accounts currently enrolled in the program will be switched to Dynegy Energy Services as of the January 2021 meter reads and will be seen on the February 2021 bills. To opt-in or opt-out if the program or for more information about the program go online to: <https://colonialpowergroup.com/dalton/>. Or call Dynegy at (866) 220-5696.
* **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.
Brush hours will remain open until January 2nd, 2021 for Christmas tree disposal after that time, 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 will be no parking allowed on the streets between these dates.
* **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 7:54 p.m., J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary

*The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 11th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.*