**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL SESSION
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Thursday, June 11th, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

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

**Also present:** Kenneth Walto, Dalton Town Manager
 Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 John Ostresh, Dalton Cable Television Cameraman

**Absent/ excused members:**

**Call to Order:** Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Intro.**  R.Bishop reads: “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

 **Appointments:**

* **Council on Aging** **Board and Senior Center Building & Maintenance Committee**
K.Walto recommends the appointment of David DiNicola. He would fill the unexpired term of Marcia Brophy. Mr. DiNicola has formerly served successfully on these committees.
J.D. made a motion to appoint David DiNicola of 54 Skyline Trail, Hinsdale to the Council on Aging Board and Senior Center Building & MaintenanceCommittee, for a term expiring on June 30th, 2022. E.H. seconded. Discussion:
R.B.- “Great person to have down there.”
Roll call vote: E.Holub “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

 **Resolution – Brownfields Grant Acceptance:**

* The Town of Dalton has been awarded a grant of $24,100 by the Berkshire Brownfields Committee of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for cleanup of Petroleum contamination at the former Dalton Hardwoods. K.Walto states half will be for processing/ engineering administrative costs and the other half used to clean up the actual site. Things are ready to go; we have a contractor lined up.
J.D. motioned to gratefully accept a grant from the Berkshire Brownfields Committee in the amount of $24,100, E.H. seconded. Roll call vote: E.Holub “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

 **Posting of Annual Town Meeting Warrant:**

* + Town Manager Walto refers the Board to chapter 309 of the Town code, which deals with posting of Town warrants following Town bylaws. The custom is to post 7 days prior to Town meeting and for a special town meeting it is 14 days; then we distribute motions and articles.
	J.Diver thinks it is important to have detailed explanations on the postings so residents can better understand, thus will want to participate.
	E.Holub comments, “Often times you are given the information right before the meeting begins, and it is a lot to absorb. It would be a real advantage if this were out and available to the public prior to the meeting.”
	K.Walto- “In the past it’s been extraordinarily difficult as we’ve put them on the website and the motions are there but I’m still writing explanations the day of Town meeting. Coincidentally this year, it is do-able; it is just a draft for now because Town Council needs to look at the motions and the Finance Committee has yet to weigh in.”
	J.Diver replied that we should provide as much information as we can going forward.
	J.Boyle- Agrees with our Town Manager.
	J.Boyle- Article 1 is by *petition*, and we should clarify our position on this article.
	R.Bishop believes we already stated we were for it but welcomes a vote.
	J.Boyle motioned that the Select Board be in position to oppose Article 1. M.Strout seconded. Discussion:
	J.Diver- “We should not; as this was by petition, we should hear from the residents first.”
	J.Boyle takes into consideration that residents look to this Board for leadership.
	M.Strout- “To John’s point, nothing precludes us being for or against this. To Joe’s point, if we had social media, besides the website, to push all of the information to everyone…”
	R.Bishop- “That’d be huge.”
	Roll call vote: E.Holub “no”, J.Diver “no”, M.Strout “no”, J.Boyle “yes”, R.Bishop “no”.
	R.Bishop- “Ultimately this comes down to the Select Board; I do agree we should weigh heavily on what the public wants.”
	K.Walto- The warrant notices can be posted tomorrow and draft explanations included separately.
	J.Diver motioned to update warrants *with* explanations
	K.Walto- “I would have to speak to Council to see if we can legally do that, it wouldn’t be available by tomorrow. Currently it’s already on the permanent paper that goes into Town record.”
	M.Strout agreed with Diver but doesn’t believe we have the time.
	E.Holub adds “I don’t want to jeopardize date of the meeting.”
	K.Walto- “It needs to be posted 7 days in advance, not including the day of posting and the day of the meeting. You can make warrant articles very specific, but it’s advised not to since things can change.”
	Upon misunderstanding, J.Diver agrees that posting warrants and draft explanations separately would be sufficient.
	E.Holub requests electronic copies of the warrant and the explanations.
	Motion defeated.

 **Announcements**:

* **The Town Hall** is now open during usual hours from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday–Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed.
* **The Dalton Library** is now available for pickup 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M/T/Th, 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. W, 8:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. F. Library users may begin placing requests immediately by emailing [dalton@cwmars.org](http://www.mytowngovernment.org/dalton%40cwmars.org). Telephone requests will also be accepted; call 413-684-6112.
* Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the new law signed by Governor Baker, Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, the Town of Dalton Select Board voted to postpone the **Annual Town Meeting** from May 4th, 2020 to June 22nd, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Nessacus Regional Middle School in the gymnasium and the **Annual Town Election** from May 11th, 2020 to June 29th, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Dalton Community House.
* The last day to **Register to Vote** for the Annual Town Meeting and Election is June 12th, 2020 between 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the office of the Town Clerk, 462 Main Street, Dalton. If you have any questions please call the Town Clerk’s Office at 413-684-6111 ext. 14 or 15.

We are urging voters, in the interest of “social distancing”, to request an application for an **Early Voting** Ballot by mail or Absentee Voting Ballot by mail, so that these ballots can be mailed to the registered voter. If you would like an application for an Early Voting Ballot or an Absentee Ballot application mailed to you, or have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 413-684-6111 Extension 14 or 15.

* Please note that **Dalton’s Official Meeting Postings, Agendas and Minutes** can be viewed at *mytowngovernment.org/01226*.

**Executive Session**:

R.Bishop declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. J.Diver motioned to move to Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to conduct strategy with respect of collective bargaining with the Dalton Police Department’s union and not return to open session. E.Holub seconded. Roll call vote: E.Holub “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Adjourn**: Open Session adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary