**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Thursday, February 25th, 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
 Jayne Smith, Dalton Health Agent

**Absent/ excused members:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by D.Esko

**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.”

**COVID-19 Update:**

* J.Smith reports on scheduling of vaccine appointments. Previously, people were experiencing a waiting list with everyone else in the State to select their clinic site, then fill in the entire form just to scroll to the bottom and find there were no appointments available, as they are available only once or twice per week. Now there is a direct link instead: “getvaccinated.org” which will show when more appointments will be posted and you can choose your time right away. There will be exact instructions posted on the Town website tomorrow.
The State has taken away vaccines from most municipalities and given to Mass. vaccination sites like The Berkshire Vaccine Collaborative. Some requirements include: must be open to all Town residents/ all Mass. eligible people, have the capacity to administer at least 750 vaccines per day (in Berkshire County it would be between 3 sites). So if we limited this to only Berkshire County we would lose eligibility to get vaccine from the State. The good news is Berkshire County has some of the highest rates, and Mass. the highest in the nation. 1,550 shots were given at our vaccination clinic most recently.

**Executive Session:**

R.Bishop declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating of the public body. J.Diver motioned to move to Executive Session to discuss the Town Manager and Police Chief’s contracts; and return to open session. J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

Open session adjourned at7:10 p.m.
Open session returned at 7:45 p.m.

**New Town Manager & Police Chief:**

R.Bishop announces that contracts were finalized for our new Town Manager, Thomas Hutcheson and Police Chief, Deanna Strout.
J.Boyle moved to accept the Town Manager contract as presented, M.Strout seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.
J.Boyle moved to accept the Police Chief contract as presented, D.Esko seconded, M.Strout recuses himself. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Adjourn:** J.Diver moved to adjourn at 7:48 p.m., J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary

*The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 8th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.*