**MINUTES  
SELECT BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
CALLAHAN ROOM, DALTON TOWN HALL  
Monday, March 16th, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

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

**Also present:** Kenneth Walto, Dalton Town Manager  
 Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary  
 John Ostretch, Dalton Cable Television Cameraman  
 Rebecca Slick, Town Planner  
 Richard Hall, 164 Greenridge, Green Dalton Committee  
 Joseph Fish, 80 Daly Ave., Dalton  
 John Roughley, Highway Superintendent  
 Christopher Furlong, Dalton Police Sergeant, cfurlong@dalton-  
 ma.gov  
 Daniel Doyle, MD, Board of Health, ddoyle@nycap.rr.com  
 Daniel Filiault, Emergency Management, em@dalton-ma.gov  
 Pat Pettit, Building & Grounds Superintendent  
 Jake Weinrich, Tighe & Bond, [jjweinrich@tighbond.com](mailto:jjweinrich@tighbond.com)  
 Peter Valinski, Tighe & Bond, [pmvalinski@tighbond.com](mailto:pmvalinski@tighbond.com)

**Absent/ excused members:** Marc E. Strout

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Minutes**

* **3/2/20 & 3/9/20** Deferred to next meeting.

**Public Address to the Board:**

* Richard Hall- #6, public announcement; tell people who is running the Police Dept.

**COVID-19 Discussion with Dr. Daniel Doyle:**

* Dr. Doyle, longtime member of the Board of Health whom is currently the Chair, (as well as a doctor of 30 years in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Berkshire Medical Center- serving as Chief of Staff/ Medical Officer) began the conversation with stating, “You’re always behind where you think you are in terms of the spread of the disease. COVID-19 is similar, but more serious than the flu as it is silent and some people are a-symptomatic. The mortality rate is 1% whereas influenza is a tenth of a percent. Older citizens are the most affected, i.e. 65+ years and for them, it can be around 10% mortality rate. In the Berkshires, we have become infected via community based contact. It is unknown how the original carrier in our area caught the Coronavirus, but our first case started in Clarksburg. The Berkshires has about 125,000 people, the challenge lies within our senior citizens- as they make up 23% of the population, or 29K people. The entire state of Massachusetts is only 16.5% who are 65+ years of age or older. To give an example of the impact should this get as widespread as it has been in Europe and China: if 30% of older citizens catch the virus in the Berkshires, this means 10K people, and with a 10% mortality rate, you’ll have over a $1,000 deaths over the course of the disease- that is 160 people dying every month for 6 months, 5 people per day. There is no capacity for this number at Berkshire Medical Center; there are just 20 ICU beds and 20 ventilators, though about 4 people need them already for respiratory failure. So this is a very serious public health problem.”   
  R.Bishop inquires whether three weeks of quarantine is long enough.  
  D.Doyle replies, “We’ll see but the best thing to do is shut down the county and start testing to determine where to go from there.”  
  J.Diver adds that he works at Baystate and hears the same things.   
  Upon J.Boyle asking what we can do, D.Doyle responds with, “Limit social gatherings to 10 people, and keep a 6 ft. distance apart, close all non-essential establishments such as the gyms to prevent and limit the spread of the disease, and of course clean frequently.   
  While not many new cases have emerged, there are 16 cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Dalton (they are feeling well). Today, we trialed some testing in a tent by having people drive in and leave without ever having to step foot in the building- this will be expanded on tomorrow. We cannot currently test everyone who has symptoms but in the next week we should be able to expand on that. The test is an uncomfortable nasal swab that fishes for a deep specimen.   
  Those who were exposed to the virus were reported to the DPH and are on the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiology Network website (MAVEN).  
  It is important to know the difference between quarantine and isolation, quarantine is someone who was exposed and needs to stay home- outside in their yard and for a walk is okay; isolation is someone who has been documented to have the infection and within their home restrictions are stricter in terms of infecting who they live with.   
  R.Bishop inquires what the Police can do as they are out in the elements giving tickets, etc. “There’s less of a risk when you’re outside vs. indoors as far as infectious air particles go, still: a 6 ft. distance and cleanliness is the answer.”  
  K.Walto- “Since the Senior Center shall be closed at this time, and while some seniors rely on meals there, deliveries will be arranged.   
  The Library will be closed to patrons but ordering books can be conducted via telephone and exchanging done in the Library’s lobby, they have a delivery service as well.   
  The Town Hall will be closed to the public, but employees will remain in office. It was discussed that things like marriage intentions might be brought to a table outside that stays sanitized.”  
  J.Diver- “We should take every precaution we can take.”  
  D.Doyle- “You’ll only know you did the right thing if nothing happens.”   
  K.Walto- “KP Law drafted a joint Declaration of Emergency for the Select Board and Board of Health.”  
  D.Filiault- “The Declaration of Emergency would also give you opportunities under MEMA to help with small businesses for short term loans or other ways of funding, this information can be found on the Dalton Emergency Management’s site.”   
  J.Diver- “People can still support local restaurants with takeout/ curbside pickup.”   
  R.B. - “Grocery stores can deliver as well.”   
  R.Hall inquired, “What should someone who feels ill do?   
  It’s important to mention that we should be checking on our neighbors, too.”  
  D.Doyle- “Contact your primary care physician, stay home, practice social distancing and hygiene.”   
  R.Bishop reads the Town of Dalton Massachusetts Declaration of Emergency:   
  ‘Whereas, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and  
  Whereas, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and  
  Whereas, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and  
  Whereas, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a National Declaration of Emergency; and   
  Whereas, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and  
  Whereas, the Select Board of the Town of Dalton and its Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Dalton; and  
  Whereas, the Select Board of the Town of Dalton and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Dalton; and  
  Whereas, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of the Town of Dalton; and   
  Whereas, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and  
  Whereas, the Select Board of the Town of Dalton and the Dalton Board of Health recommend that a state of emergency be declared in the Town of Dalton.   
  Now therefore, we, the Select Board of the Town of Dalton, Massachusetts and Board of Health of the Town of Dalton, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of March 16, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Dalton. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.’   
  J.Boyle motioned to accept the letter of emergency as dictated to the Town of Dalton, E.H. seconded. All in favor.   
  K.Walto- “As for our Town meetings, the Governor waived some of the Open Meeting Law requirements, so they may be conducted virtually.   
  While we are without our longtime Health Agent, a recent and very competent new hire will be with us interim for 3 months as a contracted employee this week.”  
  J.Boyle motioned that gatherings of over 10 people are prohibited throughout the Commonwealth. Gatherings subject to this order include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together 10 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theatre, gymnasium, fitness center, private club, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. E.H. seconded. J.Diver commented that this is an adoption of the national standard of 10 seen via the CDC and federal level of public health. All in favor.

**Tighe & Bond Proposal for Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES):**

* Peter Valinski and Jake Weinrich (Project Engineer) present to the Board. J.Weinrich explains this SSES is needed due to MASS DEP requirements- they will be recommending any repairs.  
  ‘Dalton has 36 miles of buried sewer pipe of which some portions are 90 yrs. old. This was divided into 9 drainage areas. 67 man holes were inspected. Flow and rain water was monitored for 16 weeks. The existing flow meter that goes into Pittsfield (where our water is treated) was used to save the Town money.  
  Overall, Dalton’s sewer system is in relatively good condition- there are some structural deficiencies observed; pipes are in decent shape. The average infiltration, or ground water that got into our buried pipes, was 450,000 gallons/ day, or 40% of the total waste water flow. Flows can double during larger rain events. Just one drainage area was considered excessive: area 2, which is the Greenridge Park area. Drainage areas 7 & 5 were close but ruled out for further study. Further studying is recommended for areas generally near streams, on the map it is labeled: 3, 6, 9 & 4, that is Old Windsor Rd., E. Main St., Apple Tree Park Ave., South St., Anthony Rd, etc.’   
  Per R.Bishop’s inquiry, there *are* cameras in the pipes.  
  This would be a 13 week study split up into two phases. Infiltration investigation would measure flow at night. The defects found will determine cost. Smoke testing is done as well, to which residents would be notified so no panic occurs. It is easy to determine which roofs contribute to run off based on square footage.   
  Per E.Holub’s inquiry, building inspecting can happen.  
  J.Roughley- ‘The Highway team has/ can address findings from the study as they’ve worked closely with contractors from Tighe & Bond before.’   
  K.Walto- “It was authorized last Town meeting to go forward with $150K budget.”   
  J.Diver- “To appropriate one critical issue will cost $100K.”  
  J.Boyle- “We can’t quit this project in the middle of it. Phase one is done. Not sure what’s more critical than this, it’s costing us $900,000 to one million/ year in sewage fees and we can cut that back by 40%.”  
  J.Diver- “There’s an Executive Session topic that needs consideration.”  
  J.Boyle motioned to sign a contract with Tighe & Bond, E.H. seconded; J.Diver is not in favor until other capital projects are seen. All else in favor.

**Planning Budget Update:**

* K.Walto presents the final School District Budget that was passed last Thursday. Total Town spending is $8.2 million. Town spending decreased from last year due to Old Dalton High demo. This includes all state revenues which decreased, 2.2% vs. 2.4%. Tax rate translation= 10% increase, or $430/year to the average homeowner, or $36/month.

**Final Draft ATM Warrant:**

* Previously reviewed. There are no ballot questions.   
  J.Boyle motioned to approve the Annual Town Meeting warrant subject to review by Town Council, E.H. seconded. All in favor.   
  K.Walto raises the question of postponing the Annual Town Meeting. The Governor is proposing an amendment to the statute that will allow us to go into the next fiscal year.   
  It is possible to hold the meeting at the beginning of June; and if we have to we could roll the Town election and warrant into one meeting.  
  Due to the new Wahconah High School’s construction, it is considered to move the Annual Town Meeting to Nessacus Middle School’s auditorium.

**Mass Department of Agricultural Resources Nomination of Inspector of Animals:**

* J.Boyle motioned to appoint Gregory Elser (Animal Control Officer) as Inspector of Animals, E.H. seconded. All in favor.

**Town Manager Updates:**

* Electrical Supply- Final pricing is lower than last week. We are sticking with the plan Richard Hall brought forth. Dinergy was our low bidder; a 36 month contract. Greenest product available priced less than what we are paying right now at 9.4 cents. We *were* paying 10.7 cents. Secondary project = 10.1 cents. People with solar can opt in and out at their leisure. This was submitted at 3:00p.m. today.
* Foresight Engineers- Black topping 13-14 streets. Bid in April, opened in May, summer construction, completed by August.

**Remarks of the Select Board:**

* R.Bishop- Appreciation to the Board of Health for participating in COVID-19.

D.Filiault suggests electronic literature to put on the Emergency Management website.

**Items for Future Agendas:**

* J.Diver- The Transfer Station pricing/ competitive bid process/ negotiation status.  
   - Future capital projects/ Master Plan expenditures for two agendas from now.

**Announcements:**

* **The Town Clerk** would like to remind Dalton residents that **Dog Licenses** are due on January 1st, 2020. Information offering the option of licensing by mail was included on the Annual Census Form. Send the proper fees, proof of spaying or neutering and rabies documentation. These documents and feeds can also be placed in the drop box on South Carson Avenue.   
  A $10 late fee is being charged as of February 1st, 2020, so owners of unlicensed dogs after that date, must remember to add an additional $10 to the licensing check.   
  A $50 failure to license fine will also be imposed as of April 1st, 2020 to those owners whose dogs remain unlicensed.   
  For any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 413-684-6111 ext. 14 or 15.
* **The Dalton Police Department** is reminding the citizens of Dalton of the **Winter Parking Ban** which went into effect on November 15th, 2019 and will be in effect until April 15th, 2020.
* **State Representative Paul Mark** holds office hours at the Dalton Town Hall, 462 Main St. in The Callahan roomon Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with the exception of the third Tuesday of each month. On the third Tuesday, office hours are 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Dalton Senior Center. You can reach his office at his direct number: 413-464-5635.
* **Select Board Chair Bob Bishop** holdsoffice hours by appointment in the Town Hall and at the Senior Center. For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call 413-684-6111 ext. 11.
* Please note that **Dalton’s Official Meeting Postings, Agendas and Minutes** can be viewed at *mytowngovernment.org/01226*.
* **The Dalton Community Recreation Association** will be closing from 3/17/20 through 4/15/20 due to the Government’s recent announcement on businesses closures and recommendations from medical professionals to stop the spread of the virus. Updates can be viewed on DaltonCRA.org, Facebook and Twitter.

J.B. made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m., E.H. seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittany Miller  
Recording Secretary