Town of Dalton

462 Main Street

Dalton, MA 01226

**Select Board, Regular Session**

**August 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Bishop convened the Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Dalton Senior Center.

**1. Call to Order:**

**Members Present:** John Boyle, Chairman Robert Bishop, Edward Holub, Mark Strout (Joe Diver excused).

**Also Present:** Nancy Ostresh, 38 Burr Drive; Dom Sondrini, 261 East Housatonic Street; Richard Hall, 164 Greenridge Drive; Vinod Bahl, 88 Elaine Avenue; Bill Walker, 29 Meadow Drive; Al Nadeau, 24 Elaine Avenue; Gail Yates, 79 Norwich Drive; Doug Yates, 79 Norwich Drive; John Ostresh, Dalton Community Cable Association President; Kenneth Walto, Town Manager; Nancy Rosenbaum, Recording Secretary.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Holub led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call:**

**4. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the Regular Session on July 8, 2019, were presented for confirmation of the change of spelling to Mr. Betit’s name. Minutes from the Regular Session of July 29, 2019, were presented. The Recording Secretary requested the last name of one person mentioned in the minutes. Motion by Mr. Boyle to approve the minutes of July 29, 2019, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Holub. No further comments. Vote: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0.

**5. Public Address to the Board:** Chair Bishop invited members of the public to ask to speak to the Board. Mr. Sondrini asked why the train horn has begun sounding so frequently and loudly at night. Mr. Boyle echoed Mr. Sondrini’s concerns. Mr. Strout said he was aware the Dalton Police Department had received numerous calls about the matter. Mr. Strout asked for Mr. Sondrini’s contact information and said he would follow up to find the contact information for the railroad so that Mr. Sondrini could contact them directly. Ms. Yates presented approximately 30 photos and a petition signed by more than 40 residents of her neighborhood regarding the condition of roads and sidewalks in her neighborhood and asked for the streets and sidewalks in her neighborhood to be repaved/repaired; only patches have been made in recent years. Mr. Nadeau seconded Ms. Yates’s concerns. Mr. Bahl echoed Ms. Yates’s and Mr. Nadeau’s comments and said he had removed three wheelbarrows full of rubble from the cul de sac near Elaine Avenue and Meadow Drive after not receiving a callback from anyone at the Highway Department. Chair Bishop asked Mr. Walto to follow up with the Highway Department to investigate and address the matter. Mr. Walto said the Highway Department was short three people, which is a problem. Mr. Hall expressed concern about the faded stripes in the roadways, especially at major intersections, and asked whether the Town had plans to re-stripe the roads.

**6. Consideration of Letter to EOEA, Re: SMART Program:** Mr. Walto presented the draft of a letter he was proposing to sending to the EOEA. He explained that Eversource had proposed a 6MW solar array behind the bridle path years ago, but the project did not move forward at that time. Eversource sold the project to another company that is now interested in advancing the project. There have been changes proposed to the SMART Program that limit eligibility to greenfields. The location is zoned as R1—residential and agricultural. The old Warren landfill and old Dalton landfill (brownfields areas) are not part of the site. Mr. Walto expressed a preference for siting this project on brownfields rather than greenfields. Members of the Select Board—Chair Bishop and Mr. Boyle—concurred. Mr. Walto proposed modifications to the letter. Motion by Mr. Boyle for Mr. Walto to modify the letter to express a preference for siting the project on a brownfields setting rather than a greenfields setting, unless no brownfields setting is available. Seconded by Mr. Holub. No further discussion. Vote called: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed.

**7. Set Sewer Rates FY20:** Mr. Walto reported there woud be no increase to sewer rates for FY20, so the annual flat rate would be $374. Whether the Town runs a deficit or must increase rates to Town residents depends on the rates charged by the City of Pittsfield. Motion by Mr. Boyle to accept the rates at $374 per year. Seconded by Mr. Holub. No further discussion. Vote called: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed.

**8. Proposed Chapter 90 Street Resurfacing Projects:** (Discussed out of sequence—after the Grant Acceptances). Mr. Walto said he had not received the list of proposed streets from Mr. Roughley, the Highway Department Superintendent, as expected, and Mr. Roughley was not present. Mr. Walto said he hoped to have the list for the next Regular Session. Mr. Walto said he was prepared to address the matter of paving Johnson Road, but has no figures for any other roads. The Town has access to approximately $500,000 for street resurfacing and striping typically done in the fall. Chair Bishop asked Mr. Walto to investigate the costs for resurfacing and repaving and painting the entire South Street portion of Dalton, including the area of Elaine Avenue, and provide a list of those streets for discussion at an upcoming Select Board session. Mr. Walto said the Town paints the cross-street lines (including crosswalks) and the Commonwealth hires a company to paint the center lines and side lines; this work is scheduled for the fall. Chair Bishop and Mr. Strout urged Mr. Walto to obtain the estimates from Mr. Roughley so the Board could share the information with the Town and put together a 5-year plan so that residents could know when to expect improvements to their streets. Mr. Walto said such a list had been maintained in the past, but the only street on the list right now is Johnson Road. Given that Johnson Road is an unpaved dirt road and the estimate last year for paving that road was close to $500,000, the decision was made to defer the work. Mr. Boyle asked whether that estimate was for Johnson Road or Old Windsor Road; Mr. Walto affirmed that estimate--$500,000—was for Johnson Road. A few years ago, Mr. Walto explained, the Town had repaved Old Windsor Road and a number of other streets in the center of Town. Chair Bishop asked whether grants were available. Mr. Walto said there was one grant available, but Chapter 90 is the main grant program. Otherwise, the Town must borrow. The Board expressed interest in prioritizing the Greenridge area over Johnson Road. Chair Bishop asked Mr. Walto have the prioritized list of proposed streets available for the September 9 meeting so that bid packages could be prepared and released and plans be made.

**9. Grant Acceptances:** Chair Bishop introduced three grants. Mr. Boyle asked whether these funds were for the Town Hall insulation project. Mr. Walto explained these grants for for various portions of the Communications Center’s operations. The increase this year reflects the Town now receiving 911 calls that used to be directed to the State Police. Motion by Mr. Boyle to accept a grant from the Commonwealth for $153,132.00 for the 911 Department Communications Center. Seconded by Mr. Holub. No further discussion. Vote called: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed. Motion by Mr. Boyle to accept a grant from the Commonwealth for $159.80 for the 911 Department Emergency Medical Dispatch Program. Seconded by Mr. Holub. No further discussion. Vote called: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed. Motion by Mr. Boyle to accept a grant from the Commonwealth for $7,456.92 for the 911 Department Training Program. No further discussion. Vote called: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed. Members of the Select Board signed the three individual resolutions.

**10. Town Manager Updates:** Mr. Walto discussed North Mountain Park and said the Town had its number from the EPA for work being done under a brownfields grant from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and funded by the federal EPA. TRC, the consultant, needs to provide a status update on plans to remove the barrels. The LED streetlights project is completed and the project cost far less than was originally budgeted—the $359,000 was largely funded by sources other than the Town. The Town incurred costs of approximately $11,000, funded by the Streetlights Account rather than through borrowing. On a tangential note, Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Walto for a status update on the Cow Power project. Mr. Walto said he would follow up and report to the Board at a future session. Mr. Walto said the Building Superintendent had installed a new display in Town Hall that lists when meetings are scheduled to be held.

**11. BRPC and Berkshire County Selectman’s Association Annual Meeting:** Chair Bishop noted the 2019 annual meeting is being held at the Stationery Factory. Board members interested in attending can contact Ms. Wagner. Mr. Boyle, Mr. Strout, and Mr. Walto said they were planning to attend.

**12. Future Select Board Meeting Locations:** Chair Bishop said he wanted to see the first meeting of the month held at the Senior Center and the second meeting of the month held at Town Hall. Motion by Mr. Boyle to have first meeting of the month (second Monday) at the Senior Center and second meeting of the month (fourth Monday) at the Town Hall. Seconded by Mr. Holub. No further discussion. Vote called: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed.

**13. Remarks of Select Board:** None. Chair Bishop praised the open house for the CRA/Kittredge House.

**14. Items for Future Agendas:** North Street APR properties, September 24; street paving list/updates, August 26.

**18. Announcements:**

* **State Representative Paul Mark** holds office hours at the Dalton Town Hall, 462 Main Street, in the Callahan Room on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the exception of the third Tuesday of each month. On the third Tuesday, office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Town Hall and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dalton Senior Center. You can reach his office at his district number which is 413-464-5635.
* **Select Board Chair Bob Bishop –** holds office hours weekly on Thursday at the Town Hall from 2:30 to 4:00 PM, also by appointment and at the Senior Center on the First and Second Thursday of the month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. To reserve time at the Dalton Senior Center, please call 413-684-2000.  For further information, or to schedule other appointments, please call 413-684-6111 Ext. 11.
* **The Green Dalton Committee, Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission** are looking for new members. If interested, contact the Town Manager’s Office. 684-6111 X11.

**16. Executive Session:** Declaration by Chair Bishop that holding an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on negotiating position of the public body relative. Motion by Mr. Boyle to go into Executive Session and to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union and non-union personnel and then return to open session. Seconded by Mr. Holub. Roll call vote: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0. Motion passed.

Next scheduled meeting of the Select Board is August 26, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Callahan Room at Town Hall.

**Regular Session concluded at 7:50 p.m. Recess before Executive Session**