**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Monday, November 9th, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

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

**Also present:** Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 John Ostresh, Dalton Cable Television Cameraman
 Sandra Albano, Interim Town Manager
 Rebecca Slick, Dalton Town Planner
 Jayne Smith, Dalton Health Agent
 Rebecca Whitaker
 John Roughley, Highway Superintendent
 Joseph Fish
 Melissa Davis, Dalton Town Collector
 Douglas Boyle

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by J.Boyle

**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:**

* Douglas Boyle- Item 9

 **Resolution/ Grant – Small Scale Initiative:**

* The Town has been awarded a Small Scale Initiatives grant of $750 through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program for having reduced waste and increased recycling.
J.Diver moved to accept the grant of $750 from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Boyle “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

 **~Opened as Licensing Board at 7:05 p.m.**

 **Discussion on Alcoholic Licensing:**

* A request from the VFW and the American Legion: They likely will not be able to afford the alcoholic licensing cost for it is unknown when they can open their bars - as they don’t serve food unless there is an event. They aren’t alone, as there are other bars in town that don’t serve food whom cannot raise the money right now because they can’t open. R.Bishop suggests allowing the cost to be postponed until 60 days after they open back up. J.Boyle notes that 10 other similar bars/ restaurants paid their on-premise fee for the entire year and only got to use it for 9/10s of the season. Boyle suggests waiving all fees for 2021, and re-addressing the issue in June to reinstitute fees July 1st if things are up and running. It is assumed that if we don’t provide some kind of relief, they won’t fill out any paperwork, and we would lose those businesses in Dalton. Douglas Boyle speaks to the fact that relieving those shows we’re looking out for them; and it’s an investment in the long run. All fees would total approximately $600 as it comes from alcoholic licensing, entertainment licensing, and common victualler; J.Boyle feels it necessary for even open businesses since they are restricted so much from COVID-19 and can’t use pool tables/ juke boxes, etc. as most recently we are not able to gather past 9:30 p.m.
J.Boyle moved to waive all on-premise alcoholic licensing fees for 2021 and revisit the matter in the month of June prior to July 1st to reinstitute fees if businesses are up and running on a prorated basis for the remainder of 2021, J.Diver seconded.
Discussion: We’re renewing licenses without the fees.
J.Diver suggests creating awareness of this motion, that we are a business friendly town.
R.Bishop- We have to protect what we have, they’re our life blood.
J.Boyle- This is one industry that’s been 100% impacted.
Roll call vote: J.Boyle “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**~Closed as Licensing Board at 7:20 p.m.**

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

* **COVID-19 Governor’s Orders**-The latest direction from the Governor is masks must be worn when you’re in public, indoors & outdoors, even at a 6 ft. distance.
* **COVID-19 winter control plan to reduce risk to employees & the public**-We may feel pressure to get schools open as the country is seeing an increase in depression and obesity – but this is where spread is likely to occur.
-J.Smith, D.Fahey and S.Albano are currently working on measuring alternative meeting spaces/ offices in town run buildings to abide by a 6 ft. distance wherein room occupancy will not exceed 10 persons per 1,000 sq. feet and offices smaller than 200 sq. feet cannot contain more than one person.
-We will continue using Pittsfield for our base lead, and remain consistent with other surrounding towns.
-J.Smith is utilizing Public Health student volunteers to send out updated messages to businesses, etc. as things continue to change.

**Appointments:**

* Solid Waste Committee-
J.Diver nominated himself as a member as he feels ownership of this from its start if no one else is interested.
R.Bishop nominated J.Boyle, D.Esko seconded. Discussion:
With only one nominee able to be appointed, J.Diver withdraws his name due to J.Boyle’s extensive history/ business knowledge and written desire to be on this committee prior.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.
J.Smith briefed the Board on the mission of the Solid Waste Committee which is to provide the Board of Health Agent and Education Enforcement Coordinator (EEC) to increase the quantity and improve the quality of recycling, decrease solid waste, and minimize costs for Town of Dalton residents. Their scope is to support arrangement for private haulers to weigh and tip recyclables, review Transfer Station contract, collaborate with EEC, provide recommendations, research best practices and local options, and pursue/ rely on grants. Members will include the Dalton’s Health Agent- Jayne Smith Dalton’s Highway/ Sewer Dept. Superintendent- John Roughley, Industry Representative- Terry Baumann, Green Dalton representative- Jenny Gitlitz, Board of Health representative- Dan Doyle, EEC coordinator, Select Board member- John Boyle, and a Finance Committee member. This committee will report to the Board of Health and Town Manager.
D.Esko suggests that T.Baumann be an advisory representative rather than a voting member, making the members’ total 7.
J.Diver motioned to accept the memorandum dated November 5th, 2020 regarding appointments to the Dalton Waste Management & Recycling Committee as presented, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
Dates: The soft opening started November 1st; enforcement is tentatively April/ May, as late as July 1st. The haulers given 2 months’ notice to organize their rates, etc.
Roll call vote: J.Boyle “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**~Opened as Sewer Commission at 8:05 p.m.**

 **Update Sewer Abatement Policies and Procedures:**

* Melissa Davis spoke. For a few years there’s been no policy in place for sewer; and now that she’s taking over from the Assessor’s office, would like to clarify how we set rates and issue abatements, etc. J.Diver motioned to accept as presented starting on today’s date, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Boyle “no”, R.Bishop “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”.

**~Closed as Sewer Commission at 8:10 p.m.**

**ZBA Petition #571 Crane Ave.:**

* An application was made to the ZBA for a special permit under Section 350-53 of the Dalton Zoning Bylaws to divide a 2.171 acre parcel into three parcels with duplexes on them and 6 parking spaces for each. Select Board members believe it’s a good idea. J.Wagner will send a note to the Zoning Board of Appeals that the Select Board has no comment.

 **Town Manager Updates:
 Report by Sandra Albano**

* Grants- The Town has submitted the 2020 Green Grant Annual Report to the State. S.Albano thanks our Town Planner for doing this.
-The Town has submitted for reimbursement of COVID-19 expenditures incurred since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020 – October 2020, with an estimate to the end of December). Expenditures to be reimbursed by two grants FEMA assistance program grant and Cares Act Corona Virus Relief Fund. S.Albano thanks our Emergency Management Director, Dan Filiault having worked 100+ hours on these two grants.
* COVID-19 Latest Control Plan- Positive COVID cases in Pittsfield are affecting businesses and all age groups. Current precautions are to wear masks in public, be it indoors and out and keep a 6 ft. distance simultaneously. Town building room occupancy will not exceed 10 persons per 1,000 sq. feet. Offices smaller than 200 sq. feet should not contain more than one person. Alternative meeting spaces will need to be used- which offices that meet these criteria are still being measured/ determined. Limit time speaking to people to reduce risk of close contact. Ventilate offices as much as possible. Keep good hygiene with hand washing. And stay home if feeling sick.
The Select Board will meet specially to approve the control plan when it is final.

**Items for Future Agendas:**

* J.Diver- Tree removal policy from Richard Hall. Need an open meeting to discuss in December.
-Green education presentation also in December.
-Chief Search update on 11/23/20.
* R.Bishop- School Superintendent, Leslie Blake-Davis.

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

* J.Boyle- Light up the Holidays event has been cancelled this year. A drive by alternative activity will take place on 12/12/20.
* R.Bishop & D.Esko- Halloween was a success with a lot of volunteers and 250 kids who attended.
* J.Diver- Thank you for those involved in the election efforts.
* J.Diver- Thank you to Officer Buzzella for helping to change a tire for a kid in town; which was published in the Berkshire Eagle.
* Happy Birthday to Mr. Bishop.
* R.Bishop- Letter read from school Superintendent, Leslie Blake-Davis offering availability to attend meetings and answer questions at upcoming meetings regarding re-opening plans. She is invited to attend our 11/23/20 meeting.

**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.
* **Significant Drought** for Regions in Level 2 –Residents and Businesses: Minimize overall water use; limit outdoor watering to hand-held hoses or watering cans, to be used only after 5:00 p.m. or before 9:00 a.m. one day a week; limit or prohibit installation of new sod, seeding, and/ or landscaping; watering during or within 48 hours after measureable rainfall; washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; operation of non-recirculating fountains; filling of swimming pools, hot tubs, and backyard informal rinks. Implement drought surcharge or seasonal water rates. Establish water use reduction targets for all water users and identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.
* **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.
* **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 appointments only due to COVID-19. Please call 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. Permits are taking between 4-6 months to process from start to finish. Please be advised that even though permits are processed during 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. there are circumstances that will prevent permits from being processed. We apologize for any inconvenience.
* **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*.

**Executive Session:**

R.Bishop declares an Executive Session. J.Diver motioned to move to Executive Session to comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law namely Massachusetts General Laws – Town Manager Screening Committee discussion; and not return to open session. M.Strout seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Adjourn:** Open session adjourned at8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary

*The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 23rd, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.*