

DALTON  
FIRE  
DISTRICT

(413) 684-6118 Treasurer  
(413) 684-6124 Water  
(413) 684-0500 Fire  
(413) 684-6126 Fax

20 FLANSBURG AVENUE  
DALTON, MA. 01226

---

## **DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**January 23, 2024**

Present: Jim Driscoll, Michael Kubicki, Camillus Cachat, Melanie Roucoulet, Water Superintendent Bob Benlien, Interim Chief Robert Czerwinski, Daniel Filiault. Charlotte Crane Cachat, Charlotte Crane

Public: Sabrina Damn-iberkshires

Jim Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- Minutes
  - o Jim Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes from November 28, 2023 and December 30, 2023, as printed, Cam Cachat seconded, approved unanimously.

### **Ambulance:**

- We responded to 133 calls in December, 106 EMS, 27 Fire. In January we have responded to 56 calls so far, 40 EMS and 16 Fire calls.
- Currently looking for per diem EMT/Paramedic.
- December there was an inspection with OEMS, minor infractions with equipment, lights, fire extinguisher, ect. No training records were available for them. New inspection for the department on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, department passed inspection.
- New affiliation agreement with Berkshire Health Systems.
- High regards to some of the Paramedic/EMT's on completing all tasks.

### **Fire Department:**

- Dennis Tinker has been doing an amazing job with all the apparatus maintenance.
- No Major issues on any of the apparatus.
- January training started with CPR & First responder training by Charlotte Crane and Brian Sears.

### **Water Department:**

- All trucks undercarriages were sprayed with "fluid film" to minimize the chance of rust.
- A new Blower Thero Switch on the gas heater at the Elser pump station.
- A new electric wall heater was installed at the Instrumentation Building.
- The new employee that was hired in November has left for another job, the search will continue for another employee.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup> there was a water leak on Grange Hall rd. turned out that 2 saddles had rotted off the main.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Working on all year end reports.
- Zip & Sort who we used for mailing all of our semiannual water bills will be closing at the end of January so I will be looking at other options.
- New purchasing procedures were written up for the commissioners to look over and approve.
- Shut Off notices have all been completed and ready to go to the water department for delivery.

## **General Business:**

- Jim Driscoll received an email from Joe Diver wondering what we were planning to do with the remaining balance that we have from the ARPA funds. Attorneys from Harrison Beach in Pittsburg NY sent a quote for legal actions to be started against Northern Fire regarding the Ladder truck. Jim spoke with the owner from Northern Fire today, nothing has been done to the truck to date. Our options per the attorneys are either going to court and see if we can claim the money back that we have paid Northern Fire, keep the truck, or do nothing. The law firm stated that even if we win there is no way to know if Northern Fire will pay us back. In New York state lawyer fees cannot be added to the lawsuit. Attorneys estimate the cost of a lawsuit to be around \$30,000.00. Northern Fire confirmed to Jim that if we did decide to keep the truck that we will receive it by the beginning of May. Chief Czerwinski recommends if we decide to keep the Ladder truck that we need to make sure that it passes all inspections before paying the balance due.
  1. Cam Cachat made a motion to return the ARPA money to The Town of Dalton no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> if we do not purchase the truck. Mike Kubicki seconded. Passed unanimously.
  2. Mike Kubicki made a motion to contact our legal representation to prepare and submit a renegotiated agreement to Northern Fire. Cam Cachat seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Swearing in ceremony will be held on Monday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Stationery Factory for Christian Tobin, the new Dalton Fire Chief.
- First drafts for FY25 Budgets will be due at the February meeting.

Jim Driscoll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 seconded by Cam Cachat, passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be February 27, 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Melanie Roucoulet*

Melanie Roucoulet

Treasurer/Clerk

