

**DALTON
FIRE
DISTRICT**

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20 FLANSBURG AVENUE
DALTON, MA. 01226

DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

September 24, 2024

Present: Jim Driscoll, Camillus Cachat, Michael Kubicki, Melanie Roucoulet, Water Superintendent
Bob Benlien, Interim Chief Chris Cachat, Richard Olsted, Tom Murray

Public: Sabrina Damn-iberkshires, Tom Irwin, Rob – Dalton TV, Charlotte Crane, Louise Hume, Dale
Hume, Mike Cachat, Al Nadeu, Nathan Tyler, Mark DeMaranville, Alicia Smith, Dave Thomas, Steven
Peltier, James Tobin, Morgan McDonough, Owen Hoffman.

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

Cam Cachat made a motion to go into executive session, Michael Kubicki seconded approved unanimously.

- Roll Call was completed, and meeting went into executive session to have a discussion with the attorney from Lippes and Mathias.

James Driscoll reconvened the open meeting at 6:48 pm.

- James Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 27, 2024 and the September 5, 2024, meetings as printed, Cam Cachat seconded, approved unanimously.

Berkshire Woodland Management explained the 2 bids for the Timber sale. Mark gave the commissioners his recommendation regarding quotes, taking into consideration bid amount, the time span to complete the project ect. James Driscoll made a motion to award the bid contract to S&N Logging for \$55,000.00. passed unanimously.

Fire/Ambulance Department:

- Interim Chief Chris Cachat discusses how well the new Ambulance director Morgan McDonough has been working out. A-6 is reduced from ALS to BLS but can be upgraded if needed.
- The Ambulance Committee has been working on looking for a new ambulance. Dennis Tinker has been speaking to a few suppliers on a replacement ambulance. One of the supplier states 2-3 years for a new ambulance. Another supplier is building ambulances on spec.
- Labor Day weekend was a busy weekend for the fire department, there was 3 structure fires and a MVA into a building.
- Training has been going very well, looking into training with surrounding towns. Auto extrication will be one of our training courses soon.
- OSHA was contacted to come in and help us get compliant, we have been following their recommendations and procedures to complete all the guidelines. Charlotte Crane stated that they are continuing to draft policies per OSHA's request.

Water Department:

- The water department has been working on the mark outs for the leas service line inventory excavations.

- Tighe and Bond have been working on the lead service line basement inspections.
- On September 5, 2024 the district had its DEP sanitary survey. We have not yet received the report.
- The gate box on Depot Street and Chamberlain Ave have been repaired and the pothole around the gate box was filled.
- There was an issue with the tank level data at Reservoir Rd Tank. A SCADA technician came in and troubleshot the problem, turned out one of the computer cards in the PLC needed to be replaced.
- During the repair of the gate valve on the corner of North St and Main St. a section of the sidewalk had to be removed. The sidewalk has been replaced.
- Bob was told of a grant opportunity by DEP while they were doing their sanitary survey. Bob contacted Tighe and Bond for assistance in applying for the Cybersecurity improvement grant. Application deadline is October 31, 2024.
- Mike Kubicki made a motion to allow the Water Superintendent to overlook the Cybersecurity grant for up to \$30,000.00, Cam seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- The water department posted flags on water lines showing final status of water shut offs, residents have been coming in to pay their past due bills to avoid water shut off. A/R for past due bills is around \$6,000.00.
- New water bills have all been processed, printed and sent to Zip & Sort to be mailed out on September 30, 2024. The total of the water charges was just over \$444,000.00.
- The Umas accounting training has begun to prepare
- Public Records requests have been mostly completed, only a few left to complete.
- Both Open Meeting law complaints that were appealed were returned and the AG was satisfied with our correspondence.

Tom Irwin would like the commissioners to decide if they would be interested in participating in the regionalization study, Cam Cachat requested to see the agreements from the other towns regarding the study. It will be added to next month's agenda.

Dale Hume read letter thanking the staff for helping him when he needed assistance while having a heart attack, also stated a few concerns with the fire department.

James Driscoll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm seconded by Cam Cachat, passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be October 29, 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Roucoulet

Melanie Roucoulet
Treasurer/Clerk

