

DALTON
FIRE
DISTRICT

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DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

January 20, 2026

Present: James Driscoll, Camillus Cachat, Michael Kubicki, Clerk Melanie Roucoulet, Water Superintendent Bob Benlien, Dan Filiault, Karen Filiault Charlotte Crane, Interim Chief Chris Cachat, Tony Pagliarulo, Bob Bishop, Eric Anderson, Steve Mirantz, Michelle Mirantz, Sue Driscoll, Al Nadeau, Brittany Miller, Daniel Esko, Jimbo Doncette, Monika Pizzichini, Tami Flatey, Sabrina-iberkshires, Rob Dalton TV

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

General Business:

- James Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 30, 2025, meetings as printed, Cam Cachat seconded, approved unanimously.
- Driscoll explains that there is a discussion with the Dalton Selectboard, Tony Pagliarulo believes that the Fire District should look into installing water meters on all residential homes so residents are paying for exactly the water that they use, he believes that it is the only fair and equitable way to charge for water. Pagliarulo is also trying to save water and promote conservation in the process. The sewer bills in Pittsfield will be going up to double or triple, which means Dalton's sewer bills will also be. James Driscoll asks who will be paying for the meters, Pagliarulo suggested that The Fire District pay for the meters and installation per bond which according to Michael Kubicki will cost over 2 million dollars .Driscoll mention that the taxpayers will be paying much more for their water bills if we install meters, they will be paying for the installation of the meters and also if they have any leaks. James Driscoll feels that water is a shared expense just like the school tax is. Al Nadea mentioned that he has no children in school but still has to pay for a brand-new school, he stated that the water charges in Dalton is peanuts compared to other taxes being paid. According to Town Manager Eric Anderson he would like to see water meters put on the residential homes so that the town could bill sewer usage according to the metered water. According to Water Superintendent Bob Benlein it would cost around \$1,000 per household to install the meters. Benlein explained that the meters only have a life expectancy of 20 years so this process would have to be done every 20 years. Driscoll stated that the Water Commissioners would discuss this amongst themselves to figure out if it will help the town or break the town. Driscoll would like to look out for the residents of the town

Ambulance/Fire:

- 97 incidents since our last meeting, 87 of them are EMS related.
- Charlotte Crane mentions that after losing a full-time employee that we have taken on a long-term on call member fulltime.

- Crane gave a shout out to Jacob Soldato who is enrolled in paramedic school but caught a very serious heart attack on a patient and was able to care for him and get him off to Baystate Medical.
- An ambulance committee will be put together in the next month to start putting together information on a new ambulance for a few years down the road.
- Burning season has begun on January 15th, just a reminder you are only supposed to be burning brush. Permits are available on the website.

Water Department:

- Bob Benlein states that they have been working on Stock house Maintenance
- Benlein created a paper pertaining to MADU's and ADU's that should be put into our rules and regulations for the commissioners to review and approve, Driscoll stated that they will give their approval at the next meeting.
- Bob has been working on the Rules and Regulations book which was sent to the commissioners for review.
- Current Water rates have not changed since 2011. Bob handed out paperwork to the commissioners to review, with recommendations of increasing water rates of 5 percent a year which would help take on projects that need to be done.
- Water service break on Raymond Drive over the weekend which was under the buried utilities, 8 feet deep. Bob called in an excavation truck the next day to complete the job.

Treasurer's Report:

- Working on getting all the past due water bills paid from October, shut off notices have been sent out so hopefully we should receive the remaining \$60,000 still due.
- We put our ambulance loan out to bid for the second year, Greenfield Bank came back with a bid of 3.4%
- Dan Filiault gave the commissioners paperwork to review that he has been working on regarding PTO.
- Eric Anderson asked the commissioners if he could start receiving any Capital needs projects that the Fire District is looking to start.

James Driscoll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm seconded by Cam Cachat, passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be Tuesday February 24, 2026 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Roucoulet
Treasurer/Clerk

