

DALTON
FIRE
DISTRICT

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20 FLANSBURG AVENUE
DALTON, MA. 01226

DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 31, 2026

Present: Michael Kubicki, Camillus Cachat, Clerk Melanie Roucoulet, Water Superintendent Bob Benlien, Dan Filiault, Assistant Chief Charlotte Crane, Interim Chief Ryan Foley, Dennis Croughwell, Nate, Mark DeMaranville, Rob Dalton TV, Dillon Thompson – Berkshire Eagle

Michael Kubicki called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

General Business:

- Michael Kubicki made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 24, 2026, March 4, 2026, and March 9, 2026 meetings as printed, Cam Cachat seconded, approved unanimously.
- Mark and Nate from New England Woodland management have found the Easement paperwork for the property on New Windsor Rd to Peru that was misplaced. Marl also asked whether the Board of Water Commissioners would like to survey the property near Friendly Freds this year or wait until next year. The estimate to have it done would be between \$20,000-\$25,000. Kubicki would like to have this discussion at our next budget meeting on Monday which Melanie would reach out to Mark and let him know. The easement that Eversource has shows nothing about the district not using the roads to access our property.

Ambulance/Fire:

- For the month of March we have had 81 incidents of which 75 were EMS related.
- In terms of Apparatus updates, we have received the new ladder truck which passed the ladder, ground and arial inspections, Charlotte then turns the meeting over to Interim Chief Ryan Foley to discuss more. The graphics work on the ladder truck is being scheduled, along with outfitting, and pump testing. Service work is currently being completed, as soon as this is completed, we will start some training with the ladder truck.
- The same goes with the forestry truck, the skid unit is ready, outfitting in progress and training is also started.
- Chief Foley met with Shakerly to re-establish conversations and rapport regarding service.
- Charlotte Crane mentions that regarding personnel, we have lost the four longest member of the department due to retirement, Interim Chief Chris Cachat, Assistant Chief Michael Cachat, and safety officers Steve perry and Barry Smith.
- The department is trying to keep up on training with both the MFA and in-house training.
- Foley mentions working on some training incentives and recruiting more on-call members.
- Building Committee update: there is a few interests from town members to join the committee, also 2 proposals have been received for the needs assessment. There is quite a huge cost difference in the 2 proposals. Crane finds it necessary for this to be done before we move forward with the renovations of the building. Missions CIT is the company that Crane and Dennis Croughwell would like to move forward with. Michael Kubicki asked where the

monies would be coming from for the assessment. Crane states that there is a few accounts together that have enough money to pay for this. Missions CIT stated that we can split the cost between the 2 fiscal years. Missions CIT will complete their assessment within the next few months and come back at the June meeting with their recommendations.

- Kubicki would like to wait until the final budget meeting to discuss the Missions CIT proposal.

Water Department:

- Bob was on vacation
- Daily rounds, monthly meter readings, and bacterial testing have been completed.
- On 3/3, the service line at 210 Raymond Drive—previously repaired—began leaking again. This leak occurred in a different location than the initial repair. Wendling Sewer & Water Services assisted due to approximately 3 feet of frost in the ground, requiring the use of a Ram-Hoe on an additional excavator. The line was repaired (two pinhole leaks identified). The feeder line is in poor condition, and replacement of the entire line from the main to the curb stop is being considered for the spring.
- Continued work on the Annual Statistical Report and Lead Service Line Inventory.
- Alex and Nathan plowed and performed cleanup following the 3/4/26 snowstorm. They also cleaned and serviced trucks after the water line repair.
- Pumps at the Housatonic Street pump station failed to activate when the tanks called for water. At the Donn Elser pump station, pumps were operating intermittently, and a low suction pressure alarm was received. Pumps were operated manually overnight to maintain tank levels until Ron Smith from Tighe & Bond arrived to assess the issue. Bob and Ron identified a scaling issue within the SCADA system, which has since been corrected.
- A plumber requested a water shutoff for repairs at 91 John Street. While attempting to shut off the water, the rod on the curb box snapped. The plumber was able to complete the repair live. The curb box will be repaired in the spring.
- Bob was on vacation.
- Ryan has been in contact with Dan Carney (Tighe & Bond) and Dean Margeni (TSC Communications) regarding installation of new SCADA radios. Installation is tentatively scheduled for 04/28/2026.

Treasurer's Report:

- The April 1st semi annual residential bills have been processed and mailed out. The total for the bills was \$427,142.50
- After speaking with MIIA we ended up changing our supplement Insurance policy from Aflac to Colonial Life for disability, accident, cancer and life insurance. Every full time employee picked up at least 2 policies and some many policies. I believe it was a great choice to switch as all our employees saved money and received better choices.
- I attended a 3 hour zoom class today through MIIA on Preventing and addressing discrimination and harassment in the workplace, I received a nice certification once the class was completed.
- I have been working hard on completing the budget and processing all the meeting minutes from the past 2 months.
- The next budget meeting for 04/02/26 will be rescheduled to 04/06/2026

Michael Kubicki made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm seconded by Cam Cachat, passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be Tuesday April 28, 2026 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Roucoulet
Treasurer/Clerk

