

TOWN OF DALTON  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - MAY 7, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

The Moderator, Ronald J. Marcella, Sr., called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Jean M Gingras, Victoria M. Sedgwick, Elizabeth A. Erb, Judith M. Ladd and Malia Windrow-Carlotto were appointed tellers and sworn by Town Clerk, Barbara L. Suriner. There were a total of 517 Registered Voters checked at the door as follows:

PRECINCT 1 - 261  
PRECINCT 2 - 256  
517

ARTICLE 1. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town hear a report of the Select Board on the "State of the Town".

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town refer the Citizen's Petition to change the name of the street currently being called both "Windsor Road" and "Old Windsor Road" to the Select Board as the proper statutory authority to make said name change pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 85, Section 3.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 3. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, authorize the Select Board to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with other cities, towns and political subdivisions for the group purchasing of supplies, commodities and services that the town is authorized by law to purchase, and to appropriate \$400.00 for the administration of the program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, authorize the Select Board to enter into inter-municipal agreements, as may be necessary, with other cities, towns and political subdivisions for the provision of mutual aid, including but not limited to, emergency management services, public works and general government services which said departments in the Town are authorized to perform.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town accept the provisions of Section 8G of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws for the purpose of authorizing the town to enter into an agreement with other cities and towns, including cities and towns in states contiguous to the commonwealth, to provide mutual aid programs for police departments to increase the capability of such departments to protect lives, safety and property of the people in the area designated in the agreement.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 6. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E1/2 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, authorize the establishment of revolving funds for certain town departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 with specific receipts credited to each fund, the purposes for which each fund may be spent and the maximum that may be spent from each fund for the fiscal year as follows:

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Authorized to Spend Fund</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Use of Fund</u>	<u>FY08 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY07 Fund Balance</u>
Plumbing Inspector	Town Manager	Plumbing permit Fees and applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$15,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Electrical Inspector	Town Manager	Electrical permit Fees and applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$10,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Tree Warden/ Planning Board	Tree Warden	Payments from subdivision developers	Planting of trees and shrubs within specific locations	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Historical Commission	Town Manager & Commission Treasurer	Gifts, donations and receipts from sales	Expenses relating to the administrative functions of the commission	\$4,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Cemetery Department	Cemetery Trustees & Superintendent of Highway/Cemetery	Payments for burials outside of the cemetery work day	Grave digging services and overtime payroll expenses	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Council on Aging	Town Manager & COA Director	Receipt of fees for transportation services	Offset expenses of the BRTA bus operation	\$20,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Dog/Animal Control	Town Clerk	Dog license fees and other charges as provided by Chapter 40 Section 147A	Offset expenses related to the administration of licenses and other animal control matters	\$3,000.00	\$3,000 of fund balance available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Cemetery Department	Cemetery Trustees	Reimbursement payments for damage to town cemeteries	Payment of expenses related to the repair of sustained damage	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Legal Advertising	Town Manager	Legal advertising fees	Payment of expenses related to legal advertisements	\$8,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Parks Maintenance	Town Manager & Superintendent Highway/Cemetery	Fees from outside users of Pine Grove Pavilion	Any lawful maintenance expense in town parks	\$1,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 7. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town adopt the "Schedule of Compensation for Elected Officials" for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

ELECTED OFFICIALS FY 2008

Moderator	\$ 330.00
Select Board - Chairman	4,020.00
- Members	3,120.00
Town Clerk	34,795.00

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 8. It was moved, seconded and voted that the amounts of money set forth in the printed report of the Finance Committee, for the Fiscal Year 2008 and totaling \$5,646,795.00 be appropriated for the several purposes therein itemized, each numbered item being considered as a separate appropriation, and that the same be expended only for such purposes.

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

**General Government**

114 Moderator		
Salary		330
Expenses		119
		<b>449</b>
122 Select Board		
Salary-Elected		16,500
Expenses		5,200
		<b>21,700</b>
123 Town Manager		
Salaries		112,439
Expenses		9,200
		<b>121,639</b>

131 Finance Committee Expenses	180 <b>180</b>
135 Accountant Salaries Expenses	37,905 6,510 <b>44,415</b>
139 Financial Audit Expenses	0 <b>0</b>
141 Assessors Salaries Expenses	80,687 16,975 <b>97,662</b>
142 Tri Revaluation Expenses	0 <b>0</b>
145 Town Treasurer Salaries Expenses	38,830 13,850 <b>52,680</b>
146 Town Collector Salaries Expenses	52,616 11,140 <b>63,756</b>
151 Town Counsel Expenses	34,000 <b>34,000</b>
152 Telephone Expenses	16,500 <b>16,500</b>
154 Recording Secretary Salary	3,772 <b>3,772</b>
155 Interdepartmental Clerks Salaries	43,000 <b>43,000</b>
157 Computer Expenses	7,650 <b>7,650</b>
158 Postage Expenses	16,492 <b>16,492</b>
159 Tax Title Expenses	5,000 <b>5,000</b>
161 Town Clerk Salary-Elected Salaries Expenses	34,795 26,482 2,605 <b>63,882</b>
162 Elections Salaries Expenses	5,233 4,625 <b>9,858</b>
163 Registrars Salaries Expenses	3,866 2,675 <b>6,541</b>
171 Conservation Commission Expenses	2,025 <b>2,025</b>
175 Planning Board/Board of Appeals Salary Expenses	21,002 475 <b>21,477</b>
182 Industrial Development Commission Expenses	1,010 <b>1,010</b>
191 Old Dalton High Salary Expenses	1,500 10,500 <b>12,000</b>
195 Town Report Expenses	6,650 <b>6,650</b>
196 Town Hall Salaries Expenses	45,705 52,286 <b>97,991</b>

197 Central Supplies Expenses	13,325 <b>13,325</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>763,654</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	
210 Police Department Salaries Expenses	842,246 79,413 <b>921,659</b>
222 Communications Salaries Expenses	168,074 2,075 <b>170,149</b>
240 Building Inspections Salaries Expenses	36,390 1,700 <b>38,090</b>
244 Sealer of Weights & Measures Salary Expenses	1,195 225 <b>1,420</b>
247 Inspector of Meat & Cattle Salary	1,123 <b>1,123</b>
292 Animal Control Salaries Expenses	18,664 4,150 <b>22,814</b>
293 Traffic Commission Expenses	1 <b>1</b>
294 Forest Warden Salary Expenses	2,212 1,240 <b>3,452</b>
295 Emergency Response Salary Expenses	3,128 3,600 <b>6,728</b>
296 Shade Tree/Tree Warden Salary Expenses	1,881 15,394 <b>17,275</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,182,711</b>
<b>Education</b>	
320 Vocational Education Expenses	331,202 <b>331,202</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>331,202</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	
401 Town Engineer Expenses	8,000 <b>8,000</b>
420 Highway Department Salaries Expenses	323,116 109,090 <b>432,206</b>
423 Snow & Ice Salaries Expenses	26,208 109,900 <b>136,108</b>
424 Streetlights Expenses	72,875 <b>72,875</b>
433 Sanitary Landfill Expenses	13,400 <b>13,400</b>
434 Transfer Station Salaries Expenses	1,550 42,114 <b>43,664</b>
440 Sewer Maintenance (Offset Receipts) Salaries Expenses	13,500 6,750 <b>20,250</b>

449 Sewer Treatment Plant (Offset Receipts) Expenses	558,687	
	<b>558,687</b>	
491 Cemetery Department Salaries	76,520	
Expenses	20,075	
	<b>96,595</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>		<b>1,381,785</b>
<b>Human Services</b>		
510 Board of Health Salary	23,994	
Expenses	1,330	
	<b>25,324</b>	
522 Visiting Nurse Association Expenses	11,929	
	<b>11,929</b>	
523 Berkshire Mental Health Expenses	2,060	
	<b>2,060</b>	
541 Council on Aging Salaries	87,481	
Expenses	7,627	
	<b>95,108</b>	
543 Veterans' Services Salary	6,123	
Expenses	10,300	
	<b>16,423</b>	
591 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Expenses	4,276	
	<b>4,276</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>		<b>155,120</b>
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>		
610 Library Salaries	115,915	
Expenses	50,869	
	<b>166,784</b>	
630 Parks and Recreation		See Article #9
650 Parks Maintenance Salaries	26,261	
Expenses	14,392	
	<b>40,653</b>	
691 Historical Commission Expenses	727	
	<b>727</b>	
692 Memorial Day Committee Expenses	1,970	
	<b>1,970</b>	
693 Cultural Activities	1,530	
	<b>1,530</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>		<b>211,664</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>		
710B Bond Fees (Landfill)	500	
	<b>500</b>	
710L Debt and Interest (Landfill)	126,100	
	<b>126,100</b>	
710H Debt and Interest (Highway)	114,037	
	<b>114,037</b>	
710C Debt and Interest (Capital Improvement Program)		See Article #17
710L/S Debt and Interest (Library SC)	26,842	
	<b>26,842</b>	
710So.St. Debt and Interest (Highway)	50,000	
	<b>50,000</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>		<b>317,479</b>

**Other**

911 Berkshire County Retirement Assessment Expenses	348,806
	<b>348,806</b>
913 Unemployment Expenses	9,000
	<b>9,000</b>
914 Group Health Insurance Expenses	717,093
	<b>717,093</b>
915 Group Life Insurance Expenses	8,472
	<b>8,472</b>
916 Medicare Expenses	26,000
	<b>26,000</b>
919 Employment Benefits Salaries Expenses	15,000
	1,580
	<b>16,580</b>
941 Court Judgments & Claims Expenses	3,000
	<b>3,000</b>
945 Town Insurance Expenses	164,000
	<b>164,000</b>
950 Commissioner of Trust Funds Expenses	229
	<b>229</b>
998 Pension Reserve Fund Expenses	10,000
	<b>10,000</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,303,180</b>
<b>ARTICLE TOTAL</b>	<b>5,646,795</b>

CARRIED. MAJORITY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 9. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, the sum of \$59,456.00 for the purpose of providing recreation and leisure time activities to the people of Dalton.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$55,000.00 from Free Cash in the Treasury and \$10,000.00 from the Overlay Surplus Account to the Reserve Fund (Account 132) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$5,321,918 for the construction and equipping of a new library at the site of the former Dalton High School, including borrowing costs associated with said project; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$5,321,918 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3) or any other enabling authority; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

DEFEATED. YES - 256 NO - 255.

ARTICLE 12. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$3,780,000 for the construction and equipping of a new senior center at the site of the former Dalton High School, including borrowing costs associated with said project; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$3,780,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3) or any other enabling authority; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

DEFEATED. YES – 297 NO - 182.

It was moved, seconded and voted to move on to Article 15 while the Article 12 vote is being counted.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 15. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town reauthorize employment agreements between the Town and the Highway/Cemetery Superintendent, the Highway/Cemetery Foreman, the Communication Director and the Police Sergeant, all of which include annual salaries that were provided for under Article 8 hereinabove.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 13. It was moved, seconded and voted that no action be taken under this Article.

CARRIED. MAJORITY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 14. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$360,000 for land acquisition pursuant to the Select Board exercising its statutory Chapter 61A option on a portion of a parcel of land shown on the Town of Dalton Assessors Map as Map 121, Lot 47, including borrowing costs associated with said acquisition; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$360,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3) and any other enabling authority; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

DEFEATED. DECLARED 2/3 VOTE.

ARTICLE 16. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$650,000 from Free Cash in the Treasury and \$50,000 from the Overlay Surplus Account for the purpose of reducing the expected tax rate increase in the 2008 fiscal year.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 17. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate and transfer \$157,185 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of paying principal and interest on debt incurred under the Capital Improvement Program, due and payable in the 2008 fiscal year.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 18. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash in the Treasury to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 19. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$30,000 from Free Cash in the Treasury to the Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying for extraordinary and unforeseen expenses through the end of the current fiscal year.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 20. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$50,000 from Free Cash in the Treasury for an independent expert evaluation of the Central Berkshire Regional School District operations for the purpose of determining where opportunities for saving funds exist in order to direct the Town’s financial resources to successful educational outcomes for the school children of the Town and provided that said \$50,000 shall not be expended unless an additional sum of \$50,000 is raised from other public and/or private sources to match said appropriation and further that if said other sources are not raised by the date of the next Annual Town Meeting this appropriation shall revert to undesignated fund balance.

DEFEATED. YES – 55 NO - 266.

ARTICLE 21. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,196,424 for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of the Operating Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

It was moved, seconded and voted that Article 21 be amended to raise and appropriate \$6,232,636, which reflects the amount approved by the School Committee and as published by the Town of Dalton in the Article and Tax Summary.

CARRIED. MAJORITY VOICE VOTE.

The Main Motion for Article 21, as amended, was voted.

CARRIED. MAJORITY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 22. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$492,181 for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of the Transportation Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

CARRIED. MAJORITY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 23. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$270,173 for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of the Capital Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 24. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town recess until Monday, May 14, 2007 at 10:00 O’CLOCK A.M. to meet in the DALTON COMMUNITY HOUSE to Choose and Elect the following Town Officers:

- (2) Member(s) - Select Board For 3 Years
- (1) Moderator For 1 Year
- (1) Member - Planning Board For 5 Years
- (1) Cemetery Trustee For 3 Years
- (3) Library Trustees For 3 Years
- (1) Member – Dalton Housing Authority For 5 Years
- (3) Members - Finance Committee For 3 Years

and the determination of such other matters as are by law required to be determined by ballot.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Barbara L. Suriner, TOWN CLERK