

Dalton Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2021 6:00 PM
Public Hearing – Regarding acceptance and utilization of GOFERR Funds
(Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery Funds)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Jo Beth Dudley. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Carol Sheltry and Tamela Swan were present.

The Select Board and the public in attendance discussed the allocation of these funds (~\$92,650 in two allotments) for COVID-19 relief and recovery. The Select Board noted that utilization of these funds must conform to the guidelines. Some ambiguity between the Federal Department of the Treasury guidelines and the State guidelines was noted.

A draft spending plan proposal was presented and discussed.

Members of the Fire/EMS department articulated the urgent need for new air packs with extra tanks. The cost is ~\$7,500 per air pack plus ~\$900 per extra tank, for a total of ~\$8,400 each unit. It was noted that the current units can no longer be certified due to their age, and replacement is critical. Ideally, a total of eight (8) new units would be purchased. The Select Board noted that there is also \$20,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for Fire/EMS equipment. This fund was established two years ago for the purchase of equipment.

Purchase of air packs and tanks received support from other members of the public in attendance.

Using the funds to support an additional 10 hours per week of administrative support was discussed, noting that administration of COVID-relating funding is time-consuming and a requirement of accepting the funds. It was also noted that surrounding towns (Littleton and Lancaster) have recently received substantial grant funding, and that Dalton may be leaving money on the table without the resources to research, develop, write, and submit grant proposals. Further discussion noted that the salary levels of an effective grant writer are much higher than proposed, and the time commitment likely greater. Evelyn Flynn suggested that residents of Dalton volunteer to help with grant proposals. Jay Ennis also volunteered to help.

The Town of Dalton has \$92,650 in Funds to spend, with disbursement expected in two trangers.

The following spending was voted on and approved, noting that the amounts are approximate and subject to modification.

Round #1 – \$29,736 toward the purchase of 4 Air Packs and extra bottles for the Fire/EMS Department (~\$33,600 total cost), with the balance of ~\$3,864 to come from the CRF. An additional two (2) units may be purchased with funds from the Fire/EMS/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (CRF), for a total initial purchase of six units.

Round #2 – 4 Air Packs and extra bottles for the Fire/EMS Department. (4 each at \$8,400 = \$33,600)

Funds moved from the Admin Staffing proposal to the Fire/EMS Air Packs and extra tanks (rounds #1 and #2).

Revenue Shortfall calculated to be \$5,677 (unrestricted).

Improved Web Hosting Service - \$960. This will provide improved Cybersecurity. Spending divided over the two allotments of \$480 each.

Updating Town Maps - ~\$15,734 (~\$9,167 in the first allotment and ~\$6,567 in year two).

State Compliant Router - \$1,265 (round #1)

Jo Beth made a motion to approve spending for GOFERR Funds as detailed above. Tamela seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Jo Beth made a motion to adjourn to a non-public meeting and returning to public session to only vote to seal non-public meeting minutes at 6:42 pm. Carol seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Returned to Public session at 7:38 pm.

Tamela made a motion to seal NP#1 Personnel. Carol seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Tamela made a motion to seal NP#2 Personnel. Carol seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Jo Beth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Carol seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Tamela Swan

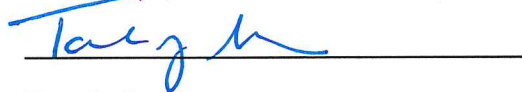
Minutes Approved On: 10/18/2021 (date)



Jo Beth Dudley



Carol Sheltry



Tamela Swan