

TOWN OF DALTON  
BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**WAHCONAH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
150 OLD WINDSOR ROAD, DALTON, MA  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M.

The moderator, Anthony Doyle, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Tami Flatley, Patty Mele-Nichols, Maureen Mitchell, Karen Filiault and Judy Condron were appointed checkers and tellers. There were a total of 9 Non-Residential guests and 195 registered voters checked at the door as follows:

PRECINCT 1- 86  
PRECINCT 2- 109

ARTICLE 1. It was moved, seconded and voted to fix, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, will vote to fix the maximum amounts that may be spent during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026 for the revolving funds established in Town by-laws, as on file and available for viewing in the office of the Town Clerk, for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to revise the same; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>FY27 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY27 Fund Balance</u>
Plumbing Inspector	\$15,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Electrical Inspector	\$10,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Tree Warden/ Planning Board	\$5,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Cemetery Department	\$2,500.00	Balance up to \$2,500.00 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Council on Aging - Transportation	\$20,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Council on Aging - Programs	\$15,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Cemetery Department	\$5,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Legal Advertising	\$3,000.00	Balance up to \$3,000 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Parks Maintenance	\$2,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Highway Department (Boom Mower)	\$9,000.00	Balance available for expenditure

ARTICLE 2. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to adopt the "Schedule of Compensation for Elected Officials" for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as follows: Moderator \$466, Town Clerk \$69371, Select Board Chair \$5336, other Select Board members \$4245 each.

PASSES

ARTICLE 3. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money, including without limitation, appropriations from Sewer User Fees, for the purpose of defraying charges and expenses and debt service in the Town's Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

<b>ARTICLE 3: TOWN OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
<b>General Government</b>			
114 Moderator			
Salary	457	466	
Expenses	100	-	
	<b>557</b>	<b>466</b>	
122 Select Board			
Salaries-Elected	21,880	22,316	
Expenses	5,300	5,025	
	<b>27,180</b>	<b>27,341</b>	
123 Town Manager			
Salaries (Town Mgr.& Exec Asst. combined)	190,719	205,704	
Expenses	5,350	4,005	
	<b>196,069</b>	<b>209,709</b>	
131 Finance Committee			
Expenses	1,685	596	
	<b>1,685</b>	<b>596</b>	
132 Reserve Fund			
Expenses	See Article #7	See Article #7	
135 Accountant			
Salary	105,451	109,255	
Expenses	12,824	12,501	
	<b>118,275</b>	<b>121,756</b>	
138 Group Purchasing			
Expenses	4,475	4,658	
	<b>4,475</b>	<b>4,658</b>	
139 Town Audit			
Expenses	-	24,000	
	-	<b>24,000</b>	
141 Assessors			
Salaries	75,318	91,583	
Expenses	62,587	46,481	
	<b>137,905</b>	<b>138,064</b>	
145 Town Treasurer			
Salaries	116,399	110,017	
Expenses	19,200	20,925	
	<b>135,599</b>	<b>130,942</b>	
146 Town Collector			
Salaries	103,772	107,743	
Expenses	17,165	16,310	
	<b>120,937</b>	<b>124,053</b>	
151 Town Counsel			
Expenses	55,000	55,000	
	<b>55,000</b>	<b>55,000</b>	
152 Telephone			
Expenses	64,800	45,705	
	<b>64,800</b>	<b>45,705</b>	
154 Recording Secretary			
Salaries	9,157	9,157	
	<b>9,157</b>	<b>9,157</b>	
157 Information Technology Services			

Expenses	66,000	93,300	
	<b>66,000</b>	<b>93,300</b>	
158 Postage			
Expenses	21,800	21,060	
	<b>21,800</b>	<b>21,060</b>	
159 Tax Title			
Expenses	2,000	2,000	
	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	
161 Town Clerk			
Salary-Elected	66,870	68,167	
Salaries	42,367	43,941	
Expenses	7,600	5,400	
	<b>116,837</b>	<b>117,508</b>	
162 Elections			
Salaries	8,281	19,913	
Expenses	8,530	10,905	
	<b>16,811</b>	<b>30,818</b>	
163 Registrars			
Salaries	10,414	10,618	
Expenses	4,000	4,000	
	<b>14,414</b>	<b>14,618</b>	
171 Conservation Commission			
Salaries	10,986	11,404	
Expenses	2,695	2,475	
	<b>13,681</b>	<b>13,879</b>	
175 Planning Board/ Board of Appeals			
Salary	60,869	63,164	
Expenses	5,725	4,700	
	<b>66,594</b>	<b>67,864</b>	
192 Buildings Maintenance			
Salary	82,501	85,417	
Expense	29,044	33,044	
	<b>111,545</b>	<b>118,461</b>	
195 Town Report			
Expenses	6,495	5,954	
	<b>6,495</b>	<b>5,954</b>	
196 Town Hall			
Salaries	13,000	13,885	
Expenses	93,180	95,180	
	<b>106,180</b>	<b>109,065</b>	
197 Central Supplies			
Expenses	20,300	20,300	
	<b>20,300</b>	<b>20,300</b>	
198 Town Advertising			
Expenses	5,000	4,000	
	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	
199 Green Committee			
Expenses	2,900	1,800	
	<b>2,900</b>	<b>1,800</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,442,196</b>	<b>1,512,074</b>	
<b>Public Safety</b>			
210 Police Department			

Salaries	1,457,744	1,481,036	
Expenses	173,339	172,759	
	<b>1,631,083</b>	<b>1,653,795</b>	
222 Communications			
Salaries	316,619	175,856	
Expenses	15,829	14,929	
	<b>332,448</b>	<b>190,785</b>	
240 Building Inspections			
Salaries	45,909	47,612	
Expenses	8,050	7,650	
	<b>53,959</b>	<b>55,262</b>	
244 Sealer of Weights & Measures			
Salary	-	-	
Expenses	1,600	750	
	<b>1,600</b>	<b>750</b>	
247 Inspector of Animals			
Salary	1,796	1,832	
	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,832</b>	
292 Animal Control			
Salaries	26,366	26,507	
Expenses	6,050	5,550	
	<b>32,416</b>	<b>32,057</b>	
293 Traffic Commission			
Expenses	1,000	900	
	<b>1,000</b>	<b>900</b>	
294 Forest Warden			
Salaries	2,600	2,600	
Expenses	3,300	3,300	
	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,900</b>	
295 Emergency Management			
Salary	12,985	13,245	
Expenses	15,171	13,750	
	<b>28,156</b>	<b>26,995</b>	
296 Shade Tree/Tree Warden			
Salary	2,761	2,865	
Expenses	40,715	38,505	
	<b>43,476</b>	<b>41,370</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,131,834</b>	<b>2,009,646</b>	
<b>Education</b>			
320 Vocational Education			
Expenses	720,599	817,473	
	<b>720,599</b>	<b>817,473</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>720,599</b>	<b>817,473</b>	
<b>Public Works</b>			
401 Town Engineer			
Expenses	25,000	25,000	
	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	
420 Highway Department			
Salaries	398,909	409,655	
Expenses	245,456	261,456	
	<b>644,365</b>	<b>671,111</b>	

423 Snow & Ice			
Salaries	38,982	40,444	
Expenses	133,610	133,610	
	<b>172,592</b>	<b>174,054</b>	
424 Streetlights			
Expenses	34,416	35,793	
	<b>34,416</b>	<b>35,793</b>	
433 Landfill Monitoring			
Salaries	2,441		
Expenses	14,811	16,634	
	<b>17,252</b>	<b>16,634</b>	
434 Transfer Station			
Salaries	50,669	36,906	
Expenses	204,844	194,844	
	<b>255,513</b>	<b>231,750</b>	
440 Sewer Maintenance (Offset Receipts)			
Salaries	118,446	124,439	
Expenses	24,800	25,050	
	<b>143,246</b>	<b>149,489</b>	
449 Wastewater Treatment (Offset Receipts)			
Salaries	965	965	
Expenses	1,660,380	2,526,325	
	<b>1,661,345</b>	<b>2,527,290</b>	
491 Cemetery Department			
Salaries	83,411	86,339	
Expenses	22,248	19,437	
	<b>105,659</b>	<b>105,776</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>3,059,388</b>	<b>3,936,897</b>	
<b>Human Services</b>			
510 Board of Health			
Salary	33,521	38,012	
Expenses	77,200	76,900	
	<b>110,721</b>	<b>114,912</b>	
522 Public Health Nurse			
Expenses	6,722	6,670	
	<b>6,722</b>	<b>6,670</b>	
541 Council on Aging			
Salaries	146,116	151,468	
Expenses	44,288	42,489	
	<b>190,404</b>	<b>193,957</b>	
543 Veterans' Services			
Expenses	102,750	75,750	
	<b>102,750</b>	<b>75,750</b>	
591 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission			
Expenses	10,662	10,662	
	<b>10,662</b>	<b>10,662</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>421,259</b>	<b>401,951</b>	
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>			
610 Library			
Salaries	159,662	164,133	
Expenses	67,805	67,805	
	<b>227,467</b>	<b>231,938</b>	

630 Parks and Recreation	<b>64,505</b>	<b>66,005</b>	
650 Parks Maintenance			
Salaries	39,528	40,836	
Expenses	21,365	21,565	
	<b>60,893</b>	<b>62,401</b>	
691 Historical Commission			
Expenses	4,500	4,460	
	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,460</b>	
692 Memorial Day Committee			
Expenses	3,200	2,000	
	<b>3,200</b>	<b>2,000</b>	
693 Cultural Activities			
Expenses	7,200	6,840	
	<b>7,200</b>	<b>6,840</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>367,765</b>	<b>373,644</b>	
<b>Debt Service</b>			
710-C Debt and Interest (Capital Imp. Program)	321,855	263,129	
	<b>321,855</b>	<b>263,129</b>	
710-DALT (Division Road)	70,109	62,424	
	<b>70,109</b>	<b>62,424</b>	
710-S&D Sewers and Drains	37,905	12,891	
	<b>37,905</b>	<b>12,891</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>429,869</b>	<b>338,444</b>	
<b>Other</b>			
911 Berkshire County Retirement Assessment			
Expenses	690,200	624,960	
	<b>690,200</b>	<b>624,960</b>	
913 Unemployment			
Expenses	6,500	6,500	
	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>	
914 Group Health Insurance			
Expenses	1,136,168	1,155,839	
	<b>1,136,168</b>	<b>1,155,839</b>	
915 Group Life Insurance			
Expenses	18,288	18,288	
	<b>18,288</b>	<b>18,288</b>	
916 Medicare			
Expenses	58,900	61,500	
	<b>58,900</b>	<b>61,500</b>	
919 Employment Benefits			
Salaries	64,180	62,180	
Expenses	2,114	2,164	
	<b>66,294</b>	<b>64,344</b>	
941 Court Judgments & Claims			
Expenses	1,500	1,500	
	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	
945 Town Insurance			
Expenses	282,834	277,400	

	<b>282,834</b>	<b>277,400</b>	
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,260,684</b>	<b>2,210,331</b>	
<b>ARTICLE 3: TOTAL</b>	<b>10,833,594</b>	<b>11,600,460</b>	

PASSES

ARTICLE 4. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,485,163 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, 2026.

PASSES

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$621,282 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, 2026.

PASSES

ARTICLE 6. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,529,099 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, 2026.

PASSES

ARTICLE 7. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, \$100,000 from free cash to the Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

PASSES

ARTICLE 8. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to transfer \$200,000 from free cash for the purpose of reducing or offsetting the expected tax rate increase in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

PASSES

ARTICLE 9. It was moved and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or otherwise provide \$50,000 for the purpose of funding professional and technical work to ensure compliance of the Berkshire Concrete Corporation with the conditions of their special permit and any other applicable Town orders.

An amendment was made as follows: That the Town appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Litigation Stabilization fund , or from any other available funds, to pay for litigation-related expenses in defense of the Town of Dalton, and the Planning Board and its members in the lawsuit brought by Berkshire County Concrete Corporation .

The amended motion was moved, seconded and voted.

PASSES

ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$347,869 from available funds to be reimbursed by a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90, Section 34 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and any other enabling statute, for the purposes of highway maintenance, repaving, and similar roadway expenditures; and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts or grant agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for such purposes as necessary.

PASSES

ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Stabilization Fund the sum of \$9,496 to pay the City of Pittsfield for the additional costs of sewage treatment in the 2025 fiscal year.

PASSES

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a sub-fund under the Capital Stabilization Fund for “Capital Equipment” and a separate sub-fund for “Road Improvements”; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

An amended motion was made as follows: I vote to amend Article twelve’s motion that the Town vote to establish a stabilization fund for “Capital Equipment” and another stabilization fund for “Road Improvements”.

The amended motion was moved, seconded and voted.  
(Two thirds required)

PASSES

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash, the sum of \$118,000 for MS4 Stormwater permit consulting services.

PASSES

ARTICLE 14. It was moved and seconded to transfer the following amounts from free cash to the following stabilization funds: \$200,000 to the General Stabilization Fund, \$200,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$125,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund (Capital Equipment), \$200,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund (Road Improvements), \$0 into the Litigation Stabilization Fund, and \$300,000 to the Sewer Stabilization Fund.

A motion to amend Article 14 was made as follows: I move that the Town transfers the following amounts from free cash to the following stabilization funds: \$200,000 to the General Stabilization Fund, \$200,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$125,000 to the Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund, \$200,000 to the Road Improvement Stabilization Fund, \$0 into the Litigation Stabilization Fund, and \$300,000 to the Sewer Stabilization Fund.

The amended motion was moved, seconded and voted.

PASSES

ARTICLE 15. It was moved and seconded that the Town transfer \$100,000 from the Capital Stabilization Road Improvement Sub fund to pay for road work including shimming, and \$75,000 from the Capital Stabilization Equipment Sub fund to pay for the cost of purchasing a new Scag Mower and Bobcat Chipper for the Department of Public Works for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

A motion to amend Article 15 was made as follows: I move that the Town Transfers \$100,000 from the Road Improvement Stabilization Fund to pay for road work including shimming and \$75,000 from the Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund to pay for the cost of purchasing a new Scag mower and Bobcat chipper for the Department of Public Works for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

The amended motion was moved, seconded and voted.

PASSES

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unutilized balance of several prior years’ borrowing authorizations for completed capital improvement projects; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION

ARTICLE 17. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54, and establish a personal property tax exemption for any personal property valued at \$1,000 or less, beginning in Fiscal Year 2027.

PASSES

ARTICLE 18. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under the motion for Article 29 of the warrant for the May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated funds to the Dalton Cemetery Trustees for the purpose of repairing hazardous gravestones, and further to transfer the remaining balance of said appropriation to the Dalton Cemetery Trustees for the purpose of completing cemetery improvements.

PASSES

ARTICLE 19. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 138, section 12D, permitting the Select Board to allow on-premises wine and malt beverages license holders to trade in their license for a non-transferable on-premises all alcoholic beverages license.

PASSES

ARTICLE 20. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under the motion for Article 23 of the warrant for the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated the sum of \$238,000 to the Building and Grounds Department for the purpose of completing plumbing repairs at Town Hall; and further to appropriate the sum of \$238,000 to the Building and Grounds Department for the purpose of completing HVAC and plumbing improvements at Town Hall; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 21. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 59, and Chapter 23A, Sections 3E and 3F, and the applicable regulations thereunder, to approve a Tax Increment Financing Agreement, between the Town, DKA Realty, LLC and Sinicon Plastics Inc., for the property located at 455 West Housatonic St., Dalton, Massachusetts, being Assessor's Map 113, Lot 98, which TIF Agreement provides for a real estate tax exemption at the exemption rate schedule set forth therein; and to authorize the Select Board to execute the TIF Agreement, and any documents related thereto, and to take such other actions as necessary or appropriate carry out the purposes of this article.

PASSES

ARTICLE 22. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53F½ establishing the sewer department as an Enterprise Fund, effective Fiscal Year 2027; or take any other action related thereto."

PASSES

ARTICLE 23. by citizen petition

To see if the Town will amend the Town By-law 350-5 to add "A movable tiny house is a transportable structure built on a chassis designed for year-round living when served by an approved energy and water source and wastewater system; has not less than 150 and no more than 400 square feet of habitable living space, excluding lofts, projections from bay windows, open desks, porches or exterior utility and storage compartments; is designed and built using conventional residential building materials to any single- or two-family dwelling shall be authorized by special permit from the Special Permit Granting Authority provided it meets all of the following conditions for residential placement: (a) requires site plan review; (b) is licensed and registered with the local Registry of Motor Vehicles; (c) meets the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A119.5 or NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1192 safety requirements; (d) is certified by a manufacturer or third-party inspector for ANSI or NFPA compliance and the International Residential Code (IRC) Appendix Q;(e) cannot move under its own power: (f) the undercarriage (wheels, axles, tongue and hitch) shall be hidden from view; (g) is secured by ground anchors that meet weight and height requirements (h) must sit on a level gravel or paved surface."

The Selectboard votes to take no action, explaining the Petition needs to go to the Planning Board first.

ARTICLE 24. by citizen petition

To see if the Town will amend the Town By-law 350.39.1 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) to add “a movable tiny house” to B. Definitions following “a unit that is part of an accessory structure,” and before “or a unit that is part of an expanded or remodeled primary dwelling.”

The Selectboard votes to take no action, explaining the Petition needs to go to the Planning Board first.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will recess until MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 at 11:00 O’CLOCK A.M. to 7:00 O’CLOCK P.M. to meet in the DALTON SENIOR CENTER, 40 Field Street Extension in Dalton, MA, to choose and elect the following Town officers and the determination of such other matters as are by law required to be determined by ballot:

- |     |                          |             |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------|
| (2) | MEMBER SELECT BOARD      | FOR 3 YEARS |
| (1) | MODERATOR                | FOR 1 YEAR  |
| (1) | CEMETERY TRUSTEE         | FOR 3 YEARS |
| (2) | MEMBER PLANNING BOARD    | FOR 3 YEARS |
| (2) | LIBRARY TRUSTEES         | FOR 3 YEARS |
| (1) | MEMBER FINANCE COMMITTEE | FOR 3 YEARS |

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Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather A. Hunt, Town Clerk

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Date