

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

January 15, 2013 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Michael Oltedal, Steve Jones

Absent:

Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Dylan Baker, Jim Salsgiver (Dorset Energy Committee), Ellen Maloney (Dorset Energy Committee), Tyler Yandow (Zoning Administrator), Robert Menson, Joan Menson, Bruce Meachem, Beth Meachem, Kay Manly, David Wilson, Danny Pinsonault, Bill Strecker (Manchester Skate Park Committee), Mike Feron (GNAT-TV), Huck Gibson (Manchester Skate Park Committee)

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. M. Oltedal moved and M. Freed seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss contracts. Motion carried 5-0. Executive Session ended at 7:00 p.m. with no decisions announced. The regular Select Board meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes of December 18, 2012

M. Freed requested that minutes from the Black Rock site visit be added to the December 18, 2012 minutes. Corrections were also requested:

- Page 2 ~ Paragraph title should read “Public Comment” with the word “None” underneath
- Page 2 ~ Paragraph title should read “Town Report Preparation & Dedication” with notes underneath.
- Page 2 & 3 ~ last sentence should read as: M. Oltedal asked if there was any money previously allocated to the *grand list* preservation as he thought this was discussed in the past. R. Gaiotti responded that it was not addressed previously as the grand lists are only in ledger books.
- Page 5 ~ clarification for employee health insurance – *It was the consensus of the Select Board members to raise the employee participation amount for their health insurance benefits to 7% (seven percent).*

M. Freed moved and M. Oltedal seconded to table the December 18, 2012 minutes pending corrections and additions as listed. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

C. Brooks noted that comments would be allowed during the Public Hearing for the FY 14 Municipal Budget.

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cc: Listers, Planning, Zoning, Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, Foreman, and School Board
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D. Wilson asked about the status of the tree removal in front of Transtar LLC and C. Brooks replied that they are trying to find out who removed the trees and if there is any recourse. D. Wilson commented that Bruce Waite had told him that he had cut the trees along Route 30. R. Gaiotti believed that the trees were removed for site distance safety reasons for trucks pulling out onto Route 30. M. Freed noted that if the trees were replaced, site distance safety must be considered. C. Brooks assured D. Wilson that the issue is on the “front burner.”

Beth Meachem informed the Board that there are water issues in Dorset and understands that the Select Board does not have any say over the matter, but wanted to bring them up-to-date with what is happening. She felt there is an ongoing breakdown of the governance in the Town of Dorset as in the past three and one-half weeks, they have been struggling with water issues and broken water lines historically considered to be a road line. She felt that the people in charge did not know what they were doing in the oversight of these important facilities in the community and have no regard for the inconvenience to the taxpayers. It was noted that they understood people were busy with the holidays and unavailable to address the issue, but the Water Department was asked previously to map the Town lines so they could understand the water situation. She felt the taxpayers deserve services for the tax amounts paid. It was discovered that for the past four months Dorset has been losing its natural water resources through leaking and no one is staying on top of it or know line locations or how to fix them. There is also poor communication about boiling water notifications. B. Meachem felt the Water Department is not acting responsibility or in a legal fashion and are functioning on verbal historical data without written documentation. Residents feel powerless to change things the way they are done. It was noted that she had a shut-off valve located under her house due to bad zoning decisions made in the 1970's and she never knew it was there and no one wants to take responsibility. Bruce Meachem stated that from March 24 through June 9, 2012 the Water Department was hemorrhaging approximately 125,000 to 150,000 gallons of water which they are just starting to fix. He felt this was negligence and waste of a natural resource. Beth Meachem stated that she felt the Select Board was the governing body for the community and understands the Prudential Committee controls the water, but as a community she questions who runs the show where. C. Brooks noted that by State law, the Select Board has no power over the Prudential Committee. He suggested organizing and holding meetings for the residents in the water district and also attending the Prudential Committee meetings as they are elected officials who should be answering to the residents. Beth Meachem remarked that it was unfortunate that there is an inability for this Town to work together causing a breakdown in the community ~ two separate fire/water districts. C. Brooks responded that the Town voted to keep the current system. Beth Meachem encouraged educating the residents.

Planning Commisiiion Interview (Kay Manley)

K. Manly explained that she had attended the last PC meeting and was involved with the DRB for her house renovations. She noted that she did not have much experience with planning, but was interested in all aspects of it. C. Brooks asked if she would be able to sit in review for applications, listen to the involved parties and decide if they are in compliance according to the rules and regulations. K. Manly responded that she would be able to be impartial. M. Oltedal moved and M. Freed seconded to appoint

Kay Manly to fill Connie Ferguson's position on the Planning Board until April 2013. Motion carried 5-0

Energy Coordinator Update

J. Salsgiver reviewed the Town Report document:

- LED Street Lights for the Town: Upgrades completed as of January 2013
- Recycling & Solid Waste: Coordination between the BCRC and the Town of Dorset for recycling and waste. There are now two electronic and hazardous waste recycling events being held at the Dorset School.
- PACE: The program is in place and waiting for Efficiency Vermont funding. The State has provided a special 2.99% interest rate to be available for qualified residents.
- Park & Ride: E. Maloney noted that Dorset, Manchester, BCRC and the State have been working on determining if improvements can be made to park and ride facilities. The State has agreed to improve one location in Manchester and they are hoping to find a location in Dorset.
- Model Energy Overview & Plan: The Committee is working with J. Sullivan of the BCRC to develop an overview of Dorset's energy resources, uses and plans for the future.
- RBES (Residential Building Energy Standards): Energy standards have been in place since 1997, but have not had any compliance requirements. They were recently updated in 2011 and the State is obligated to achieve 90% compliance by February 1, 2017. The Committee, working with the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission & Town Manager, is trying to create a low impact approach for local compliance. T. Yandow referenced his memo of August 27, 2012 outlining ZA inspections and fees for RBES for renovations or new construction. The certification, if not done, can hold up house sales in the future. M. Freed asked if items 1 through 4 on the memo coincide with the list #2 "a" through "d" on the zoning permit instructions. T. Yandow responded they were not exactly the same, but the four points on the instructions are more accurate on how things get built ~ the lists have the same intent. Discussion ensued regarding seminars, contractors, grandfathered buildings and attorneys handling house sales. E. Maloney commented that education is necessary to make this clear to everyone ahead of time. S. Jones asked about the State requirements needed and J. Salsgiver replied that there was a detailed handbook. C. Brooks suggested that the SB be given time to read the handbook before voting on instituting RBES for zoning applications. T. Yandow clarified the fee increase of \$75 to \$175 by noting that it may be beneficial to structure the wording as a minimum of four visits at \$25 per visit.

Public Hearing FY14 Municipal Budget

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:45 p.m. by C. Brooks who informed the audience that public comment would be welcome as the budget could still be changed at this point.

- Bill Strecker of the Manchester Skate Park Committee explained that his committee is seeking funding for the Skate Park project from Dorset residents. C. Brooks suggested that the Committee fill out a petition and get signatures so that an article for funds can be placed on the

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Dorset warning for the residents to vote on. S. Pinsonault explained that they will need 85 signatures and the deadline for submission is January 24, 2013. She also suggested they attend the Town Meeting in order to pass out brochures and speak on the subject.

- S. Pinsonault noted that she had originally requested \$15,000 for document restoration which was cut to \$5,000. She is requesting that the SB consider at least \$10,000 for this year as the Grand List documents up to 1926 are deteriorating and the price will probably go up next year. From 1960 to 1980, the records are on dot matrix sheets which she should be able to do herself and would only need to purchase binders. The 1980 and forward records would be less expensive to do. C. Brooks asked about the Mormon Church research that was done and if it were possible to capture their data and S. Pinsonault noted that this was not done while she was Town Clerk as she would not have allowed it. M. Connors noted that he had suggested \$5,000 to spread the costs over a few years and had not understood the immediacy of the situation.
- R. Gaiotti informed the Board that H. Beebe was requesting an additional \$100 (for a total of \$600) to fund the Dorset old cemeteries.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:57 p.m. R. Gaiotti noted that there might be a new voter approved appropriation of \$2,500 for Turning Point Center of Bennington. The Total Municipal Tax line with the above additions would be \$1,381,324. M. Connors moved and M. Oltedal seconded to approve the request for \$10,000 for the Town Clerk Grand List Preservation Project line item and to increase by \$100 to a total of \$600 for the Old Cemetery Maintenance line item. Motion carried 5-0.

M. Freed moved and M. Oltedal seconded to approve the FY14 Municipal Budget as presented and amended above. Motion carried 5-0.

Town Meeting Warning & Town Meeting Preparation

R. Gaiotti presented the Select Board/Town Manager report, thank you page, dedication information and Town warning for review. He also informed the Board that according to a floor vote on Article 10 in 2010 all non-profit funding requests are voted from the floor of the meeting.

C. Brooks asked if there were any more suggestions for the Town Report dedication as the only one submitted was the Ketchum's. D. Pinsonault noted that there may be reasons for the Ketchum dedication, but pointed out that the Ketchum lawsuit cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars and suggested someone else like the Menon's. C. Brooks commented that the Board was running out of time and the Ketchum's did have an impact on the Town and a balanced approach would be taken. It was suggested by S. Pinsonault that Malcolm Cooper and Alan Calfee be considered for their work on the Pinnacle. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to include Barbara & Dick Ketchum, Malcolm Cooper and Alan Calfee in the dedication for the Town Report.

It was noted that currently the following positions were unfilled: Town Moderator, Grand Juror (East & West Sides), Auditors (3) and Constables. . M. Freed suggested listing this on the Town web site. The 2013 Warning was reviewed with the following changes:

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- Article 2 ~ add Lister..... 2 year term
- Article 4 ~ add the word “clearly” before the word postmarked
- Article 5 ~ add the word “clearly” before the word postmarked
- Article 17 ~ at the end of the sentence add “(totaling \$18,000)”

C. Brooks noted that the SB would wait for all petitions to be submitted as they would like to see the final document before signing the warning.

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti reported that they were 55% through the year. The Emerald Lake invoice of approximately \$8,000 was paid and the salt supply has been replenished. The Town is still waiting for the school use facility fee invoice. 58% has been expended with a large transfer to the sinking fund. Delinquent taxes stand at \$85,000 with two properties accounting for half the amount.

Manager’s Report

R. Gaiotti informed the Board as follows:

- Highway ~ trucking winter sand; discussions on a garage facility to store sand and salt; tree work and vehicle maintenance
- Miscellaneous ~ a bike rack has been placed at the back of the Town office obtained through a State grant; coordination of initial meetings to discuss a growth study project funded through a State grant

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 5/25/12

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 01-15-13 as presented.

Other Business

1. Letter from J. Mirenda regarding speeding on Mad Tom Road. C. Brooks asked if R. Gaiotti has spoken to the State Police about patrols and R. Gaiotti responded yes, the patrols are being increased.
2. Highway Mileage Certificate ~ R. Gaiotti noted that the Kelly Road changes will be reported on next year’s certificate. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the Highway Mileage Certificate as presented.
3. Public comment on the recertification of the Casella Transfer Station is open until January 25th.
4. Select Board Meeting for next month will be on February 19, 2013.

M. Freed moved and M. Oltedal seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 1/15/13
 Regular Meeting X
 Special Meeting

(Please Print)

Name	Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
Dylan Baker		Manchester Journal	NO
JIM SALSGIVER	DORSET VT	Dorset Energy Com	YES
Ellen McLoney	E. Dorset	" " "	?
TYLER YARROW	DORSET	Town	YES
ROBERT MENSON	DORSET	SELF	?
JOAN MENSON	DORSET	SELF	?
BRUCE MERRIFIELD	DORSET	SELF	?
BETH MEACHEM	DORSET	SELF	?
Kate Manly	DORSET	SELF	?
David Wilson	Dorset	Self	NO
Danny Pinsonault	E Dorset	self	NO
BILL STRECKER	DORSET	COMMITTEE MANCHESTER SKATE PARK	YES
MIKE FERON	SUNDEMANND	CINAT-TV	NO
Huck Gibson	Manchester	Manchester Skatopark committee	?