

# Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

## October 16, 2012 ~ Minutes

Present: Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Michael Oltedal,  
Absent: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Steve Jones  
Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Ben Weiss (Manchester Rescue Squad), Seline Skoug (Manchester Rescue Squad), Rosanna Moran (The Dorset School), Danny Pinsonault

Executive Session began at 6:00 p.m. to discuss legal issues and contracts and ended at 7:30 p.m. with no decisions completed. M. Freed, Vice-Chairperson, called the public meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### Approve Minutes of September 25, 2012

M. Oltedal moved and M. Connors seconded to approve the September 25, 2012 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

### Public Comment

R. Moran, Principal of The Dorset School, showed pictures of the new school playground and presented letters of appreciation from the students. The playground has been transformed from a barren, unused landscape to a colorful and much enjoyed play space for the children. All involved are grateful for the Select Board's support.

### Manchester Rescue Squad Update

B. Weiss, Board Member of the Manchester Rescue Squad, was present to ask for an increase in the annual funding from Dorset. Six towns are currently served by the Rescue Squad and share in the annual funding which only covers approximately 5-7% of the expenses; along with insurance billing and the Town of Manchester who funds \$15,000 plus in-kind services of \$285,000. The Squad is a non-profit agency and ran a deficit last year which was covered by a small endowment. The Town of Manchester will be reducing its contribution in the coming years due to the amount given of in-kind services. Service calls for Dorset were about 19% and, many times, one-third of the calls cannot be invoiced. The Rescue Squad is asking for an increase from \$12,000 per year to \$18,000. M. Freed asked if the letter to residents asking for coverage support is a fundraiser and B. Weiss responded that it was considered a subscription service. S. Skoug explained that the subscription service helps to pay for the budgetary gap. An increase in calls has led to an increase in medical supplies and other expenses. The Squad has partnered with Southwestern Vermont Medical Center; there are two crews and new members take classes. M. Freed noted that when a full Board is present, they will take this into

consideration. R. Gaiotti noted that the SB can place an article on the ballot for the increase or a petition can be circulated to the residents.

### **FY14 Municipal Budget Workshop**

R. Gaiotti presented an outline for the Town of Dorset Fiscal Year 2014 Workshop (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014) which covered the topics of:

- Goals ~ benchmarks in budget; project identification & prioritization; funding costs; anticipated funds available
- Projects ~ Morse Hill Road paving; Town property reappraisal; truck replacement; Danby Mountain Road paving; Town office projects (fence; sink installation; walkway repair)
- Factors ~ Town Grand List; Education Fund; Healthcare in Vermont

R. Gaiotti noted that the eastern side of Morse Hill Road was still functioning, but is deteriorating and is one of the most heavily traveled roads in Town. The State is projecting a short fall in the education fund of \$50 million which would increase the tax rate by approximately five to six cents; the VLCT is keeping the Towns informed on this situation. There is currently not a lot of information on the health care plan which takes effect by 2014 – the Town will know the health care costs for the first six months of the budget, but not the last six months. The Board reviewed the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for Highway Equipment and Paved Roads spreadsheets. A draft budget will be created for the next SB meeting for review.

### **Finance Report**

R. Gaiotti reported that the budget is tracking at approximately 36% with the County Tax paid and winter sand being up to date with reserves. M. Freed asked about the Regional Planning category and R. Gaiotti responded that the original number was incorrect as it was not updated for the calculation based on new census data for per capita.

The Select Board members were given copies of the Auditor's report for review. R. Gaiotti stated that page 5 ~ Fund Financial Analysis lists the unassigned fund balance (surplus) and discussion ensued regarding the use of portions of the surplus for the completion of Morse Hill Road paving and tax reduction.

### **Manager's Report**

- Waiting for the State to do the line striping for some of the roads and bid requests for the remainder of the striping will go out soon.
- Peace Street & Lower Hollow Road bridge guard rails have been completed. Painting work to be scheduled.
- Town Office walkway repairs
- Emerald Lake beach work has been started and the Road Crew helped with the Town Green clean-up. Volunteers are redesigning the landscaping on the green.

- A bicycle rack is to be placed behind the Town office which was made possible by a small grant from VTrans.
- R. Gaiotti attended a VLCT workshop on managing municipal budgets & assets.

**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 10/16/12 as presented.

**Other Business**

- R. Gaiotti will issue a press release about JISP discounts
- It was suggested to move the November SB meeting to November 13<sup>th</sup> if agreeable for all members. R. Gaiotti is to check the availability of S. Jones and C. Brooks.

M. Oltedal moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

# Town of Dorset ~ Zoning Board of Adjustment

Date 10 / 16 / 12

Regular Meeting X

Special Meeting       

**(Please Print)**

Name	Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
BEN WISS	154 STRUCK LN DORSET VT 05251	MANCHESTER RESCUE SQUAD	?
Jelnie Skoug	322 VT RTE 313 Anlington VT	Manchester Rescue SQUAD	
Roseanna Moran	990 Janby Mtn Rd	The Dorset School	Yes
Danny Pinsonault	1669 Dorset Vermont	myself	