

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

November 15, 2011 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Michael Oltedal
Absent: Brad Tyler
Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Benjamin Mithoefer, Christopher Bowlen, Sarah Crepeau, Scot Proft, Joan Menson, Robert Menson, Dany McKinley (USFS), Scott Wixsom (USFS), Jim Salsgiver (Energy Committee), Jim Hand (Energy Committee), Ellen Maloney (Energy Committee)

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approve Minutes of October 25, 2011

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to approve the October 25, 2011 minutes as presented.
Motion carried 3-0 (C. Brooks – abstained).

Energy Coordinator Quarterly Update

J. Hand, Energy Coordinator, reported on:

- LED Street Lights for the Town ~ installation of LED street lighting will be energy efficient and cost saving for Dorset. Project date is unknown at this point. M. Freed asked if this would give a different type of light and J. Salsgiver responded that it would be a whiter light and do a better job.
- LED/T12 Lighting Program ~ working with Efficiency Vermont to help Dorset businesses with changing over to more efficient lighting. Changing from T12 to T8 or T5 florescent lighting and track lighting to LED. J. Hand noted that the LED lighting has the benefit of longer life and no mercury. J. Salsgiver commented that the LED lighting does not get extremely hot as halogen lighting does which would not require additional air conditioning in the summer.
- The Dorset School ~ LED wall packs were installed at the school which should give significant energy savings.
- Recycling ~ there has not been much progress with the recycling proposal with Casella. There were two recycling events at the Dorset School which were successful.
- RBES ~ the Committee is working with T. Yandow and the PC on the Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) which has been in effect since 1997 and updated recently by the Legislature. New home construction or major renovations that are built to code should be recorded with the Town Clerk. M. Freed asked whose responsibility it would be for enforcement and J. Hand replied that it has not been decided who will pay for the inspections, check the process done or make sure the information is registered with the Town Clerk. M. Connors remarked that he thought the general contractor was responsible and E. Maloney answered that

many contractors are not aware of the regulations yet. T. Yandow will be putting together an information packet and checklist for applicants. Discussion ensued regarding taxing of energy/fuel oil based on RBES and a survey which did not reach the proper people.

- PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) ~ program to assist residents with financing for energy saving updates on their homes. J. Salsgiver noted that the program has been defined better and if the Town sets up a PACE program, they do not have to do it; but if they do, Efficiency Vermont will do all the work necessary to participate. The program is not finalized yet, but is becoming more attractive to Towns. J. Hand stated that there will be a workshop on November 30th at 6:30 p.m. for energy saving information with Efficiency Vermont speakers. PACE is a voter approved item and the Committee will let the SB know about placing this on the ballot.

Forest Service: Tower Road Culvert

D. McKinley and S. Wixsom were present to report that the Forest Service would like to work with the Town on a culvert on Tower Road as part of the Dorset/Peru Resource Project. The objective is to reconnect aquatic habitats by replacing the culvert with a bottomless arch structure which makes the stream crossing invisible to aquatic organisms and is effective during flooding. It is designed to fail less frequently than a pipe design and has a 50-100 year life span. These culverts are expensive to install and the Forest Service will find funding, but would like to work with the Town using in-kind service (site work, rip-rap, etc.). D. McKinley noted that they will have the project description finished by December and it will be given out to the people for comment. It was the consensus of the Select Board members that they thought the new culvert was a good idea.

Other Business

B. Mithoefer explained that CVPS plans to install smart meters – wireless, digital meters – to monitor electric usage which will send wireless microwave transmissions and allow internet monitoring. Concern was expressed for emissions and privacy. In response to C. Brook's question about the Energy Committee looking into the meters, J. Salsgiver commented that CVPS has had a person speak about these meters and CVPS believes that it would reduce usage and help to deal with outages quicker. M. Oltedal noted that currently there are more questions than answers. B. Mithoefer stated that these meters will be installed in Bennington and Rutland in January/February and he was hoping the SB would research the issue before it happens in Dorset. S. Creapeau said that there was not a lot of public knowledge about smart meters, but there are possible health, cost and privacy issues. B. Mithoefer commented that it would cost extra to opt out of the program and it was important to be aware of the constant microwave radiation exposure at your home, especially to children. He also mentioned that since the meters were wireless, the privacy of what you are doing in your household could be invaded by hackers. C. Brooks stated that research would be done on smart meters.

FY2013 Municipal Budget Workshop

R. Gaiotti presented the first draft of the FY2013 budget saying that it was the intent to hold the budgetary line as much as possible, but still provide the same services. There is a 1.9% total increase to the budget. Discussion was had on the following:

- VLCT – 30% increase in fee due to increased operating expenses

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cc: Listers, Planning, Zoning, Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, Foreman, and School Board
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- Town Clerk – 35% increase in Assistant line item
- Meetings & Elections – increase due to Presidential election year
- Listers – firmer numbers will be known in mid- December after receiving State figures
- Town Office Building – anticipate higher fuel oil costs & prioritize maintenance projects
- Public Safety (Law Enforcement) – increased costs to cover LED speed signs for the Villages and possible Trooper salary increase
- Public Safety (Street Lighting) – decreased line item due to LED upgrades
- Insurance & Bonds (Health Insurance) – decreased line item due to changing to Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan which is less expensive, but has a similar structure as previous insurance
- Insurance & Bonds (Unemployment Insurance) – new line item for self-insurance for unemployment rather than purchasing insurance from the VLCT.
- General Services (Green Maintenance) – increase due to replacement benches needed. M. Freed suggested using the recreation fund to cover the new benches.
- General Services (Landfill/Recycle) – line item was lowered as recycling revenue is rebounding a little
- Budgeted Appropriations (Dorset Fire Dispatch Contract) – waiting for a confirmed budget figure
- Equipment Fund - \$95,000 budgeted for an excavator and trailer for purchase next summer
- Town Sheds (Electricity) – LED upgrades to Town sheds should show some cost savings
- Equipment Maintenance (Fuel) – line item increased by \$10,000 due to increased fuel costs
- Highways & Road Maintenance – level funded except for chloride
- Voter Approved Appropriations – increased by 1.7%. C. Brooks asked about the school use funding and J. Salsgiver reported that the School Board will have their budgetary meeting next week.
- Revenues (Zoning Income) – line item has been lowered as Zoning income has dropped
- Town Clerk Fees – line item has gone up
- Interest Revenue – line item has been increased
- Traffic fines – line item has been reduced. R. Gaiotti is to check the tracking of tickets.

R. Gaiotti informed the Board that the employees have reviewed the new Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance plan and they felt comfortable with it. Discussion ensued regarding cost percentages to the Town and employees.

Finance Report

The Delinquent Tax stands at \$90,000 with one bank owned property to be auctioned in December and leaving five properties for future tax sale. R. Gaiotti reported on fuel oil, truck maintenance, winter sand, salt solution and gravel purchases, payment of School use fee and Irene monies to be received to cover overtime wages. There is \$5,000 left in the recreation fund, but Emerald Lake State Park has not given their final numbers yet. The Fall recreation program includes basketball and the Winter program will include Riley Rink.

Manager's Report

- The Mad Tom Road retaining wall is almost finished. Guard rails need to be installed and the Crew will try to do some landscaping.
- HP Fairfield Company has denied the extended warranty on the mower/tractor. Current warranty is two years or 4,000 hours.
- R. Gaiotti has finished the Vermont Local Roads Management Academy.
- Casella has invited Town officials to their new zero sort recycling facility in Rutland for a grand opening ceremony.
- Sunderland would like to be added to the ISWAP agreement which currently includes Dorset, Manchester, Rupert and Arlington. It was the consensus of the SB members to sign the ISWAP memo to include Sunderland in the multiple Town ISWAP agreement.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 11/15/11

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 11/15/11 as presented.

Other Business

1. It was the consensus of the SB members to approve an Access Permit on Lane Road which has been previously approved by J. Hewes, Road Crew Foreman.
2. J. Salsgiver reported that the Dorset Parent Volunteer group has donated \$2,000 to the school recreation facility fund which will supplement the Town money of \$10,000 and grant money from the State of \$12,000. Hopefully, the school will be notified soon as to the availability of funding if there has not been a lot of Irene storm damages to schools.
3. B. Mithoefer thanked the SB for their effects to seriously look at the smart meter issues.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. Executive session ended at 9:25 p.m. with no decisions made.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 11/15/11
 Regular Meeting X
 Special Meeting _____

(Please Print)

Name	Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
Benjamin Mithcofer	646 Dorset VT 05251	^{No} Smart Meter	Yes
Christopher Baulin	576 Dorset VT 05251	Smart meter	Yes
Sarah Crepeau	330 Church St 05251	Smart meter issue	Yes
Scott Proft	Dorset Hill Rd.	Smart meter issue	Y/N
JOAN MENSEN	1131 RT 30 DORSET		
ROBERT MENSEN	" " " "		
Dan McKinley	231 No. Main St. Rutland	USFS	Yes
Scott Wixson	2538 Depot St. Manchester	USFS	Yes
JIM SALSBERG	243 Nichols Hill DORSET	Self / DEC	N
JIM HAND	Morse Hill Dorset	Energy Council	Yes
Ellen Maloney	3585 Mt. Tom S. Dorset	Energy Committee	Yes