

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

March 20, 2012 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Steve Jones
Absent: Michael Oltedal
Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Justine Cook, Danny Pinsonault, Sandy Pinsonault (Town Clerk), John LaVecchia (ZBA), Brent Herrmann (PC), Dale Baker (ZBA), Marilyn Kinney, Mike Feron (GNAT-TV)

Organizational Meeting

R. Gaiotti opened the Organizational Meeting at 6:34 p.m. asking for nominations to elect the Select Board officers. M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to nominate Chris Brooks for Chairman. M. Freed expressed concern, which has been voiced before, about having public comment during the whole meeting which does not allow the five-member Board to execute Town business in a timely manner. Public input is welcome, but she hopes that having a specific period of time for input will help the Board in decision making. C. Brooks asked if the public comment would be at the beginning of the meeting and ended at that time. M. Freed responded that public input would be ended, unless the SB approves to allow public input at another time to help with making a decision. S. Jones noted that this assumes the public comment would be about a past or current agenda. M. Freed said that public comment could be anything pertaining to the Town. R. Gaiotti noted that a more detailed agenda might help and M. Freed remarked that agendas are posted and people can comment at the beginning of the meeting (Robert's Rules). R. Gaiotti added that there could be time for voicing comments under the Other Business agenda item if the SB approves or the issue can be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. M. Connors asked what would happen if the people do not have all the information in order to make comments at the beginning of the meeting. C. Brooks suggested the Board try having public comment at the beginning of the meeting and re-opening the discussion again at a later date. It was the consensus of the Board members to have public comment only at the beginning of the meetings. Motion carried 3-0 (C. Brooks abstained) to nominate C. Brooks as Chairman of the Select Board.

C. Brooks moved and M. Connors seconded to nominate M. Freed as Vice Chairperson. M. Freed noted that she would be happy to be Vice Chairperson as long as she had sufficient notice to chair a meeting when necessary. Motion carried 3-0 (M. Freed abstained).

R. Gaiotti outlined the Town's 2012 Goals as listed in attached sheet. Additional comments about this document were:

- C. Brooks who inquired about the cost of moving paving equipment back to the school if it is not done at the same time as Morse Hill Road. R. Gaiotti did not think that Dorset would receive another grant this year, but possibility next year which would allow for the school area paving.
- M. Freed asked about creating a parking area next to the Post Office as previously talked about in order to encourage vehicles to not park on Route 30. R. Gaiotti replied that if the Fire Department deeds the land to the Town, then this discussion could move

forward.

- C. Brooks asked about the Emerald Lake project proceeding this summer and R. Gaiotti hoped to accomplish something before they opened.
- M. Connors asked about swim lessons at Emerald Lake and R. Gaiotti said they were trying to head in that direction.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the Organizational Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the Regular Select Board meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Approve Minutes of February 20, 2012

M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to approve the February 20, 2012 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0 (S. Jones abstained).

Public Comment

C. Brooks invited public comment about the agenda or any other items of concern. J. Cook asked if the letter for the smart meters would be available to the public. C. Brooks responded yes. J. Cook suggested that the Town meeting alternate each year from a Monday evening meeting to a weekend meeting to make it more convenient for people with children to attend. M. Freed noted that Manchester held Saturday and Monday evening meetings so that the meetings were not too long. S. Pinsonault remarked that Manchester may change back to one meeting and that the DPV had offered babysitting for younger children to encourage parents to come to the Monday night meeting. She also pointed out that many people work on Saturdays and they would not be able to attend.

S. Pinsonault noted that the Town might not want to invest too much money paving an area next to the Post Office as many of these facilities are being closed and she would not be surprised if eventually all mail would be handled in Manchester. S. Pinsonault suggested that the SB consider having a microphone on the table so that conversations can be heard on the GNAT-TV recordings. M. Freed has also heard complaints from people about not being able to hear the conversations. C. Brooks noted that this will be discussed.

D. Pinsonault commented that he understands the new public comment policy as it is difficult for Boards to be productive if constantly interrupted, but felt that the SB should have a written explanation of the procedure available so that everyone can understand it. He also felt this might be valuable to pass on to the ZBA and the PC.

Appoint Town Service Officer

M. Freed moved to appoint Ellen Maloney as the Town Service Officer in light of her experience, dedication and service to the Town and M. Connors seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Smart Meters Letter

A draft letter regarding the outcome of the Town vote for smart meters which is to be forwarded to Susan Hudson of the Vermont Public Service Board was read and amended by the SB. The following change was made in the second sentence: *“therefore a majority of those voting*

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti passed around the delinquent tax list noting that it was similar to last year at a little over \$400,000. Notices were mailed again today and he expected more payments to be sent in soon. S. Jones asked for an explanation of how tax delinquencies work and R. Gaiotti explained that taxes are delinquent after the second payment each year and he tries to develop payment plans for taxpayers to pay down the delinquency. Small claims court can also be used along with tax sales if the homeowner is not responsive. Discussion ensued regarding publishing delinquent taxpayer's names in the Town Report with R. Gaiotti noting that the publication of names was historic and the list is public knowledge. State tax payments were explained and C. Brooks noted that it was not common to forgive interest and penalty fees. The members reviewed the finance report with comments made about equipment repairs, fuel, road budgets, mud season, gravel roads and salt reserves. M. Freed asked about the payments to PAVE and R. Gaiotti is to look into the payments (Email from R. Gaiotti attached). S. Jones asked about the health insurance for previous employees and R. Gaiotti responded that an agreement had been made with these employees in the 1980's. S. Pinsonault stated that she was over budget for the Assistant Town Clerk budget line item, but the total Town Clerk budget would be under or very close to the budgeted amount. S. Pinsonault will be taking vacation and conference time out of the office and the Assistant will be covering this time. S. Pinsonault noted that in 2005, the full time Assistant budget was cut to half of what she had. M. Freed asked how the item would be covered and S. Pinsonault responded the line items of supplies and record preservation. R. Gaiotti stated that they were 72% through the year with 74% expended.

Approve Accounts Payable for the Week of 3/20/12

It was the consensus of the Select Board members to approve the 3/20/12 accounts payable as presented.

Manger's Report

R. Gaiotti reported on roadways and miscellaneous as follows:

- Minor storm clean-up ~ Danby Mountain Road, Kelleher Road & Dusty Hollow. M. Connors asked about the fabric on Danby Mountain Road and R. Gaiotti stated that they have been discussing new uses of fabric. It was noted that there is a lot of ground water in Dorset.
- Mud season work, tree work & vehicle maintenance
- Kelly Road ~ shoulder work, ditch filling & re-grading to try to keep the travelled way open during the summer. M. Connors suggested extending the shoulders to the maximum allowed. C. Brooks stated that if the extension is done and someone blocks the roadway, they should be fined or towed as this work is being paid by the taxpayers for private parking. R. Gaiotti said that he had a meeting with residents regarding reconfiguration of the area, but no one liked the ideas. R. Gaiotti noted that they hoped not to purchase materials, but there would be road crew time expenses.
- Morse Hill Road ~ RFP in progress for paving project. The school area is in good condition, so they will concentrate on Morse Hill Road. M. Freed asked if a bike path would be possible and R. Gaiotti said he would look into moving the fog lines to allow for this.
- Bridge work estimates & application for grant funds. R. Gaiotti is to email the grease treatment document to the SB members.
- PC is discussing ZBL amendments

- Meeting with AOT about the East Dorset General Store intersection traffic issues. Plastic post barriers have been installed around the no parking zone. Discussion ensued regarding the posts which included aesthetics, trucks/buses not able to enter area, hurting store business, snow removal and future store renovations.
- Spring meeting for the Conservation Commission will be scheduled to discuss projects
- Tour of Dragons ~ bike race planned for May 5th
- It was the consensus of the SB members to allow R. Gaiotti to be out of the office April 4th, 5th & 6th, 2012.

Other Business

1. C. Brooks asked about load limit signs and R. Gaiotti replied that they had been posted on the roads.
2. C. Brooks noted that Select Board payments do not coincide with the new calendar year so that a previous member or new member does not get paid their final or beginning payment. M. Freed suggested quarterly payments instead of bi-annual. M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to change to a quarterly payment system for the Select Board beginning at the end of this month for previous quarters worked. Motion carried 4-0.
3. It was suggested that Dorset consider having high school students from BBA and LTS participate on Town Boards in an advisory position. R. Gaiotti is to gather information and draft policy parameters for student participation to be reviewed at the next SB meeting.
4. The PACE program was voted in and Efficiency Vermont has contacted R. Gaiotti regarding self-administration of the program or contracting Efficiency Vermont. The Energy Commission is to meet with the Planning Commission to draft the suggested steps to follow and then forward on to the Select Board. C. Brooks asked that the draft document be given to the Select Board well in advance of the next meeting. Members discussed self-administration costs versus Efficiency Vermont fees with M. Freed noting that voters were assured that there would be no costs for the Town to absorb.
5. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the "I Matter ~ You Matter" proclamation for the non-profit organization run by Sally Gibney.

Contracts/Legal

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss the Town Manager contract at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. Executive Session ended at 10:25 p.m. with no motions made.

S. Jones moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date ____/____/____
 Regular Meeting ____
 Special Meeting ____

(Please Print)

| Name | Address | Representing | Testifying (Yes or No) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Justin Code | P.O. Box 536, Dorset, VT | | |
| Danny Pinsonneault | East Dorset VT | | |
| Sandy Pinneman | Town Clerk | | Yes |
| John LaVecchia | P.O. Box 172 Dorset | self | |
| Brent Herrmann | P.O. Box 604 Manchester | self | |
| Dale Baker | 3791 West Rd Dorset | ZBA | |
| Mark Kinney | Grand Avenue | SELF | |
| Mike Felton | P.O. Box 631 MANCHESTER CTR | GMAT-TU | NO |
| | | | |

Nancy- Southern Vermont Computer

From: town manager <townmanager@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:50 AM
To: Chris Brooks; Margery Freed; Mike Connors; Mike Olteidal; Nancy Aversano; Steve Jones
Subject: PAVE appropriation

For the 3-20-12 meeting minutes:
 Following up on the PAVE appropriation. PAVE sent us two requests for the \$500.00 one on 12/19/11 and one on 12/29/11 both requests were processed, they will send our second check back to us, and the line item will read as it should.

RG

--
 Rob Gaiotti
 Town Manager
 Dorset Town Offices
 112 Mad Tom Rd
 East Dorset, VT 05253

(p) 802-362-4571
 (f) 802-362-5156

<http://www.dorsetvt.org>

2012 Town Goals

- 2012 Town Projects & Goals Planned:

- Paving planned: Morse Hill Road from Route 30 intersection east (1 to 1.5 miles) Dorset School walkways and b-ball court at a cost of **\$215,000**, if we receive additional funds we'll pave as much of Morse Hill as allowed by funding.
- Bridge work planned for Peace Street Bridge & Lower Hollow Bridge # 1; these projects will be largely dependent upon State grant funds.
- Town Office maintenance, fence work, new walkway, paint where needed
- Surplus of 102,000 to be used to reduce the tax rate. Important when the grand list is expected to decline, which will increase tax rates prior to budgets even being set.
- Anticipate 2012-13 Municipal Tax Rate of between \$0.18 & \$0.20 per \$100 of value\
- Historically Town Tax Rate is around **\$0.18** per \$100
- Likely that reappraisal could be addressed in the next 2-5 years;
- Working on the betterment of communication between town boards and commissions, includes potential new conflict of interest policy etc.
- Planning Commission has begun the mandatory review and amend (if needed) process for the Dorset Zoning Bylaws.
- PC will also be amending flood hazard zone section of Bylaw to comply with FEMA requirements (this will allow Dorset residents to keep access to NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program, flood insurance.)
- If FEMA requirements not complied with, town would no longer be in NFIP (this would preclude residents from affordable flood insurance and the town from certain grant possibilities.
- Conveyance of the lower part of Pinnacle Lane to the Town.
- Additional work planned for The Pinnacle & Cutler Memorial Forest
- The Dorset School Playground project will break ground this summer with phase I of the playground project.
- Possible creation of green space on the parcel next to the Dorset Post Office this summer, small plantings and new benches for the area.