

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

April 17, 2012 ~ Minutes

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

Absent:

Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Danny Pinsonault

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes of March 20, 2010

M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to approve the March 20th, 2012 minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

C. Brooks explained that in order to keep a meeting on track, the SB will listen to all public comments on the agenda items at the beginning of the meeting. If a group of people wish to speak on a specific agenda item, it will be the SB members' decision to hear the comments at the beginning of the meeting or during the discussion of the agenda item. C. Brooks commented that the SB will have the capacity to reach out to the attendees to ask questions or hear more input. D. Pinsonault remarked that he could understand how this might be helpful to keep a meeting moving.

Board Appointments

The Conservation Commission Board has nominated Chip Ams for a four (4) year term on the Conservation Commission. S. Jones moved and M. Oltedal seconded to approve the nomination of Chip Ams for a four (4) year term on the Conservation Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

M. Oltedal stated that he would be stepping down as the BCRC representative. C. Brooks suggested that R. Gaiotti talk to Bill Breed about filling this position.

It was the consensus of the Select Board members to approve the participation of students from Long Trail School and Burr and Burton Academy in advisory positions on the Select Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Design Review Board and the Conservation Commission.

Dog License Letter

April 1st was the deadline for licensing dogs in the Town of Dorset. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the Dog Warrant allowing the Animal Control Officer to pursue unlicensed dogs. R. Gaiotti noted that there were approximately 300 registered dogs and it would be helpful to

have a census of the total number of dogs in Dorset. M. Freed commented that the National Census asks about dogs and this information might be available.

Homestead Declaration Penalty

R. Gaiotti explained that State law requires that “a homestead owner shall declare ownership of a homestead for purposes of education property tax.” Penalties of either 3% to 8% shall be assessed by the Town on any property not listed correctly. Discussion ensued regarding: number of affected parcels; charging penalties versus waiving penalties; and being able to change the penalty percentage in the future. M. Oltedal moved and M. Connors seconded to institute a three (3) percent penalty on properties not listed properly for homestead. Motion carried 5-0. R. Gaiotti will be incorporating this information in a letter to new homeowners in Dorset.

Finance Report

The delinquent tax list has decreased from \$480,000 to \$321,000 and R. Gaiotti is currently trying to set up payment plans with the delinquent taxpayers. Any properties that are still delinquent after June will be turned over to the Town Attorney for action. The finance report was reviewed with mention of line items: heat/fuel, paving and gravel roads. C. Brooks asked if R. Gaiotti expected to be on target or just close to a line item dollar amount when he does a budget and R. Gaiotti replied that he does a composite of three to five years, parsing out certain expenses, adding up monthly bills and purchases and stripping out one time purchases. The numbers are then compiled to handle the year’s expenditures/revenues. Some of the line items can be difficult to pin down definitively and are based on an educated estimate (healthcare, fuel). C. Brooks noted that he felt very strongly about returning surplus funds to the taxpayers and not having built in buffers in the budget. He stated that he wanted to make sure that the budget is as accurate as possible. S. Jones commented that the Town should be run like a business which has some funds available to call on when necessary, but everything should be documented and transparent to the taxpayers. In answer to S. Jones’ question about extra accounts, R. Gaiotti responded that there are dedicated funds allocated to certain items and that if there is an over expenditure of a line item in the budget, the next year’s budget would have to be amended to get rid of the deficit. M. Freed noted that certain budget line items are researched and are an “educated guess” and some items are definite and should stay at that number. R. Gaiotti felt that the Town was very conservative in budgeting with an emphasis on taking care of the roads. It was noted that having a breakdown of where the surplus money comes from may help everyone’s perspective as revenues contribute to this number.

Manager’s Report

Topics covered:

- Kelly Road Work ~ R. Gaiotti has talked to the quarry owner and he is supportive of defining the parking area on Kelly Road. Head in parking is now pushed in far enough to allow two vehicles to pass each other on the roadway. Discussion ensued regarding installing fencing as suggested by the owner; purchase of fencing and maintenance; bringing parking out to edge of the highway; the benefit of the quarry to the Town; and liabilities to owner. The owner is not in favor of opening the median to parking. M. Freed commented that the quarry has been discussed many times with both sides having a long list of issues. C. Brooks noted that the

Board was trying to improve the situation for all concerned. R. Gaiotti stated that definition of the parking area should help and M. Freed said that this will need enforcement. R. Gaiotti responded that the Town does not have the capacity to enforce parking rules 24/7.

- Kelleher Road Work ~ the Town Crew did an excellent job installing fabric under the roadway and repairing it.
- Morse Hill Road Project Bids ~ \$65/ton for Fuller; \$72/ton for Pike; \$74/ton for Wilk and \$76/ton for Peckham. (1½ miles – approximately from Route 30 to Windward Hill Road). M. Connors asked if they will dig out and repair the section near Route 30 and R. Gaiotti is to talk to J. Hewes and the paving company.
- Village Street ~ letter received from Sue Verner regarding the Town shed. C. Brooks explained that two years ago the Board was approached by the residents about landscape screening which was installed and the Board has had discussions with the residents whenever they requested it. M. Freed clarified the statement in S. Verner's letter about the SB not visiting Village Street by saying that she has personally been up and down this street many times as have other SB members. M. Connors asked when S. Verner purchased her house and R. Gaiotti responded 2006 and that the red garage was built in 1944 and the new garage in 2004. The salt shed was built in the late 1970's. R. Gaiotti noted that the Town crew tried to clean up the garage yard once a week. S. Jones asked if the number of employees have been increased since 2006 and if the garage door is left open. R. Gaiotti replied no, the Town crew has had four employees for a long time and the majority of the work done is in the field, not at the facility. R. Gaiotti stated that the Town was trying to be the best neighbor it can be.
- ISWAP ~ contract discussions with Casella are taking place.
- Conservation Commission ~ meeting was held and many summer projects are planned. The Cutler parking entry needs backhoe work due the Hurricane Irene storm which washed it out.
- 100th Birthday of the Dorset Village Library ~ the Library has requested use of the Dorset Green to hold a birthday celebration on July 14th. It was the consensus of the SB members to approve the use of the Dorset Green by the Dorset Village Library on July 14, 2012 pending a certificate of insurance and the Library providing traffic control.
- Equipment (rental versus purchase) ~ under review. J. Hewes will discuss purchase options with the Select Board.
- Emerald Lake Projects ~ beach area improvements are under consideration with a rough dollar amount estimated. To be discussed further.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 4/17/12

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 4/17/12 as presented.

Other Business

1. Driveway Permit ~ off of Dorset West Road and Foote Road. New single family residence is requesting a driveway permit which has been sanctioned by J. Hewes with the suggestion of trimming a tree and bushes at the location. M. Oltedal moved and M. Freed seconded

approve a driveway permit for the single family residence located near Dorset West Road and Foote road as sanctioned by J. Hewes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the TA60 Form which is a State requirement needed for grant funding.
3. Discussion ensued regarding who to call about possible rabid animals. R. Gaiotti noted that the Game Warden would be first, the State Police second and then the Animal Control Officer.
4. The BCRC annual meeting will be held on May 10, 2012 at the Wilburton Inn in Manchester.

M. Connors moved and M. Oltedal seconded to move to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss contracts. Motion carried 5-0. Executive Session ended at 8:45 p.m.

S. Jones moved and M. Oltedal seconded to approve R. Gaiotti's contract including a salary increase with the understanding that the contract will be re-written and signed at the next SB meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

M. Oltedal moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 4/17/12

Regular Meeting X

Special Meeting _____

(Please Print)

Name

Address

Representing

Testifying
(Yes or No)

Danny Pinsonault	E Dorset VT	me	NO