

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

April 27, 2010 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Michael Oltedal,
Brad Tyler

Absent:

Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Lt. Reg Trayah (Vermont State Police), Doug Colson (Energy Commission), Jim Hand (Energy Commission), Marley Waller, Dean Darling (GNAT), Sandy Pinsonault, Danny Pinsonault, Bob Gibney (Lister), John Lareau, Matt Lareau, Jennifer Brenner, Julie Walsh

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

Approve Minutes of March 16, 2010 & April 1, 2010

M. Freed moved and B. Tyler seconded to approve the March 16, 2010 minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

M. Oltedal moved and M. Connors seconded to approve the minutes of April 1, 2010 as presented. Motion carried 3-0 (B. Tyler & M. Freed abstained).

State Police Update

A new contract for the period ending June 2011 was submitted by Lt. Reg Trayah of the Vermont State Police, who noted that there has been a slight increase in cost. If the contract is accepted, Lt. Trayah is seeking input for any modifications needed. He noted that they would like to address any issues ahead of time and set the tone early for what is expected at the quarry. R. Gaiotti noted that there are parking regulations at the quarry which need to be enforced. Lt. Trayah stated that increased presence during events such as the horse show, proms, etc. has helped out and that they will be giving a presentation at Long Trail School outlining the consequences of underage drinking. He stressed that community members should report usual activities so that they can stop dangerous behaviors early. There will not be a "Super Barracks" created in Claredon in the near future as has been rumored. J. Hand asked if the VSP will give a presentation at Burr & Burton Academy and Lt. Trayah responded no, unless the Manchester Police Department wants them to, but there will be a Town Hall Meeting at MEMS on Thursday. The Select Board will discuss the Vermont State Police contract next month.

Board of Listers: State Appeal Result

B. Gibney reported that there were two State tax appeals in April with one taxpayer willing to negotiate a compromise/settlement to be decided by the Select Board. B. Gibney explained that whatever settlement is agreed upon, the differential has to be credited back to the taxpayer and the State will not reimburse the Town. Discussion included comparables, State appraiser's position, sales or appraisal

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basis, reasonable settlements, and who does the mediation. Discussion will be held in Executive Session.

Energy Coordinator Update & Solid Waste Discussion

J. Hand explained that the Commission has been working on planning items such as studying and making an inventory of energy resources in Town. They have visited the Vermont Wood Pellet Company, Derek Cornell's wind turbine and Bennington's internal pipe system. Grant applications are being finalized for energy saving measures for both Fire Department buildings. The Commission has also continued its work with Dorset School. Community energy audit visits (free) will be held again ~ CFL bulbs, heater wraps, rough calculations of BTU's to run a house.

D. Colson explained a program called PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) where a Town agrees to participate with a group of Towns for municipal bond money and allows property owners to borrow this money for improvements and then a tax assessment is made for the term of the loan and passed on as a lien.

The Commission is working with Casella to have better signage for recycling and R. Colson asked if the Town was interested in solid waste discussions. R. Gaiotti noted that the Town agreement through the BCRC will expire at the end of August 2010 and the agreement language is ten years old which leaves room for negotiation for lowering costs. D. Colson stated that Dorset has an annual renewal which has been automatic as no one spends time on it. The BCRC has an administrator, but not an advocate, as she looks to the Towns to voice an interest to improve the program. There are opportunities to structure programs and improve recycling more in Town with Casella which is a benefit. D. Colson expressed that the Town should reinforce good behavior and they should tell the BCRC that they want to renegotiate for solid waste. C. Brooks suggested the Energy Commission "dig" into the solid waste contract and give suggestions for renegotiations. R. Gaiotti noted that the BCRC has already been informed that Dorset wants to discuss solid waste and is waiting for a date from the BCRC. It was the consensus of the SB to have D. Colson help with the solid waste discussions.

J. Hand reported that they have purchased and are in the process of planting 387 trees for the carbon stabilizing project – more information at www.350.org.

Zoning Bylaw Amendment Public Hearing (Cell Tower Amendment)

The public hearing was opened at 8:03 p.m. R. Gaiotti explained that in the quest to obtain cell service in a specific Town owned site, the issue of deer yard protection came up. The PC has approved new language for the ZBL and passed it on for SB approval. No permit for any development can take place without conditional use approval from the ZBA. M. Connors moved and B. Tyler seconded to approve the Zoning Bylaw Amendment as presented by the Planning Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

East Dorset Eagle Scout Project Discussion (Matt Lareau, Eagle Scout, project for recreation space for East Dorset behind Town offices)

As an Eagle Scout project, M. Lareau has taken a survey of elementary aged children to see if they would like a playground located in East Dorset. He would do the organizing/work and is asking the

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Town for funding. R. Gaiotti suggested that they use the contacts made through the survey to see what type of structures are wanted; forming a committee and then pricing the equipment/construction. M. Freed asked about fundraising and M. Lareau responded he would be willing to fundraise, but also has a completion date of end of the summer. J. Lareau noted that due to the time constraint, fundraising might not allow M. Lareau to complete the whole project. R. Gaiotti volunteered to be on the committee and expressed that money might be available from the recreation line item in the budget and that insurance would not be burdensome. B. Tyler asked for a layout of the project and R. Gaiotti responded that this can be done and presented at the next meeting. S. Pinsonault expressed that when the Ludlam's gave the land to the Town, it was stipulated that it be used for a playground. J. Lareau asked if M. Lareau could have some assurance that the project was realistic and would work out for M. Lareau. C. Brooks noted that it was a consensus that they were in favor of the project dependent upon cost. Audience members spoke supporting M. Lareau's efforts.

Board Appointments

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to appoint Toni Dee to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term; Bill Bridges, Mike Connors and David Wilson to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for 3 year terms; Georgine MacGarvey-Holman to the Conservation Commission for a 4 year term; and Michael Oltedal to the BCRC for a 2 year term. Motion carried 5-0.

Two members are still being sought for the Planning Commission.

Executive Session

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to move to Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss legal and contract issues. Motion carried 5-0. Executive Session ended at 9:50 p.m.

M. Oltedal moved and M. Freed seconded to accept the Vermont State Police contract as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Review Draft Sign Ordinance

The draft Sign Ordinance was reviewed with R. Gaiotti noting that the changes were highlighted in grey and the deleted sections had strike through marks. Topics included the added definitions, sign posts being covered under maintenance, approvals needed for color changes only in Historic District, grandfathering of existing signs, having an end date for existing signs to conform to a new ordinance, larger signs in the commercial zone and keeping signs indefinitely through maintenance. M. Freed stated that the Board needs to know how many signs are non-conforming and requested a list. C. Brooks asked that the sandwich board sign section be more detailed in description. M. Connors asked if the square footage for real estate sign was correct and R. Gaiotti is to check on the size. It was the consensus of the Select Board that a public hearing was not necessary and a list of non-conforming signs, real estate sign size and sandwich board details was to be presented at the next meeting.

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C. Brooks announced that during the Executive Session, the SB discussed and agreed upon a counter proposal for the Board of Listers to present to the property owner as a settlement offer.

Finance

R. Gaiotti noted that the Town was 83% through the fiscal year and subjects discussed included Lister's salaries, purchase of salt, purchase of chloride and the offering of chloride to private citizens as a service, and the school facility use fee.

C. Brooks stated that in Executive Session, it was the consensus of the Board to retract the draft Employee Agreement offered to the Town Clerk.

Manager's Report

The Dorset School held a tag sale on Saturday at which R. Gaiotti and S. Pinsonault passed out recreation information and passes for Emerald Lake. Long Trail School also had a representative present. A postcard to residents about summer camps will be mailed and a full page ad in the Journal will be taken out. A partnership with Riley Rink similar to the Long Trail School agreement of a 25% discount is being discussed.

M. Connors asked where the money for the Town office playground would be available from and R. Gaiotti noted that this would be a work in progress – basketball hoop, sandbox, benches, play structure – and can be cost effective with a lot of entertainment value for the children. M. Freed suggested the use of safety cones warning drivers coming into the parking lot.

It was the consensus of the Select Board to move forward with the Recreation package.

Low bid for Nichols Hill paving project has been received and work started; the single axle bidshave been received and a truck chosen which will be equipped with a center dump tub body, material application computer for salt and a stainless steel body; and crack sealing will be done on Dorset West Road, Church Street, Dorset Hollow and Kirby Hollow Roads. R. Gaiotti had contacted the AOT regarding parking on Route 30 near the Post Office and their solution would be to re-size the lanes so that there is parking only on one side. A public forum might be necessary to continue with a parking resolution. B. Tyler asked about striping and R. Gaiotti responded that they have to wait for the crack sealing to be done.

R. Gaiotti will be applying for a grant which would allow the VLCT to conduct a workshop on a topic to be chosen by the SB. M. Freed noted that the VLCT will be holding a class in Manchester for the BCA and, if anyone is interested, they should contact S. Pinsonault. R. Gaiotti has been accepted into the Roads Academy and will attend class once a month.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 4/27/2010

It was the consensus of the Select Board to approve the payroll and accounts payables for the week of 4/27/2010.

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Other Business

1. It was the consensus of the SB to sign a resolution for a planning grant which would pay for the cost of a build out study.
2. It was the consensus of the SB to have C. Brooks sign a resolution for an \$800 education grant for the Planning Commission.
3. It was the consensus of the SB to sign an approval for moving a telephone pole by Fairpoint in the Town right-of-way on Benedict Road.
4. There has been a Legislative Action Alert concerning a cost saving action to consolidate regional commissions to nine larger institutions taking local control away from Towns.

M. Oltedal moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

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Dorset Select Board Meeting

Date: 4-27-10

Regular

Special

Please Print Name & Address	
1.	KEG TEYAH Arlington VT
2.	DOUG COLFORD DORSET
3.	Jim Hand Dorset
4.	Marilyn Walker E. Dorset
5.	Diana Doolittle Cambridge MA
6.	Sandy Pensonault
7.	Danny Pensonault
8.	Bob Gibney Dorset VT
9.	W. Howard E Dorset, VT
10.	Matt Lureau
11.	Jennifer Brenner
12.	Julie Walsh E Dorset
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