

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

May 15, 2012 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Marge Freed, Mike Connors, Steve Jones
Absent: Michael Oltedal
Also, present: R. Gaiotti (Town Manager), Jim Salsgiver (Dorset Energy Commission), Ellen Maloney (Dorset Energy Commission), Bill Colvin (BCRC), Jim Sullivan (BCRC), Jeanne Mills, Robert Hopkins

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

Approve Minutes of April 17, 2012

M. Connors moved and S. Jones seconded to approve the April 17, 2012 minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment

No public comment offered.

Bennington County Regional Commission

B. Colvin and J. Sullivan were present to discuss the mission statement and changes occurring at the BCRC. The BCRC is involved with 17 municipalities which are represented by a number of commissioners and have numerous committees. The committees cover energy, development review, planning review, brownfields, transportation, community development, working landscape, emergency management and solid waste implementation. B. Colvin noted that the BCRC can provide assistance to the Town of Dorset and they are working on building a community and economic development focuses supporting the municipalities. There is a need to have a comprehensive economic development plan for the north and south shires working together and the BCRC hopes to facilitate this effort. J. Sullivan asked that if anyone has any issues which need to be addressed, to please pass them along to the BCRC. M. Freed asked what the Town of Dorset could do to help and J. Sullivan responded that participating in or forming a group might be beneficial along with partnering with other Towns. It was noted that comprehensive regional planning is important along with economic and community development.

Pinnacle Lane Discussion

Options for the Town of Dorset's participation in the maintenance of Pinnacle Lane were discussed ~ (a) payment of shared road maintenance bill to be included in the Town budget or (b) the Town crew could help maintain the roadway in lieu of fees. R. Hopkins, resident of Pinnacle Lane, outlined the maintenance procedures noting that there was no association for the road, but that everyone paid an equal share of the expenses. C. Brooks stated that the Town of Dorset is not usually in the business of maintaining private roads or taking these jobs away from private citizens. M. Connors asked if the

contractors working on the road have liability insurance and R. Hopkins responded yes. A certificate of insurance will need to be given to the Town and R. Gaiotti is to check to see if there are any other liability or insurance concerns. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to pay the Town's pro-rated share of the road maintenance costs (grading, snow plowing & sanding) in conjunction with the other landowners. R. Hopkins will inform E. Yaro, C. Dern and Mettowee Mill Nursery to submit their bills to the Town for their portion of Pinnacle Lane maintenance.

PACE

C. Brooks raised the question about risk and responsibilities of the Town regarding foreclosures/delinquent assessments with regard to PACE and J. Salsgiver replied that this would be handled the same way as a municipal delinquency ~ the bank/entity would automatically assume payment until the property is re-sold and the assessment is passed on to the new owner. Efficiency Vermont has designed the program and will manage it this year by having one window of opportunity for interested participants in July. After this first trial, the following year they may have three opportunities for people to participate. S. Jones asked if the Town can opt out of the PACE program once they have signed on to it and J. Salsgiver responded yes, but it would be on a once yearly basis. There will be many safe guards in place to evaluate the applicants and it was suggested that the participants talk with the Energy Commission about the process if they are interested. M. Freed requested frequent updates and strict accounting for this program. J. Salsgiver noted that a fee can be assessed to cover any costs to the Town. R. Gaiotti stated that J. O'Dea has already reviewed the documents. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the PACE Program Administrator Agreement.

Emerald Lake Projects

Suggested projects: beach front improvements, installation of a pavilion and small equipment purchases (carts). Materials for the beach improvement would be provided by the Park and equipment/labor to be provided by the Town. M. Freed suggested including sports equipment purchases. It was stated that the future maintenance of the improvements and equipment would be the responsibility of Emerald State Park. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to approve \$1,000 for the purchase of carts and \$500 for the purchase of sports equipment out of the Recreation Fund.

Manager's Report

- Kelly Road ~ discuss possible installation of fencing to define parking areas on western side of roadway (property owner to pay for material costs). Fencing should not be split rail, but old telephone poles and M. Connors suggested spiking with hemlock piping. C. Brooks, S. Jones and M. Connors consented to fencing as long as there were no material costs to the Town.
- Signs posted for Morse Hill Road paving work zone – paving to start after June 8th – 9th
- Culvert and ditch work completion for Danby Mountain Road – partial payment for this project was covered under a grant received from Vermont Better Back Roads program.
- Excavator and trailer costs/bids were given and discussed. M. Connors commented that even though the Kubota pricing was less, the John Deere was the better machine with a longer

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cc: Listers, Planning, Zoning, Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, Foreman, and School Board
Copy Posted: Town Clerk's Office, S-Board Mtg Room, East Dorset & Dorset Post Office

warranty (5 years) giving a better value for the money. Discussion ensued regarding the addition of a diverter valve to the John Deere excavator for ease of use. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to approve the purchase of the John Deere excavator and trailer from Nortrax as long as they install the diverter valve for an inclusive price. (Email attachment)

- Stone repair was being done on Pinnacle Tower
- Complaint letters regarding the Animal Control Officer's house visits for dog licensing ~ discussion ensued regarding changing the house visit policy of the Town to pursue dog licensing. R. Gaiotti noted that just making phone calls was not as effective as house visits. M. Freed noted that the house visits were made after April 1st (due date for dog licensing) and people had three months to accomplish licensing their dogs and it is the responsibility of the dog owner to do this in a timely manner. Dog licenses can be obtained in person at the Town office or by mail. S. Jones commented that he had a discussion with R. Downey (ACO) who was very professional and courteous.
- Applications will be received soon for student participation on Town Boards – four students from Burr & Burton Academy have expressed interest.

Finance Report

The delinquent taxes have been reduced from \$320,000 last month to \$280,000 this month with an expected decrease to \$250,000 by the end of this week. By June, plans will be in place to forward delinquencies to the Town Attorney. R. Gaiotti reported that finances were in good shape and topics covered were: oil prices, wood boiler in basement, grant monies of \$6,500 added into revenue, appropriation payments to be made by June 30th, salt and sand quantities. M. Connors asked if more blacktop could be done with the surplus money and C. Brooks noted that prices should be down. He suggested that R. Gaiotti check pricing for paving all of Morse Hill Road as the Select Board may consider using the surplus if it is a good value.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 5/15/12

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 5/15/12 as presented.

Other Business

1. It was the consensus of the Select Board to approve a driveway permit on Dorset Hill Road.
2. M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to adjourn as the Select Board and convene as the Liquor Board at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

M. Connors moved and M. Freed seconded to approve the liquor license for catering for the H. N. Williams Store. Motion carried 4-0.

M. Freed moved and M. Connors seconded to adjourn as the Liquor Board and re-convene as the Select Board at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

3. A meeting will be held on May 16, 2012 at the Town Office at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the recent burglaries and the organization of a neighborhood watch with Lt. Reg Trayah (Vermont State Police).
4. C. Brooks stated that in last month's Executive Session a contract renewal and compensation package was discussed for the Town Manager, Rob Gaiotti. It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the contract with Rob Gaiotti as presented for employment as Town Manager. C. Brooks asked R. Gaiotti to have M. Oltedal sign the contract.
5. R. Gaiotti reported that the Dorset School fundraiser for the playground brought in \$12,000. Total funds are now up to \$30,000 and there are plans to attend the next Select Board meeting to present plans for the project. R. Gaiotti mentioned that use of some of the recreation budget monies might help if there are any funding gaps for this project.

S. Jones moved and M. Freed seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

| Town of Dorset ~ Select Board | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Date <u>5/15/12</u> | | | |
| Regular Meeting <u>X</u> | | | |
| Special Meeting <u> </u> | | | |
| (Please Print) Name | Address | Representing | Testifying (Yes or No) |
| JIM SAUBNER | 243 NICHOLS HILL DORSET | DORSET ENERGY COMM | N |
| Ellen Maloney | 3585 Mad Tom | " " | N |
| BILL COLVIN | BENNINGTON, VT | BCRC | Y |
| JIM SULLIVAN | Bennington, VT | BCRC | Y |
| Jeanne Mills | 143 Meadow Lane, Dorset | myself | N |
| Robert Hopkins | 401 Pinnacle Lane Dorset | Dorset Pinnacle | Y |
| | | | |

Nancy~ Southern Vermont Computer

From: town manager <townmanager@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 3:53 PM
To: Chris Brooks; Margery Freed; Mike Connors; Mike Oltedal; Nancy Aversano; Steve Jones
Subject: Excavator

Excavator: Confirming that we were able to get the deal on the John Deere that the Board approved by consensus at last week's meeting. The machine, with divertor valve installed, will cost \$91,850 & trailer at \$3,900. The machine has moved from Danby Mountain to Upper Hollow to continue ditching. The pavement was cut on Morse Hill today; If you travel Morse Hill Road over the next couple weeks you'll see the machine installing culverts. The road-crew is grateful for the new machine!

RG

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Rob Gaiotti
Town Manager
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