

Town of Dorset, Vermont



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Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board January 16, 2018

Present: Henry Chandler (Chairman), Megan Thorn, Tom Smith, Liz Ruffa, R. Gaiotti (Town Manager)
Absent: Jack Stannard
Also, present: Bo Thorn, Joan Menson, Luanne Hardy, D. Green, Frank Parent, Calvin Parent, Danny Pinsonault, Sandra Pinsonault (Town Clerk), Allan Sullivan, Greg Sukiennik (Manchester Journal)

Megan Thorn, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approve Minutes of December 19, 2017

T. Smith moved and L. Ruffa seconded to approve the December 19, 2017 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment

D. Pinsonault wanted to acknowledge the hard work the Road Crew has been doing with the difficult weather and flooding. M. Thorn also expressed thanks to the Road Crew for working on the holidays to keep the roads clear.

Event Permit/Noise Discussion (continued)

M. Thorn proposed tabling the event permit/noise discussion since J. Barlow would not be attending the meeting due to weather and two SB members were not present. It was the consensus of the present SB members to table the discussion until the February meeting.

FY19 Budget Public Hearing

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:09 p.m. Discussion topics included:

- The Bennington County Industrial Corp. (BCIC) is managed by the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) and is for outreach and service to Dorset and Dorset businesses. L. Ruffa commented that the BCIC should be mindful to coordinate with Northshire Economic Development.

- The voter approved appropriation of \$40,000 to the Dorset Nursing Association (DNA) was questioned as this entity is no longer a local organization, but part of a larger regional operation called VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region. The question was raised by a resident as to whether or not the organization still needs this amount of money and what is the level of service given to Dorset residents with regard to this significant amount of money. R. Gaiotti explained that the appropriation has been in place a long time and was given because the DNA was a smaller, local organization who had petitioned and the voters continued to support the amount. The \$40,000 appropriation can be amended to a different amount by a floor vote if someone wants to raise the issue at Town meeting. It was noted that budgeted appropriations are not usually changed by the SB members, but by the voters. Discussion ensued regarding the practices of petitioning ~ organizations petition for 3 years – then are automatically placed in the budget unless the amount requested changes. It was recommended that organizations requesting more than \$2,500 in appropriations would have to petition for the amount each year. F. Parent noted that at last year’s meeting the voters decided that if an organization did not have a representative present at the Town Meeting, the appropriation would be discontinued until it was petitioned again.
- It was explained that the \$76,000 School Facility Use fee was a holdover from Act 68 which helped with school costs. This fee will continue for one more year in the hope of helping to rebuild the soccer fields. After the next budget cycle, the Taconic & Green will send a bill to the Town for hourly use of the school facilities.
- It was explained that under Town Forest Purchase/Expense, trail improvements and signs were accomplished with donations received.
- VYCC is a new category added to provide matching funds for donations or grants and to continue trail building.
- Manchester Rescue Squad – name should be changed to Northshire Rescue Squad.

M. Thorn moved and H. Chandler seconded to approve the updated FY19 budget as presented and discussed tonight. Motion carried 4-0.

Town Meeting Warning

H. Chandler moved and T. Smith seconded to approve the 2018 Town Meeting Warning with an amendment to Article 13 to read:

Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (formerly known as Dorset Nursing Association) for support of its services provided to Dorset residents? Motion carried 4-0.

Route 7 & Mad Tom Update (continued)

R. Gaiotti reviewed the status of the January 2018 Mad Tom-Route 7 Intersection Work Items spreadsheet. T. Smith asked R. Gaiotti to keep L. Sullivan informed on the Route 7/Mad Tom Road intersection issues.

Finance Report

As of 01/12/2018, the delinquent taxes were \$83,878 and the budget is 53% through the fiscal year. H. Chandler moved and T. Smith seconded to approve the finance report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager's Report

The January 2018 Manager's report included the topics of:

- Highway – snow, ice & flooding and Road Crew's outstanding work
- Support given to the DFD has continued & well drilling should commence after February 2, 2018.
- FY19 Budget
- AOT letters for Route 7 & Mad Tom Road intersection
- Energy Committee working with BCRC for Town Plan updates for siting of renewable energy locations.
- Bennington County Sheriff patrols & community interactions
- Town report & meeting preparation

Approve Payroll & Accounts Payable for the week of 01/16/2018

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 01/16/2018 as presented.

Other Business

- The equalization study shows the CLA at 108 and the COD at 18 which is moving closer to the required reappraisal number of 20. The application for reappraisal has been submitted and a positive recommendation has been received by the local representative for this area.
- It was the consensus of the SB members to sign the Highway Mileage Certificate as presented.
- M. Thorn asked about the procedure for getting the potholes on Route 30 near the Library fixed and R. Gaiotti responded that Route 30 is a State highway and he has already sent an email requesting a resolution for this issue.
- It was the consensus of the SB members to have J. Barlow, Town Attorney review and update the Town's Sign Ordinance first.
- H. Chandler moved and T. Smith seconded to move to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss litigation. Motion carried 4-0. Executive Session ended at 9:05 p.m. motioned by H. Chandler and second by T. Smith with no action taken. The SB reconvened the regular meeting.

T. Thorn moved and L. Ruffa seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.
Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 1/16/18

Regular Meeting X

Special Meeting

(Please Print)

Name	Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
Bo Thorn	599 Dorset W. Rd	SELF	N
JOAN MENSON	1131 RT. 30 Dorset	"	?
Luanne Hardy	27 Lane Rd.	"	N
D. GREEN	POB 881	"	?
Frank Parent	10 Pleasant St Ext	"	N
Calvin Parent	same ↑	"	N
Danny Pinsonault	1665 RT 7E Dorset	"	?
Sandra Pinsonault	1665 RT 7 E Dorset	town clerk	yes
Allan Sullivan	932 McNamara	Self	Nr
Greg Skrennik	3624 Main St, Manchester	Manchester Journal	NO!