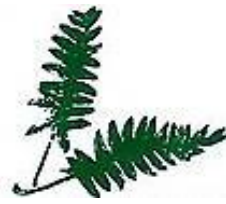


Town of Dorset, Vermont



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Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board January 30, 2017 ~ Minutes

Present: Henry Chandler (Chairman), Megan Thorn, Jack Stannard,
Tom Smith, Liz Ruffa, R. Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Absent:

Also, present: Jim Mirenda (Dorset School Board), Nancy Faesy (BCRC Rep),
Rosalie Fox, D. Green, Ben Weiss (Dorset Fire District), Jim
Salsgiver (Dorset School Board), Roger Squire (Dorset
Prudential Committee) Laura Yanne, Jim Hand, Danny
Pinsonault, Sandra Pinsonault

H. Chandler, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approve Minutes of December 20, 2016

T. Smith moved and M. Thorn seconded to approve the December 20, 2016
minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment

R. Fox requested that a discussion of the quarry be put on next month's agenda
as she is rethinking her involvement with the quarry supporters. H. Chandler
noted that the quarry is not the property of the Town of Dorset and the Town
only stepped in to help when Mr. McDonough reached out for community
support. M. Thorn said that the quarry was addressed in Manager's report.

School Board Update

J. Mirenda and J. Salsgiver were present to give an overview of the final Merger
Study Report and Articles of Agreement (copy was given to the SB members). J.
Mirenda noted that there would be public forums on February 9, 2017 at Flood
Brook Elementary and March 2, 2017 at the Manchester Community Library.
The merger information is also available on their website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/northshiremergerstudy/home>

J. Salsgiver explained how the representatives to the Taconic and Green Regional
School District are chosen (at least one representative from each town and four
elected at-large members from the four largest communities). J. Salsgiver stated

that the merger is a difficult step for people to take, but it was important to note that seventeen people from different towns worked very hard as a team and voted unanimously to support it.

It was mentioned that the Dorset School budget had a significant increase as the number of high school students increased by sixteen which is not something that can be predicted and prepared for.

FY18 Town Budget Public Hearing

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:55 p.m. by H. Chandler. R. Gaiotti reviewed the budget noting increases in: law enforcement, Solid Waste Allowance, highway purchase to replace single axle salt truck, storage shed, and new full time Administrative Assistant/Lister position. R. Fox asked about the funds of \$5,000 for the Planning Consultant remaining the same and the Recreation line increasing by \$5,000. R. Gaiotti responded that the PC had not asked for money above the listed amount and J. Sullivan was consulted about the amount before leaving the same. The PC can ask for more funding if they find it necessary. The Recreation line item was increased for the installation of interpretative signs at the Owl's Head Town Forest. D. Pinsonault asked about the culvert line item not being increased as the State standards have expanded which would create more costs. R. Gaiotti commented that this line item is mainly for culverts under paving projects. B. Weiss inquired about the revenue line from the Dorset/East Dorset Fire Districts and R. Gaiotti explained that either a new line would be created or the money would be charged back to the correct line item.

T. Smith moved and M. Thorn seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. T. Smith moved and M. Thorn seconded to approve the FY18 Town Budget as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Dorset Fire District Update

B. Weiss, Chairman of the Dorset Fire District #1/Prudential Committee, noted that currently their number one priority is finding an adequate source of supplemental water. The DFD Board wanted to keep the Select Board members informed regarding the possible water sites. The focus has been on a possible site in the Cutler Forest for the installation of a high production well using a sinking fund in the budget and a State loan program. M. Thorn asked why the Board was focusing on the Cutler Forest and R. Gaiotti replied that the other locations had land restrictions so that use as a water source was not permissible. The use of a municipal property would make it easier to accomplish the goal of the Prudential Committee. J. Stannard suggested a location on Playhouse Lane and B. Weiss noted that this property was not for sale and R. Gaiotti said that the water source needs a 200 foot isolation area. H. Chandler asked the Board if there were any objections to seeking supplemental water at the Cutler Forest location and suggested a letter be sent to the Conservation Commission for their

opinion. J. Smith stated that he felt it was okay as long as it would not affect the property as a recreational site. R. Gaiotti noted that the footprint of the project should not be impactful. J. Stannard stated that there would be no need for a reservoir and the reservoir upkeep if the well produced 200 GPM and B. Weiss responded that the State mandates having storage on a public water system. R. Gaiotti is to write a letter on behalf of the SB to the Conservation Commission and the SB members will wait until their response to further discuss the Cutler Forest use.

Noise/Special Events Ordinance Review (Continued)

H. Chandler asked if the proposed noise ordinance draft has been reviewed by J. O'Dea. M. Thorn responded yes, he sent an email which basically said the document was good to go. General discussion of the noise/special events ordinance ensued along with review of the number of complaints received by the Town. M. Thorn was not in favor of including fireworks in an ordinance as fireworks are already governed by the State.

J. Stannard moved to hold a Public Hearing to introduce the Noise Ordinance to the public. The motion was not voted on due to lack of a second motion. M. Thorn stated that the process is usually to have the SB adopt an ordinance and R. Gaiotti said that the SB has a public hearing at which the Board can make a decision to adopt the ordinance or not and then there is a 60-day appeal period in which residents can decide to have a Town vote. J. Stannard wanted a separate Public Hearing which would not be held at a SB meeting. M. Thorn moved to hold a Public Hearing at the first SB meeting after the annual Town meeting one hour earlier than the regular time to dedicate to the noise ordinance. T. Smith amended and seconded the motion to define the meeting as being held on March 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town office. Motion carried 3-1 (J. Stannard).

R. Fox asked if the tally of complaints will be part of the public record and include the quarry complaints. M. Thorn stated that the compilation consisted of just some emails and letters received by the Town. R. Gaiotti encouraged that complaints be in writing – emails or letters. D. Pinsonault stated that when he had asked for documentation for complaints, he had meant police reports as anything else is not corroborated and could be a matter of opinion or perspective as to the person complaining.

BCRC Report

N. Faesy reported that the BCRC finished their Regional Energy Plan and is offering their help to Towns in revising/amending their local energy plans; for example, where to locate solar panels and wind turbines. N. Faesy recommended that Dorset accept this offer and J. Salsgiver noted that it would be useful input for acceptable locations to be compliant with Act 174. R. Gaiotti commented

that the Dorset Energy Committee is actively involved in energy issues and adding to the Town Plan/Bylaws helps to give back a voice in energy locations.

The Energy Committee would work with the Planning Commission and the Select Board. J. Salsgiver noted that the potential location areas are relatively small portions of Town. T. Smith moved and L. Ruffa seconded to accept the BCRC participation in the energy planning for the Town of Dorset. Motion carried 4-0.

T. Smith commented that the Lake Champlain clean-up compliance may increase property taxes and S. Pinsonault said that 55 different fees have been mentioned to fund the clean-up.

Mad Tom & Route 7 Update (Continued)

R. Gaiotti explained that a traffic study of the Route 7/Mad Tom Road intersection by the State may be done in the summer. The radar speed signs have been priced out and clarification from the State regarding speed limits for placement of the sign on Route 7 is needed.

Conflict of Interest Policy Conflict

J. Stannard was in favor of the SB signing a Conflict of Interest Policy so that the SB has a way to act responsibly and in a proper fashion. T. Smith requested that Town counsel review the document and give the SB his opinion. M. Thorn expressed that State statutes already cover this area, but if the document gives more confidence, then she is okay with it. D. Green commented that this should not be a policy, but an ordinance as it is important to Town governance and policies have no "teeth." Discussion ensued with mention of a previous SB signing an agreement granting Town employees health care for life and J. Stannard stated that the Town manager at that time did the negotiations placing himself into the agreement without SB knowledge. D. Pinsonault stated that SB members should know what they are signing.

H. Chandler agreed with T. Smith that he would like the opinion of Town Counsel on the Conflict of Interest Policy. He also suggested that the policy is something that the Board could sign each year as part of an organizational meeting so that if it does not work out, the Board could let it expire. H. Chandler asked if this policy is optional for Board members to sign. D. Green asked if the opinion from the Town lawyer will be written and available to the public so it is not a backroom discussion which is not legal or correct. M. Thorn noted that, as a lawyer, when writing a legal opinion, it is a great deal of work with standards that have to be followed. Formal opinions require research, time, expense and sometimes the Board is just asking for a general overview. H. Chandler requested that an opinion from J. O'Dea be received before the March organizational meeting so that a decision can be made by the SB to adopt the Conflict of Interest policy or not. M. Thorn stated that an email from J. O'Dea is sufficient.

Town Meeting Warning/Town Meeting Prep

T. Smith moved and M. Thorn seconded to accept and approve the 2017 Town of Dorset, Vermont Warning as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The February Select Board meeting will be February 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti reported that the delinquent taxes stand at \$184,505 and eight parcels have been forwarded for tax sale proceedings. The Town is approximately 58% through the FY17 budget. Survey maps have been digitized and stored electronically.

Manager's Report

Items mentioned for the Highway Department were: winter storm cleanup, vehicle repairs, and workshops/training.

- An agreement with a local appraiser has been made for consultation with M. Schoffstall for professional evaluation guidance.
- A study for the old firehouse in Dorset Village is underway
- Continued support for location of a secondary water source for the Dorset Prudential Committee
- Manchester Parks & Rec meeting about youth basketball programs – possibility of not allowing non-residents to participate in MPR programs
- Quarry – The McDonough's have decided to manage the quarry property themselves without a steering committee. There is a possibility that they will close the quarry to the public as a neighbor has called for an Act 250 review which could be too burdensome to navigate.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of January 30, 2017

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of January 30, 2017 as presented.

Other Business

1. The Property Valuation and Review (PVR) 2016 equalization study results have been received and the CLA (105.94%) and COD (17.55%) are both good.
2. Audit proposal from Mudgett has been received and the hope is to align the work with the Dorset Fire District #1 audit in order to save money. H. Chandler asked that bids be solicited for the next audit cycle.
3. It was the consensus of the SB members to sign the Delegate Form appointing S. Pinsonault as the Delegate for Dorset for the Special Meeting of the League of City and Towns.
4. It was the consensus of the SB members to sign the Annual Highway Mileage Certificate as presented.

5. J. Conti has offered assistance in promoting Owls Head Town Forest
6. H. Chandler stated that R. Fox has requested the Board to place the Quarry on the next SB agenda for discussion and noted that the Town does not have any authority over the quarry and didn't think the Town wanted to own the quarry. J. Stannard said that if the Town owned it, it could be filled in and grass planted for a Town park/picnic area as a historic site. H. Chandler mentioned that this action would need State approval and R. Gaiotti did not believe the quarry could be filled in. M. Thorn recommended that the quarry not be placed on the agenda until necessary as it is owned privately and self-managed. She felt the Town could address safety and parking as needed.
7. M. Thorn is reviewing the Town Sign Ordinance as requested by G. Squire, but has not finished yet.
8. T. Smith suggested that when the Bennington Sheriff's Department starts patrolling Dorset, they be instructed to curb speeding through Dorset, especially on Route 7.

M. Thorn moved and T. Smith seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Select Board

Date 1/30/17

Regular Meeting X

Special Meeting

(Please Print)

Name	Mailing Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
JIM MIRENDA	Box 50 E Dorset	SCHOOL BOARD	✓
Nancy Jessy	PO Box 817	BURK Hwy	✓
Rosalie Fox	PO Box 1011	Self	?
D. GREEN	PO P 881	"	"
BEN WEISS	312 SPRUCE LN. DORSET	DORSET FIRE DIST	?
JIM SALSINGER	243 NICHOLSHAM RD	SENIOR BOARD	Y
ROGER SQUIRE	PO Box 798	Dorset Fire Dist	No
LAURA YANNE	3833 Rte 30	myself + my bulls	
Jim Hand	Box 1204 Manchester Ctr.	Self	No
Danny Pincusault	PO Box 6 RT7 East Dorset	Self	No
Sandra Pincusault	PO Box 6 E Dorset	Self	yes