

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board

February 16, 2016 ~ Minutes

Present: Chris Brooks (Chairman), Mike Connors, Henry Chandler, R. Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Absent: Michael Oltedal, Brad Tyler

Also, present: Dick Coss, Jim Salsgiver (Dorset Energy Commission), Nancy Faesy (Dorset Energy Commission) Sandy Pinsonault (Town Clerk), Ryan Downey (Animal Control Officer), Rosalie Fox, Danny Pinsonault, Robert Menson, Joan Menson, Jim Hand (Dorset Energy Commission), Erwin Phillips, Carol Phillips

C. Brooks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approve Minutes of January 19 2016

H. Chandler moved and M. Connors seconded to approve the January 19, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Vicious Dog Hearing

C. Brooks noted that according to State Statutes, the Town has to hold a public hearing before having a dog euthanized. R. Downey explained that C. Philips was bitten by C. Lowberg's dog and both parties agreed that the dog was off its property. R. Downey confirmed that the owner of the dog has agreed to have the dog euthanized and notification will be provided to the Town upon completion of this task. R. Gaiotti and R. Downey informed the Board that C. Philips asked about fines being levied against the dog owner and the SB thought that is was not a malicious action by the neighbor. H. Chandler moved and M. Connors seconded to accept Ms. Lowberg's apology regarding the actions of her dog without assessing any fines, but the dog must be euthanized on or before February 22, 2016. Motion carried 3-0.

PC/ZBA Nominee Interview

Richard Coss was present to be interviewed for the open PC position and explained that he has an interest in being involved with the community and has served on many Boards. D. Pinsonault noted that the PC Board members unanimously nominated R. Coss to be interviewed by the SB for the open position on the PC Board. H. Chandler moved and M. Connors seconded to appoint Richard Coss to the Planning Commission Board to serve the remainder of Kay Manly's term until April 30, 2017. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment

J. Menson asked if the PC Board's request to have a technical review of the Zoning Bylaws was approved. C. Brooks responded that a resolution from the PC Board was reviewed at the last SB meeting and funds are available to have the BCRC do the technical review.

Energy Committee Update

J. Salsgiver stated that the Town Report has a synopsis of what the Energy Committee has been working on. Items mentioned were:

- The solar installation at the Dorset School has worked well.
- Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) ~ setting up educational programs at Dorset School
- Park & Ride ~ working on the development of a park and ride location near Route 7 and Routes 11 & 30.
- Partnering with local entities such as Bennington College, BCRC, Efficiency Vermont, etc. to hold contractor educational seminars for energy efficiency.

H. Chandler asked if there was anything the SB could do to help facilitate their work and J. Salsgiver responded not really, as they have been able to figure out ways to accomplish their goals. N. Faesy reported that the BCRC is working on overlay presentations for solar panel and wind turbine locations locally and they want people's input. J. Salsgiver noted that many locations make sense, but there are also many spots that do not. Discussion ensued regarding carbon emission meetings, tillable land/soil types and NEDS. J. Hand noted that Green Mountain Power is progressive due to the fact that they are looking to the future with regard to what business model they will follow.

Vicious Dog Hearing (continued)

C. Brooks informed C. Phillips, who missed the beginning of the meeting, that the SB heard testimony from the Animal Control Officer and reviewed past history for imposing fines. He noted that this was a first offense and not a malicious act and the owner has agreed to euthanize the dog by February 22, 2016. C. Phillips stated that the leash law was broken resulting in being bitten which should result in a fine. C. Brooks responded that the dog would be euthanized, but the owner would not be fined. R. Gaiotti said that a copy of the invoice for the euthanasia would be available for C. Phillips to view. C. Phillips asked about payment of doctor's bills and C. Brooks stated that doctor's bills would be a civil issue, not a Town issue.

Town Meeting Preparation

R. Gaiotti reviewed the 2016 Town meeting documents with the Board which included the highlights of: roadway infrastructure projects, purchase of a new dump truck, Emerald Lake visitor passes, trail head for Mad Tom Notch and the Gettysburg Quarry parcel purchase. Also mentioned were the Public Safety and Economic Development studies. A "pdf" of the Town Report is to be placed on the Town web site. S. Pinsonault expressed concern that floor counts may be necessary this year due to the large dollar amount of appropriations in the budget.

Finance Report

R. Gaiotti noted that the budget was 65% through the fiscal year and that fuel costs and overtime wages were down from last year. C. Brooks commented that the postage line items were high and R. Gaiotti responded that the tax mailings and PC/Zoning return receipt mailings were responsible. C. Brooks recommended that R. Gaiotti adjust the budget lines for postage. C.

Brooks asked about the Town Clerk training/dues line item and S. Pinsonault replied that last year as President many trips were paid for and this year they are not. The line item has been adjusted for the next year. Also mentioned was the Winter Sand/Winter Gravel line item.

Manager's Report

R. Gaiotti included a Dorset water system update memo in the SB packet which reported about the maps and technical information he received from the State. A meeting was held with the Prudential Committee Attorney, J. O'Dea (Town Attorney) and R. Gaiotti to discuss the possibility of the Town assuming control of the water system and the Dorset Fire District agreeing to an inter-local contract. The contents of this memo were reviewed with the SB and it was noted that any costs involved for upgrading the water system are not the responsibility of the Dorset taxpayers, but would be the responsibility of the people who use the water system. An engineering study would be needed for any future endeavors. D. Pinsonault believed that at their last annual meeting, they placed money aside for this study, but it was never done. M. Connors asked about welding the fire hydrant ports for safety and R. Gaiotti said that he thought they were welded except for the 2.5" port which is listed as a minor deficiency with the State. D. Pinsonault expressed concern that if the Dorset water system was taken over by the Town and equalization of taxes between Dorset and East Dorset districts was accomplished, it would be unfair for the East Dorset residents to be charge for upgrades to the Dorset water system. C. Brooks noted that this was a discussion only at this point and R. Gaiotti said that a study needs to be done first. The Dorset Prudential Committee has been notified by ISO of their pending downgrade of their fire insurance rating which is currently 7/7x. The new rating could go to 9/10 (10 is equivalent to no recognized coverage) which could cause higher insurance rates on properties in their District.

Lake Champlain regulations will be enforced on Class IV highways and Towns do not receive any funding to maintain Class IV highways which may have adverse consequences. The Town of Dorset has approximately eight miles of Class IV roadways and it may not be in the Town's best interest to give up these roads. R. Gaiotti reported that the Owl's Head Forest closing date will be in March and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in the spring.

The Economic Development Study has been ongoing and there have been discussions about land use and "affordable housing." R. Gaiotti stated that there is a need to reset the bias against what is considered affordable housing as the goal is to create moderate income housing such as for a nurse or teacher which would be \$300,000 or under. N. Faesy suggested using the term "workforce housing." R. Gaiotti stated that N. Faesy, the Planning Commission and the BCRC are recommending a workshop with Julie Compoli, an experienced planner/designer in Town design and site planning. D. Pinsonault commented that the Board was in favor of having this workshop to reassure the community about the PC goals.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Week of 02/16/16

It was the consensus of the SB to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable for the week of 02/16/2016 as presented.

Other Business

- It was the consensus of the Select Board members to appoint Douglas Beebe as Fire Warden for Dorset.
- It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the certificate ~ Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways.
- It was the consensus of the Select Board members to sign the Certificate of Compliance with Town Roads/Bridge Standards and Network Inventory.

M. Connors moved and H. Chandler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Select Board

Date 2/16/16
 Regular Meeting X
 Special Meeting ___

(Please Print)

Name	Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes or No)
Dick Coss	PO Box 814 Dorset	PLANNING	YES
JIM SALSGNER	243 NICHOLS HILL RD	DORSET EMERGENCY COMM	YES
Nancy Fressy	PO Box 817	DEC & Self	?
Sandy Piuschalt	1665 Me 7	Town Clerk	yes
Ryan Dunne	Kelly Hollow	Dorset Warden	yes
Rosaline Fox	POB 1011 Dorset	Self	No
Danny Piuschalt	1665 RT 7 East Dorset	me	NO
ROBERT MENSON	1131 RT 30 DORSET	STRECK	No
JOAN MENSON	"	"	---
Jim Hand	1705 Morse Hill Rd, E. Dorset	DEC	?
Erwin Phillips	14 Virgil Rd Manchester Center	Mother	?
CAROL PHILLIPS	1127 HIRBY HOLLOW RD DORSET VT		