

Minutes of Joint Selectboard, Dorset Fire District, East Dorset Fire District

Wednesday June 22, 2016

Present: H. Chandler, J. Stannard, L. Ruffa, T. Smith, S. Ludlam, J. Collins, D. Pinsonault, B. Weiss, R. Squire, M. Putnam, M. McWayne, R. Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Others Present: S. Pinsonault (Town Clerk), M. Canavan, N. Ludlam, J. Mirenda, L. Sullivan

H. Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. H. Chandler asked for and received consent from the East Dorset and Dorset Prudential Committee Chairs to call all meetings to order. Chandler thanked the Prudential Committee members for attending and thanked them for all the good works they do for the community. The group went around the table with introductions.

R. Gaiotti proceeded to present a memo on a Fire Protective Services that would equalize the fire tax between the Fire Districts. Discussion was had about the mechanics of the agreement and how it would work now and in the future, whether it would be a binding agreement vs. allowing the Town to agree to only parts of it. M. Putnam voiced concern as to whether the Town would be compelled to participate in the contract in the future. Discussion ensued about the fact that all three entities would have to agree to the contract in order to make it work. B. Weiss stated that he had consulted with J. Thrasher about the contract for services with the Town and the tax equalization item. J. Stannard asked M. Putnam whether the Dorset Fire District should have a special annual meeting vote to approve the contract.

S. Pinsonault commented that the schedule worked well for a special Town Meeting to be held on August 9th to approve including the Fire Department costs into the Town Budget. Discussion ensued about having an informational meeting Monday the 8th to answer any questions that the general public may have.

H. Chandler asked for additional questions. H. Chandler then presented the idea for the Selectboard to approve the interlocal Fire Protective Services contract and include the Fire District contract cost into a Special Town Meeting article to be warned for August 9th. T. Smith moved and L. Ruffa seconded, discussion ensued, J. Stannard felt that there should be more discussion. Call to vote, vote passed 3 to 0 (J. Stannard abstained).

B. Weiss moved to approve the Fire Protective Services Contract and R. Squire seconded, vote passed 3 to 0 (M. Putnam abstained).

J. Collins moved to approve the Fire Protective Services Contract and S. Ludlam seconded, vote passed 3 to 0.

S. Ludlam asked about the Delinquent tax process and what would happen with past delinquencies. R. Gaiotti stated that the Fire Districts would have to continue to collect the past years delinquents until the accounts got to net zero. Moving forward after that there would no longer be a fire tax delinquencies because the Town would collect the funds and pay the Fire Districts directly for the service.

S. Ludlam made a motion for the group to meet and sign the Fire Protective Services Contract upon each Fire Districts approval of their Fire District budget, J. Collins seconded vote passed 3 to 0. The Selectboard and Dorset Fire District agreed to meet and sign the agreement upon approval of the East Dorset Fire District Budget and in advance of the August 9th Town wide vote.

There being no further business to discuss the East Dorset Prudential stood adjourned at 7:45pm.

H. Chandler then brought up the second agenda item about the financial services contract between the Town of Dorset and the Dorset Fire District # 1.

H. Chandler asked for motion to approve the contract with the amended changes to item j: removing the month of May and adding a qualified CPA firm instead of Engel & Spivey. T. Smith moved and L. Ruffa seconded to approve the contract. Discussion ensued about the benefits of the contract, and the efficiencies it would create. Discussion ensued about the timing of the contract. Vote passed 3 to 0 (J. Stannard abstained).

Discussion ensued about dynamics of the working application of the agreement (ie what about conflict of interest etc.). R. Gaiotti stated that the bookkeeping function likely wouldn't be tied directly into high level administrative decisions being made by the Fire District and if the Prudential Committee felt that there was a sensitive topic they could ask the Town representative present at their meeting to leave the room momentarily.

R. Gaiotti is to amend the services contract and deliver it for signatures for the Selectboard and Dorset Fire District #1 at the earliest convenience. Preparations will be made to warn a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday August 9th with an informational floor meeting Monday August 8th to present the outline of the Fire Protective Services agreement that would equalize the Fire Tax rate in Dorset.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting stood adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Gaiotti

Town Manager

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TESTIFYING</u>
Sandy Insomant	1665 VT Rte 7	yes
Linda Sullivan	932 McNamee Rd.	?
Jim Miendorf	MAD TOM ROAD	N
Nancy Ludlam	149 Mad Tom Rd	N
Margaret Conaway	186 Mad Tom Rd	?