

# Town of Dorset, Vermont



## Dorset Town Offices:

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*Chartered*

## Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board January 18, 2022

Present: Tom Smith, Henry Chandler, Jim Salsgiver, Megan Thorn,  
Liz Ruffa

Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Susan Howard (Northshire  
Rescue), Steven Tuch, Roger Threlfall.

Megan Thorn, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Jim Salsgiver moved and Henry Chandler seconded to approve the December 20th minutes as amended, motion passed 4-0.

### **Public Comment**

Steven Tuch was in attendance to bring the issue of poor internet coverage on upper Danby Mountain Road to the Board's attention. Last year Comcast did a line extension covering DMR up to 1884 DMR. This leaves nearly 40 homes without the service. Steven and Rob Gaiotti have been lobby Comcast to continue the work in 2022 to cover the remainder of homes on the road. Discussion ensued with regard to addressing this issue on DMR and also Mad Tom Road and Dorset Hill Road.

### **Northshire Rescue Squad:**

Susan Howard was present to give an update about the Northshire Rescue Squad. She wanted to let Dorset know that NRS will continue to serve Dorset and is working with Manchester to parse out details of the consulting report that is pending. Discussion ensued about getting community input and adapting the 5 town NRS-Municipal board in ways that make sense. Jim Salsgiver noted that he was treasurer of NRS and would recuse himself for any actionable NRS items that come before the board. It was also noted that one possible change could be a longer-term agreement (5 years vs. 3 years). Megan Thorn asked Rob Gaiotti to place NRS on the February agenda for continued discussion.

**FY23 Budget Public Hearing:**

Megan Thorn opened the FY23 Town Budget public hearing. Rob Gaiotti presented items from the FY23 budget and answered questions. Budget highlights include: 3.2% spending increase, expect a 4% increase in the tax rate depending on where the grand list ends up. Budget items include partial funding for the new town office bond payment, and transitioning the Town Clerk position. The hearing was closed at 8:15pm. Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to approve the FY23 budget as presented for Town Meeting, motion passed 4-0.

**Town Meeting Warning:**

Rob Gaiotti presented the Draft Town Meeting warning for 2022. Discussion ensued about the statute that outlines petitioned articles and the limit it has on Selectboard oversight. Language was finalized for the Field House article. Discussion ensued with regard to holding Town Meeting virtually, hybrid or in person. It was the consensus of the board to hold Town Meeting virtually, Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to approve the Town Meeting Warning for 2022, motion passed 4-0.

**Town Office Construction Management RFP:**

Rob Gaiotti presented the updated CM RFP for the new town office project. He noted the timeline and possible vendors recommended by Maclay Architects. Jim Salsgiver moved and Henry Chandler seconded to approve the CM RFP as presented, motion passed 4-0.

**Old Business:**

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):**

Rob Gaiotti noted that the Final Treasury guidance had been issued for ARPA. The new understanding is that there is a standard offer of \$10 million of revenue loss. This means any municipality that has under \$10 million in revenue loss would be able to use the ARPA funding for the provision of government services. This is a much broader offering and the Town will develop a survey for public input.

**Broadband:**

The Town has been assisting residents on Mad Tom Road and Danby Mountain Road in an attempt to get Comcast to run line extensions in areas where there are enough customers that costs of install to customers is low. Comcast has comeback with some fairly high-cost sharing figures for new customers. Discussion ensued with regard to ARPA funding and how it might help the internet issue.

Other items included: Town Office Update/ East Dorset Traffic/ Read Farm Lane.

### **Finance Report**

The finance report was presented by R. Gaiotti. He noted that at 60% through the FY22 year, the general fund was 58% expended. H. Chandler moved and J. Salsgiver seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Manager's Report**

Topics discussed:

- Highway Dept. tasks
- DFD Water Project updates
- Grant applications/requisition
- Professional development
- ARPA updates

### **Payroll & Accounts Payable for 1/18/22**

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the payroll & accounts payable for 1/18.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting stood adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager