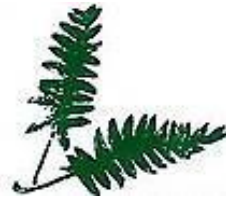


# Town of Dorset, Vermont



## Dorset Town Offices:

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East Dorset, VT 05253

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*Chartered*

## Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board November 16, 2021

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

Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)

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

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Liz Ruffa noted that she was absent from the October meeting and it should be noted in the minutes; Jim Salsgiver moved and Henry Chandler seconded to approve the October 19<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended, motion passed 4-0.

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

R. Gaiotti presented an updated memo with regard to ARPA. The Town will receive around \$582,000 through summer 2022. R. Gaiotti attended workshops by VLCT. It was noted that negative economic impacts and revenue loss calculations would allow ARPA funds to be used for general government services. Further discussion ensued about gaining public input on how to use the funding. R. Gaiotti is to review the input survey generated in Manchester and come up with similar options. J. Salsgiver noted that they survey should have a definition statement about the limited ARPA uses and then ask questions that would help get good answers for things that are approved uses for the funding.

### **Old Business:**

#### **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. Jim Salsgiver gave an update about the Communications Union District. It was

noted that CUD information should be put on the Town's website and that the Board should ask for a general update from the Dorset CUD contact.

### **Town Office at Raptor Lane:**

R. Gaiotti presented a memo on the next steps for the Town Office project at Raptor Lane. Agreements with vendors will be needed for design, permitting and ultimately construction and construction management. An RFP is in the works for construction and construction management. Discussion ensued about using as many local vendors as feasible during the project. L. Ruffa inquired about which landscape architects worked with Maclay at the Putney School.

### **East Dorset Traffic:**

R. Gaiotti noted that AOT was not installing gates on the Route 7 rail crossing as previously thought. Additional signage was going up in advance of the 40 mph zone leading to the village. T. Smith requested getting speed studies done for the area by the rail crossing and the area just north of the village. R. Gaiotti will coordinate with BCRC for the studies.

### **Read Farm Lane:**

Town is researching options for instream work using EWP grant funding; it's a complex issue but worth doing. Town is also putting together a FEMA grant application for the floodproofing (raising) of the restaurant building. Grant could possibly pay for 75% of the work.

### **Finance Report**

The finance report was presented by R. Gaiotti. He noted that at 32% through the FY22 year, the general fund was 32% expended. H. Chandler moved and J. Salsgiver seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

### **FY23 Highway Capital Planning:**

R. Gaiotti presented the draft CIP for the highway department which includes the long term plans for maintaining roads and purchasing equipment. In 2023 the Town anticipates paving a portion of Paul's Way and Kirby Hollow. It is also possible that the Town be ready to pave parts of Dorset Village, due to the water line work, ARPA funds could be used for these costs. With regard to equipment the next purchase would be a replacement F550.

### **Manager's Report**

Topics discussed:

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

- ARPA updates

**Other Business:**

R. Gaiotti noted that representatives for the Field House project in Manchester have requested to attend the December SB Meeting. Discussion ensued about governance, timing, and costs vs. benefits etc.

R. Gaiotti noted that at a recent professional development workshop a portion of the learning was dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion statements and efforts in Towns in VT. A grass roots group has put together a declaration of inclusion document and case statement that they are advocating for Town Selectboards to review and adopt. M. Thorn encouraged the board to review and be prepared to discuss at the December meeting.

**Payroll & Accounts Payable for 11/16**

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the payroll & accounts payable for 9/21.

It was noted that there were conflicts with the 12/21 meeting date. It was the consensus of the Board to move the meeting date to: Monday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Jim Salsgiver moved and H. Chandler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager