

Town of Dorset, Vermont



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Chartered

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board February 15, 2022

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 7:01 p.m.

Meeting Minutes:

Jim Salsgiver moved and Henry Chandler seconded to approve the January 18th minutes as amended, motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment

None

Northshire Rescue Squad:

Jim Salsgiver noted that he would speak for NRS and recuse himself from the Selectboard for any decision making. He updated the Board, stating that NRS and the Town of Manchester continue to go back and forth on items and issues. There is a Emergency Service Board multi Town Meeting on 2/16. NRS will update the Towns on operations and prepare to offer a new contract running to 2025. Discussion ensued about NRS services in Dorset and status of NRS. It was the consensus of the Board that there is strong support for NRS in Dorset and the Town would sign a new agreement with NRS, (Jim Salsgiver recused).

Town Meeting Preparation:

Rob Gaiotti gave an update about Town Meeting, presenting a draft document for Town Meeting that included the FY23 Town Budget and updates about a host of issues the Town has been working on.

Broadband:

Rob Gaiotti reported that the Town hadn't heard back from Comcast or Consolidated with regard to plans for buildout work in Dorset. Jim Salsgiver gave an update about the Communications Union District and the efforts in Bennington County to get Consolidated to run fiber to everyhome and agree to hold pricing at a negotiated rate for at least 2 years. Discussion ensued about options for improved service in Dorset.

2022 Highway Mileage Certificate & Road/ Bridge Standards:

Jim Salsgiver moved and Henry Chanlder seconded to approve the 2022 Highway Mileage Certificate, motion passed 4-0.

Jim Salsgiver moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the 2022 Road & Bridge Standards, motion passed 4-0.

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

Rob Gaiotti noted that the ARPA survey is still open and that Infrastructure is the leading category for funds to be spent at 38% support of the 5 items listed.

Other Discussion 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 63% through the FY22 year, the general fund was 63% expended. H. Chandler moved and J. Salsgiver seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager's Report

Topics discussed:

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

Payroll & Accounts Payable for 3/15/22

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the payroll & accounts payable for 3/15.

Other Business:

Henry Chandler brought up the issue of housing and for Dorset to begin to research the best methods and options for the Town to aid or sponsor a housing effort for new units in Dorset. He mentioned that he was familiar with Bill Reed, an architect who specializes in regenerative development. He asked the Board if it was acceptable for Liz Ruffa and Rob Gaiotti to work with him on this issue. This included covering possible expenses for meeting with vendors and doing research. Liz Ruffa mentioned that the Dorset Tomorrow group was very interested in the Housing discussion before COVID hit. It was the consensus of the board to move forward with this housing effort.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting stood adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager