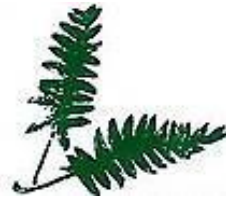


# Town of Dorset, Vermont



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*Chartered*

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

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

Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Sandy Pinsonault (Town Clerk), Berta Maginnis (Wilson House)

Megan Thorn, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **Approve Minutes of January 19, 2021**

Megan Thorn noted a grammatical error in the last paragraph of the January minutes (arrange vs. arranged); Jim Salsgiver moved and Tom Smith seconded to approve the minutes as amended, motion passed 4-0.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Town Meeting Preparation:**

Rob Gaiotti presented a power point presentation that will be used during Town Meeting to explain the Town Budget and highlight projects that the Town has been working on over the previous year. Discussion ensued about using technology due to the fact that the informational meeting will be virtual. It was the consensus of the board to draft an agenda for the meeting that would lay out the plan for topics at the meeting. Maclay Architects will be on hand to give a presentation about the concept designs for a new Town Office at Raptor Lane. Discussion ensued about the zoom platform and tailoring the process and the meeting to be most effective. It was the consensus of the board that all questions should either be submitted ahead of time or offered through the chat function of the platform. If the attendance is lower than expected, live questions could be handled. It was noted that all users will be muted and will have to un-mute to speak, to cut down on background noise that can be distracting and make understanding speakers difficult. Questions arose about non-profit appropriations and how they would present. Liz Ruffa suggested having the non-profits compose a very simple 2-3 sentence email with their annual update, and that could be shared at the meeting. It was the consensus of the board to move forward in this manner.

Berta Maginnis was present to give an update about the Wilson House. She noted that the pandemic had really impacted the organization, due to COVID the lodging component of what they do has been halted and this was their main income stream. She noted that the good news is that the Wilson House will continue to exist and resume operations when permitted. She noted that the property tax exemption is a very important part of their finances and the Wilson House is extremely grateful for the longstanding support from the community. Henry Chandler noted that the Town is a strong supporter of the Wilson House, as they are a staple of East Dorset Village and have done much good for the community. Megan Thorn agreed and thanked Berta for attending to give the update.

### **New Town Office/ Raptor Lane Update:**

Rob Gaiotti gave an update about the design process for the new town office discussion at Town Meeting. Elevations have been produced and the floor plan is getting honed in. He noted that the goal is to have information that residents can review and give us feedback to. Sandy Pinsonault noted that she like the latest design and thought it was an exciting time for Dorset. She stated that the Selectboard should be proud of the opportunity and support the process to engage in the future of the Town. Discussion ensued about latest concepts, site placement, and overall costs. Tom Smith asked about cost estimates and making sure that the Town provides comparables to similar projects done by other Towns. Further discussion ensued about the process and the timing, as well as the size of the public meeting room space and how best use it.

### **Old Business:**

Rob Gaiotti gave updates about previous items and projects which included: The East Dorset pedestrian project and future green space; FEMA grant applications for Reed Farm Lane flooding prevention; and Raptor Lane.

### **Finance Report**

The finance report was presented by R. Gaiotti. He noted that the Town was 65% through the fiscal year and the general fund is 62% expended, which is a good sign. Monthly expenses included: mailing ballots, highway items etc. Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Manager's Report**

Topics discussed:

- Highway.
- Continued support for DFD Water/fire finances and admin.
- Reed Farm Lane follow up.
- Town meeting prep
- Town Forest.

**Other Business**

Rob Gaiotti noted that the Board members need to swing by and sign the Solid Waste Inter Local Agreement this week.

Jim Salsgiver noted the recent article about legislation giving some authority back to Towns for certain issues. It was noted that Dorset should support this effort and the Board would keep abreast of the new legislation and what transpires.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager