

# Town of Dorset, Vermont



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*Chartered*

## **Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board April 19, 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 March 15th minutes as amended, motion passed 4-0.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Board Goal Setting 2022:**

Megan Thorn noted that the plan was to have a discussion about important items that the each board member felt that the Town should be working on or addressing. Discussion ensued about: Workforce Housing and what role the town could play in that process. It was noted that the BCRC proposal for a housing needs assessment is a start. Further discussion ensued about the targeted "missing middle" that needed housing in the area. Those making up to \$120,000 still could not afford to mortgage a house in Dorset. Discussion ensued about Raptor Lane and long term planning for housing efforts there. Additional discussion was had about Broadband and the under served and unserved areas in Dorset. The possibility of finding a consultant to produce a map or inventory of current service levels was discussed. The CUD is working with Consolidated to serve all homes, but it's likely that work won't start until 2023 with a 2025 end date. It was noted that this is a very real issue for people who are attempting to work from home with poor Internet service. Discussion was had about a consultant who could compile a buildout analysis and help people leverage existing efforts already underway. At the May meeting, additional goal setting items will be discussed.

**Northshire Rescue Squad:** Discussion ensued about NRS services in Dorset and status of NRS. NRS is hoping to get the 4 towns to sign the updated agreement soon. Jim Salsgiver provided information about an updated agreement. Henry Chandler moved and Tom Smith seconded to allow the Town Manager to sign the NRS contract if is needed in advance of the May meeting, motion passed 5-0.

**Reappraisal RFP:**

Rob Gaiotti presented the 2024-25 Reappraisal Request for Proposals. The Town estimates that it has enough funding available. Discussion ensued as to the need to start the process, as the State may likely require it next year. Jim Salsgiver moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the RFP, motion passed 5-0.

**Housing Needs Assessment Proposal:**

Rob Gaiotti presented the BCRC housing needs assessment proposal. It will supply the Town with data pointing out the levels and lack of certain types of housing based on jobs and incomes of the area. This will help guide the discussion about housing and what efforts make sense to support. Overall cost of the study is around \$16,000. Henry Chandler moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the proposal, motion passed 5-0.

**Old Business:**

**Town Line Survey Proposal:**

Rob Gaiotti presented information on a updated survey proposal for the Dorset/ Manchester Town Line. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the proposal, with estimated costs to be \$3,000-\$5,000.

**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. So far around 175 residents have participated.

**Read Farm Lane:** FEMA grant for buyout received, but it's unlikely the Chantecleer will take the buyout. Instead an a new grant application will be put together to lift the building. Brookside Drive grant application is expected to be denied by FEMA due to costs.

Other Discussion items included: Town Office Update/ East Dorset Traffic

### **Finance Report**

The finance report was presented by R. Gaiotti. He noted that at 80% through the FY22 year, the general fund was 78% 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 Reactions
- Highway Dept. tasks
- DFD Water Project updates
- Grant applications/requisition
- Professional development
- ARPA updates
- Housing Discussion relative to Raptor Lane. H. Chandler, Liz Ruffa, and R. Gaiotti met with Bill Reed and Ryan Porter to gather information about housing development efforts they have worked on. Will continue to report info as it comes in.

### **Payroll & Accounts Payable for 4/15/22**

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the payroll & accounts payable for 4/15.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting stood adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager