

# Town of Dorset, Vermont



## Dorset Town Offices:

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*Chartered*

## Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board April 20, 2021

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

Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Darren Marcy (Manchester Journal), Andrew McKeever (GNAT-TV)

Megan Thorn, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Approve Minutes of March 16, 2021**

Tom moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the February minutes as presented, motion passed 4-0.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Northshire Rescue Squad Lease Agreement:**

Rob Gaiotti noted that in 2017 the Town and Northshire Rescue Squad had entered into an agreement for the Town to hold the lease on a new ambulance with the NRS assuming all costs for the purchase. NRS will be replacing an older existing ambulance and hopes to install the same agreement with Dorset. The interest on the lease is 2.69% which is quite a bit lower than the market rate NRS could get. This process saves NRS a good amount of money. Henry Chandler moved and Tom Smith seconded to approve the lease agreement & resolution as presented, motion passed 4-0 (Jim Salsgiver recused himself from voting as he is a Board member of NRS).

### **Route 30 Speed Limit – North of Dorset Village**

R. Gaiotti presented an update about the 50 mph speed zone that starts on Route 30 just north of Danby Mountain Road. Residents had reached out to board members with concerns about speeds and safety. R. Gaiotti crated a letter to send to the State Traffic Committee to request the speed limit be reviewed and lowered to a safer speed (40 mph). It was the consensus of the Board to have R. Gaiotti forward the letter to the Traffic Committee.

### **Paul's Way – Paving vs. Dirt Road Review:**

R. Gaiotti presented a memo outlining the potential costs to pave Paul's Way. Options included were: partial paving (1,100'), paving to the School (0.50), paving to the School and then to connect to Kirby Hollow (adding 0.25 miles). Cost of paving to the School is around \$154,000. R. Gaiotti noted that in 2021 the current plan is to hopefully finish paving Dorset West Road with aid from a paving grant. If the grant was received it would leave the paving fund with around \$30,000 in fund balance. Discussion ensued about the possible paving, impacts to neighbors, costs etc. M. Thorn noted that she would think that paving the first portion of the road up the hill would make sense, but she worries about pulling funding away from other projects that will be needed in the coming years. J. Salsgiver agreed with this concept. R. Gaiotti will review the re-classification process to better understand the impacts of changing Paul's Way from a Class 3 to Class 2 highway (which would make it eligible for paving grants). Traffic counting data will be available sometime in the next few weeks. This information will be reviewed at the May meeting.

### **New Town Office Discussion:**

R. Gaiotti presented an update of the timeline for the Town Office project/process. He noted that surveys have been created for the New Town Office and for future uses of the current property in East Dorset. So far about 2 dozen of each have been filled out. Postcards reminding residents of the survey will be sent out soon, and posters and flyers could go up around Town as well. R. Gaiotti has continued work with Maclay Architects, closing out the design phase of the project. Other to do items include: meeting with neighbors, marking the driveway and building area for possible community site visits etc.

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:**

Michael Batcher of the Regional Planning Commission was present to tell the Board that the draft hazard mitigation plan needed some small updates and then would need to be sent to surrounding Towns and Vermont Emergency Management. Tom Smith inquired about the first few tables in the document and what looked to be inaccuracies. He also noted that it would be helpful if the pagination could be changed to make it easier to read. J. Salsgiver noted similar review points. All information will be forwarded to R. Gaiotti to be included in final draft to be sent out. H. Chandler moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve having Michael Batcher work on final edits and sending the document out to the appropriate parties, motions passed 4-0.

### **Old Business:**

R. Gaiotti gave updates about:

- Read Farm Lane
- Route 7 & Mad Tom
- Raptor Lane

**Communications Union District 2021 Resolution:**

R. Gaiotti noted that the new year for the CUD means that a new resolution form the Town would be needed. It was noted that Michael Chase is the Dorset Rep, with Jim Salsgiver and Michael Oltedal as alternates. M. Thorn thanked these volunteers for their time helping the CUD and Dorset.

**Finance Report**

The finance report was presented by R. Gaiotti. He noted that the Town was 82% through the fiscal year and the general fund is 80% expended, which is a good sign. Monthly expenses included: highway items etc. It was noted that tax year 20-21 delinquencies were trending down with more people paying online 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 Dept. New Hire
- Continued support for DFD Bond Project
- Reed Farm Lane follow up.
- Town Forest.

**Contracts:**

It was noted that the Board needed to review the proposed renewal contract for the Town Manager, R. Gaiotti. H. Chandler moved and T. Smith seconded to go into executive session to discuss the contract at 8:20pm. The Board exited executive session at 8:45pm – H. Chandler moved and L. Ruffa seconded to approve the contract details as discussed, and to have M. Thorn work with R. Gaiotti to edit and update the contract for the Town Manager, motion passed 4-0.

Jim Salsgiver moved and Tom Smith seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager