

Town of Dorset, Vermont



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Chartered

Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board June 15, 2021

Present: Megan Thorn, Henry Chandler, Tom Smith, Liz Ruffa, Jim Salsgiver
Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Lisa Cueman, Darren Marcy, Tyler Yandow

Megan Thorn, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approve Minutes of May 15, 2021

It was noted that Megan Thorn was not at the May meeting, and the May minutes should be edited to reflect this. Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the May 18th minutes as amended, motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment

None

Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Jim Salsgiver moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Dorset as presented at the May 18th meeting, motion passed 4-0.

New Town Office Discussion:

R. Gaiotti presented an update of the timeline for the Town Office project/process. He presented information related to the surveys available on the Town Office. With regard to the Raptor Lane New Town Office 66% of the 120 respondents supported the plan, while 12% didn't support it and 18% weren't sure yet. The most popular options for re-use of the East Dorset property were still Green Space and Library Annex/Community Space. Discussion ensued about site visits, survey results etc. Megan Thorn noted that the design group was going to revisit the size of the meeting space, due to feedback in the comments of the survey about the size of the meeting space. Site visit dates: June 16, June 23, and June 30 all at 7pm at Raptor Lane.

Old Business:

Route 30 Speed Limit – North of Dorset Village

R. Gaiotti noted that the letter had been sent to the Traffic Committee and the Town would await feedback

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

Traffic data for Pauls Way shows around 100-150 trips per day for residents and neighbors and around 300-350 trips per day related to School traffic at Long Trail School. Rob Gaiotti outlined the options as previously discussed: pave a portion, pave the whole road, re-classify to class II and then pave with grant funding. It was noted that the road was well built and no work would be needed to reclassify to class II, the Town would receive additional state highway aid and the road would be eligible for paving grants.

Discussion ensued about the timing and scope of possibly paving the road. Tom Smith noted that the Town should reach out to Long Trail to discuss. Rob Gaiotti noted that the Town would know more about possible funding for paving Pauls Way after the Dorset West Road project was finished this summer (July/ August).

Read Farm Lane:

Awaiting results of FEMA grant applications for moving the road and the property buyout. Received AOT grant to install a larger culvert under Read Farm Lane (2' upsized to 4') to help alleviate smaller rain events and flooding.

Broadband/ Internet Discussion:

R. Gaiotti presented a memo with regard to possibly using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for broadband expansion in underserved parts of Dorset. Discussion ensued with regard to determining whether the Town has the authority to send out an RFP for improvements and offer funding for doing the work. It was noted that this would come after the State had rolled out it's \$150 million for broadband work. It was the consensus of the Board to have R. Gaiotti research options for an RFP and send letters to the providers, Comcast and Consolidated with regard to their future plans for expansion of service in Dorset.

Finance Report

The finance report was presented by R. Gaiotti. He noted that the Town was 96% through the fiscal year and the general fund is 89% expended, which is a good sign. Monthly expenses included: 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 Dept. tasks
- Milton CAT low bidder on the Excavator RFP
- Continued support for DFD Bond Project
- Reed Farm Lane follow up.
- Town Forest trail work
- ARPA money from Federal Treasury

Henry Chandler moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to approve the low bid from MILTON CAT for a wheeled excavator at \$205,900 net trade of \$45,000, motion passed 4-0.

Contracts/Legal:

Jim Salsgiver moved and Tom Smith seconded to enter into executive session to discuss contracts, motion passed 4-0 at 8:26pm. The Board exited executive session at 8:31pm, Henry Chanlder moved and Jim Salsgiver seconded to approve the 3-year contract for Town Manager Rob Gaiotti as discussed.

Jim Salsgiver moved and Tom Smith seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager