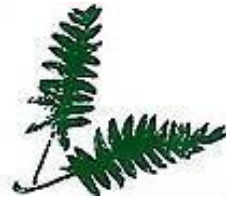


# Town of Dorset, Vermont



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*Chartered*

## Regular Meeting of the Dorset Select Board August 16, 2022

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

Also, present: Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Ken Gilbert, Bob Thompson, Greg Sukiennek

Megan Thorn, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### Approve Minutes of 7/19

Jim Salsgiver moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed 3-0.

**Public Comment:**None

**Route 30 Traffic/Speeding Petition:**The Board noted that it had received a memo and petition from Sebastian Haase, a resident who lives on Route 30. The petition describes dangerous conditions for walking in the village and general concerns about speeding, the level of traffic and noise impacts to quality of life for village residents. Rob Gaiotti presented a memo describing all the improvements that have been made to the village since 2018, which have worked to make it safer to walk and slow traffic. Discussion ensued about the need for additional enforcement and limited staffing with the Sheriff's Department not allowing for more than 50 hours per week of coverage. Additional discussion ensued about other options for addressing the concerns. The consensus of the Board was to look at the addition of a permanent radar sign, step up enforcement as much as possible, and review options for turning part of Route 30 into a Class 1 town highway.

**Town Office Update:** Rob Gaiotti presented an update about the New Town Office project at Raptor Lane. Naylor & Breen the construction company recently priced out the package and it was around \$3.9 million, vs. the \$3.6 million estimated by the architect in March of 2021. The Town was reviewing options to get the pricing down into the range approved by the bond vote. Additionally local/ state permits are needed and should be done by the fall. Maclay still needs to finish construction design. The Town discussed ways to package each division of the project up and bid it out, getting 3 prices on each package. It was noted that if some flexibility is added to the schedule it could result in savings as well. Lastly the Town Highway Dept could clear and grub the lot to save on project costs.

### **Local Option Tax Study:**

Rob Gaiotti presented a local option tax memo and study from SteadmanHill consulting. Previously the Board had approved a housing needs assessment to give Dorset facts about what type of housing is needed etc. The discussion about local option tax was to use the funding to help underwrite housing efforts in Dorset. The local option tax expected revenue would be around \$160,000 per year. This could be enough to cover a bond of \$3 million. Other options would be to partner with non-profits or developers, or to develop a revolving loan fund to help aide buyers with downpayments etc. These are just examples and much more discussion is needed. Once the housing needs assessment is complete this fall, the Town could hold public meetings to solicit input. Further discussion ensued about efforts in housing. Liz Ruffa attended the Vermont Council on Rural Development Conference and made some very good connections for this effort.

### **IDEAL Vermont**

Rob Gaiotti presented a memo about IDEAL Vermont, a new state program focused on racial equity, as run through the Governor's office. Discussion ensued about the pilot program and what is expected from the Towns that participate. It was the consensus of the board to inquire as to what level of staff time would be needed before agreeing to sign up.

### **Old Business:**

**Broadband:** Fidium Fiber is rolling out in areas south of Dorset, 2023 is still the expected time frame.

**East Dorset Village:** The speed study should be back soon for Route 7 and Rob Gaiotti has sent another email to the VTrans property officials about the space behind the post office. Other updates included: Read Farm Lane, and the Raptor Lane bike trail efforts.

### **Finance Report:**

Rob Gaiotti gave the July-August finance report. The draft FY22 audit shows a surplus of around \$95,000. Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to approve the finance report, motion passed 4-0.

### **Manager's Report:**

Updates were presented about: Highway projects, Dorset Fire District projects, Broadband, and continuing education for the Town Manager.

**Approve Payroll & Accounts Payable:** It was the consensus of the Board to approve the PR and AP for the week.

**Other Business:** Megan Thorn noted that this would be Tom Smith's last meeting on the Board. The Board expressed it's gratitude for the 7 years of service that Tom has provided to the Town. He has been a great asset to the community and his perspective will be missed on the Board. The vacancy will be advertised soon, and the Board can make an appointment this fall.

### **Executive Session: Personnel**

Jim Salsgiver moved and Tom Smith seconded to go into executive session at 8:50pm. The board exited the session at 9:00pm with no action taken.

Tom Smith moved and Liz Ruffa seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti Town Manager