



DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.
Dorset Water Co.

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DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING

May 7, 2018

Present: Ben Weiss (Chairman), Milt McWayne, Steve Jones, Shawn Hazelton (Fire Chief), Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Absent: Roger Squire (Vice Chairman), Abbott de Rham, Jim McGinnis (Water Operator)

Others Present: Bill Wightman, Mona Wightman, Jean Kingston, Jim Kingston, Bill Childs, Patty Michl, Keith Michl, Virginia Longacre, Andrew Longacre, Justine Cook, Don Hutchins, James W. O'Neil III, Chip Watson, Allan Sullivan, Robert Menson, Joan Menson, Luanne Hardy, D. Green, Greg Kepler (Engineer), May Soohoo, Don Hayward, Sim Rllinson, Robert Gabriele, Henry Chandler, Lindy Bowden, Andrew McKeever (GNAT), Harvey K. Watkins, Jordan Dickinson, Derry H. Dickinson

B. Weiss, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. It was noted that an informational discussion for the bond vote on May 14, 2018 would be first on the agenda.

It was explained by B. Weiss that at the Annual meeting on May 14, 2018, the Prudential Board has included an article for the legal voters of DFD District #1 to authorize a bond of no more than \$700,000 for the purpose of completing projects and funding possible future projects. These include:

- **Supplemental Water Project** \$600,000
Complete the project of hooking up the water to the system and build a pump house
- **Metering Station & System Planning** \$62,000
Set up a metering station to monitor/measure the water coming down from the reservoir

- **Future Hydraulic Modeling Study**..... \$20,000
This study will help to prioritize fixes on the system (such as long service lines and/or fire hydrants).
- **Future Planning & Engineering** \$18,000
To help keep a forward momentum with water system improvements.

R. Gaiotti pointed out that pages 16 through 19 of the Annual Report give more detailed information. Questions asked during the meeting were:

- Is the new water source co-mingled with the old water source?
In low water situations, the well will be pumped to fill the reservoir to put water into the system. B. Weiss noted that the State had imposed a moratorium on the additional usage of water in the District and this supplemental source will fix this issue so that additional usage and users can be allowed onto the system.
- Who will pay and who will vote on the bond?
By DFD #1 Bylaws, the voters of the Dorset Fire District #1 will vote on the bond article and the water users will pay for the bond. The DFD Water Budget has been level funded for the year and includes the bond payments.
- If at a future date, the fire hydrants are fixed for firefighting capabilities, can the bond payments be paid by all property owners in the DFD #1 district?
Many discussions took place about this subject and the Board decided that the bond payments should be made by the water customers and most of the hydrants would be used by the water customers. R. Gaiotti explained that professional fees are included in the FY19 budget for engineering which can be paid for as part of the fire services. The bond itself is not renegotiable. There will be future discussions about hydrants. A. Sullivan commented that as a voter in the DFD #1 district, he would be happy to “chip in” to help pay for the bond. B. Weiss responded that the Board has discussed fundraising so that people can contribute if they want. It was noted that the DFD #1 water district has had historically low water rates for a long time and the average water bill now is \$713 annually. This year the water bills will be based on the State criteria of the number of bedrooms in each house so the average water bill for a 2-3 bedroom house should go down.
- Will individual household water meters still be necessary?
The hydraulic study, through data collection and recommendations, will help to determine which next steps are necessary.
- Will the bond payments be tax deductible for homeowners?
Research needs to be done to answer this question.

P. Michl expressed concern that voters outside of the water district may not be aware of the water district issues and could vote down the bond article. B. Weiss stressed that he wanted to make clear that voting to approve the bond does have monetary consequences on people outside the water district. P. Michl complimented the DFD #1 Board members for the incredible amount of effort put into the DFD and the accomplishments achieved.

B. Weiss opened the regular meeting of the DFD #1 at 7:34 p.m.

Engineer's Report (Kepler)

G. Kepler reviewed his report which included:

- New Well Project Status & Schedule ~ completed pump test at 90 GPM and had ten wells monitored in the area with no interference per VHB feedback. Waiting for return of water quality testing.
- Engineering/Permitting/Construction Phase ~ Draft proposal given to R. Gaiotti concerning the next phase.
- Meter Station (Status) ~ Piping materials and precast orders are complete and Dydo to start work next week as long as materials are available.

S. Jones moved and M. McWayne seconded to approve the Engineer's report as presented.
Motion carried 3-0.

Water Operator's Report (McGinnis)

None

Fire Chief's Report (Hazelton)

S. Hazelton read his report for the Department's calls for May 2018. Discussion ensued regarding the new truck proposal with S. Hazelton explaining that the Department would like to replace two trucks currently in service: an ETA511 – 1996 pumper/tanker and a 1972 Chevy pickup truck. The proposed new truck would be a four wheel drive vehicle built on a standard medium duty cab and chassis with essentially the same equipment as the larger truck – just a smaller capacity for water and pumping. Two bids have been received and a third bid is due to come in soon. Discussion included warranty, selling old equipment and funding of new equipment.

M. McWayne moved and S. Jones seconded to approve the Fire Chief's report as presented.
Motion carried 3-0.

Fire & Water Financials (Gaiotti)

R. Gaiotti reviewed his report:

- Water District & Fire District cash on hand
- Water & Fire delinquent taxes
- Water debt service fees still due
- Trial Balance report included in packet
- Water fourth quarter billing has been sent out
- Submitted planning loan reimbursement forms for \$43,000
- Protective Services agreement payment to be received this week.

S. Jones moved and M. McWayne seconded to approve the financial reports as presented.
Motion carried 3-0.

Water Manager's Report (Gaiotti)

The water report included:

- Supplemental water monitoring and pump testing is on track and waiting for additional information
- Peziometers were installed on the Cooper/Page parcels for easement septic research.
- Preparations completed for informational meeting on May 7th including the creation of a DFD annual report.
- Phase 2 metering station work to begin shortly.
- Working on asset management grant.
- Unexpected additional cost for digging peziometers holes.
- Awaiting solar panel cost for metering station.
- Service line to fire house is not leaking.

M. McWayne moved and S. Jones seconded to approve Water Manager's report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

None

New Business

- R. Gaiotti explained that S. Pinsonault, Town Clerk, will be running the voting for the DFD on Monday, May 14th so that it will all be done properly.
- M. McWayne moved and S. Jones seconded to approve having a signature stamp made for B. Weiss and R. Squire in the event that someone is absent and checks need to be signed. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by motion of M. McWayne and second of S. Jones. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Aversano

