

## **Dorset Fire District Meeting Minutes May 11, 2020**

In attendance: Ben Weiss, Roger Squire, Milton McWayne, Lee Fox, Abbott de Rham, Chief Shawn Hazelton, Greg Kepler, Robert Clark, Rob Gaiotti

Ben Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

### **Approve April Meeting Minutes:**

Roger Squire asked that the number 1 be removed from the reference to the Planning Loan in the operations report. Roger Squire moved and Lee Fox seconded to approve the April minutes, motion passed 4-0.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Chief Hazelton listed the calls for the previous month. Items of note were: structure fire on Nichols Hill Road, false fire alarms at 319 Tower Road, 62 Foote Road, and 3286 Route 30. Lee Fox moved and Abbott de Rham seconded to approve the Fire Chief's report for May, motion passed 4-0.

**Engineer's Report:** Greg Kepler gave the May engineering report. He gave an update on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the system wide service line review. He noted that State staffing changes have impacted the PER process and that funding that had been discussed with the State did not seem to be available in FY19 or FY20 for the lead/ galvanized service line work. Discussion ensued about 90% PER meeting the need to hit "pause". Robert Clark of Otter Creek Engineering gave an additional update about the PER process and recent developments with State Officials. Discussion ensued about the process, funding and the overall strategy going forward. Greg Kepler & Robert Clark suggested that the Fire District back track and hold a 60% meeting with the new State staff to get them up to speed to determine that

whether the District should pursue funding in additional years. It was also suggested that perhaps the State should be asked for possible funding for a "lead reduction process" for Dorset, similar to Bennington. Further discussion was had about the State intended use plan and the District crafting a letter to submit for comments for the June 18th public hearing for the plan. Further discussion was had about the process and how the District felt that the State had redirected them a few times at this point, and now staff had changed. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the 60% meeting and see what transpires. Lee Fox moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve the engineering report, motion passed 4-0.

**Water Operations Report & Financials:** Rob Gaiotti went through the monthly water operations report. Items included a water line leak work update and future projects being mapped out. Discussion ensued about operations and the recent projects to bore two new shared service lines on Dorset West Road and Route 30 South. Gaiotti then outlined the financials for the month. Fire Department finances continue to be very strong. The water division

up a cash flow concern for the water division. The Boretch bill was received and the water division needs some cash flow for prompt payment. Abbott de Rham moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve a \$30,000 temporary loan from the Fire division to the Water division, to be paid back immediately upon receipt of the planning loan reimbursement, motion passed 4-0.

**Old Business:** Ben Weiss started the discussion about the shared service line replacement and how things would be paid back and formalized. Abbott de Rham stressed the need to have a policy for equity. Discussion ensued about many different options to layout the process, determine who funds the improvements and have the shared lines turned over to the Fire District once the improvements have been made. The board discussed at length, loan agreements and formalizing them for the recent work. It was the consensus of the board to pursue agreements with recent shared line users and make preparations.

Ben Weiss asked about the overall direction of future planning and projects. Discussion was had about developing a better sense of what and how to approach projects. Items of note were: bonding vs. not bonding, meters, pressure testing, shorter term leak work vs. larger projects to tackle more than one deficiency. The water ordinance was held off to be reviewed for the addition of the shared line definitions etc.

Lee Fox shared a new graph with the group to help better understand the work done so far to fix leaks and lower average daily demand. Discussion was had about maximum daily demand, peaking factors and how the District can wittle the number down to get into compliance with the water supply rule and get the moratorium on new connections and allocations lifted. Lee is planning to continue to keep the graphy as a tool to help moving forward.

Abbott de Rham moved and Roger Squire seconded to adjourn the meeting 10:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Gaiotti  
Town Manager