



DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.
Dorset Water Co.

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**Fire Station: 2877 Route 30
Dorset, VT 05251**

**Offices: Town Office 112 Mad
Tom Rd E. Dorset, VT 05253**

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING

June 12, 2017

Present: Ben Weiss (Chairman), Milt McWayne, Abbott de Rahm, Roger Squire, Steve Jones, Jim McGinnis (Water Operator), Shawn Hazelton (Fire Chief), Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)

Absent:

Others Present: Greg Kepler (Kepler Engineering), Ginny Longacre, Andy Longacre, Jordan "Skip" Dickinson, Patrick Smart (Agency of Natural Resources), Heather Collins (Agency of Natural Resources)

B. Weiss opened the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Visit from Agency of Natural Resources Officials (Sanitary Survey Discussion)

P. Smart noted that the ANR ~ Department of Environmental Conservation, has routine inspections of public water systems every three years to evaluate and determine if criteria is being met and there are no hazardous conditions. The Sanitary Survey for Dorset was done on February 28, 2017 with a follow-up letter dated March 30, 2017 listing deficiencies for the system. P. Smart commented that addressing the leak issues would significantly alleviate water flow problems along with the distribution system improvements even without a new source. B. Weiss explained that the Board is trying to accomplish a shared district-wide upgrade project and they have taken further steps to do so. A. de Rham remarked that their first priority is potable water and fire protection service is a lower priority as the Fire Department has made accommodations to fight fires without the hydrants. P. Smart stated that requirements for a water storage tank is 180-360 gallons per day per user and that fire protection requirements are 500 gallons per minute for two hours. G. Kepler explained the dynamics of the water supply in Dorset for fire protection noting that additional storage across town would be necessary to provide the proper pressure. P. Smart agreed that there was no practical way to meet the requirement with one tank.

A. Longacre asked about higher water use by commercial establishments and A. de Rham responded that there was high use across town and this project includes trying to find and fix the old galvanized service lines that are leaking.

P. Smart described how his department interfaces with other departments to provide assistance and funding. H. Collins stated that it was important to maintain a dialogue with this group of people from the ANR and to try to keep to an agreed upon schedule as the shared goal is to provide safe water. Discussion ensued regarding the fire protection status with P. Smart noting that their department will expect that, sometime in the future, steps will be taken to have functional hydrants. A. de Rham mentioned that the Board's plan was to address the problems of adequate water, water line renovations, metering and fire protection, but asked that the ANR not push fire protection to the top of the priority list. P. Smart responded that having a preliminary capital improvement plan in place to occur over a number of years that includes water, infrastructure and fire protection is important.

The topic of billing rates was discussed with P. Smart informing the Board to make sure they keep informed of the future revisions of the rules for billing based on design flow. A. de Rham explained the difficulties associate with daily chloride testing with a part-time Systems Operator and P. Smart responded that a volunteer can be used who would work under J. McGinnis' supervision and license. P. Smart reiterated the importance of good communication with his Division about the status and progression of the Dorset project.

Approval of May Minutes

R. Squire moved and M. McWayne seconded to approve the May 8, 2017 and May 1, 2017 as presented. Motion carried 3-0 (S. Jones abstained)

Financial & Administrative Services Agreement with Town of Dorset

A. de Rham noted the revisions he made in the Financial & Administrative Services Agreement with the Town of Dorset:

- Page 1 ~ Add a start and end date for the agreement
- Page 2 ~ Re-word heading for #2 Supporting Financial Services
- Page 3 ~ Re-word heading for #3 Administrative Services (Town)
- Page 3 ~ Re-word heading for #4 Administrative Services (Fire)
- Clarifications of responsibilities

S. Jones asked what would happen if a water user decided to withdraw from the Water District system and B. Weiss replied that this issue has not been discussed yet. J. McGinnis noted that the Bylaws govern withdrawal from the system and the Board may want to consider amending this section.

A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to approve the *Financial and Administrative Services Agreement* between the Town of Dorset and the Dorset Fire District #1 as amended in Version 1.2 conditional upon Town of Dorset Select Board approval. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire & Water Financials (Gaiotti)

Financial report included information on:

- Water District bank balances
- Water District delinquent amounts
- Progress on grant reimbursement
- Final audit has been received from Mudgett
- Fire District bank balances
- Fire District delinquent amounts ~ final audit showed \$31,626.67 as delinquent which includes \$14.02 in small amounts and \$2,085.58 from homeowners who have sold their homes.
- Fire truck payment & sinking fund transfer were made

A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to strike the twelve properties totaling \$2,085.58 and the five properties totaling \$14.02 from the delinquent tax list accounts receivable and reconcile the account balances to reflect the changes (\$29,527.07 delinquent balance). Motion carried 4-0.

A. de Rham suggested that the delinquent taxpayers be given a deadline to pay their obligations, then charge interest and penalty if beyond the deadline.

Water Operator's Report (McGinnis)

J. McGinnis updated the Board on the leak at 249 Meadow Lane which is now outside the building. The homeowner has been notified to fix the leak and repair the curb stop within 15 days. A. de Rham noted that an option would be to replace the curb stop and turn off the water. A letter stating that the water would not be turned on until the service line is fixed would have to be written. J. McGinnis questioned whether the bylaws be amended to reflect that electrical systems should not be grounded to the water service line due to the noise it creates making it difficult to determine leaks. A. de Rham believed that not allowing grounding would be against the electrical codes. Discussion ensued regarding leak statuses, correlator use, service line and curb stop mapping, and grant focuses. A. de Rham requested that the Water Operator report include the date items are first reported and the date or timeframe for resolution. M. McWayne moved and R. Squire seconded to approve the Water Operator's report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief's Report (Hazelton)

M. McWayne read S. Hazelton's report (attached) as he was called out to a fire.

M. McWayne moved and A. de Rham seconded to approve the Fire Chief's report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Water Projects Committee Report (de Rham, Weiss, Kepler, Gaiotti)

G. Kepler reviewed his written report:

- 2016 Asset Management Grant ~ deliverables approved as of June 8, 2017.
- 2017 Asset Management Grant Application status ~ pending this week
- Metering Station Status ~ construction eligibility approved under DWSRF planning loan program
- Planning Loan Application Status & Comments ~ progression documented on report

B. Weiss noted that the MOU's have not been signed yet, but verbal agreement has been given.

A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to authorize B. Weiss to sign on behalf of all Board members for the planning loan application. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Department Committee Report (McWayne, Hazelton)

M. McWayne explained that he has received one bid for the new fire alarm system and is waiting for some others. B. Weiss asked if a meeting has been scheduled for a joint Dorset and East Dorset meeting. M. McWayne responded that S. Hazelton can call to try schedule a date.

2016 Final Audit (Gaiotti)

R. Squire presented the Board members with an audit report and asked R. Gaiotti if he was comfortable with the report. R. Gaiotti replied yes.

2017 Water Billing

Discussion of new rates, combining of user accounts to use parcel ID numbers and accounts no longer on the water system. It was suggested that the Board may want a written policy to cover charging a basic fee to users who have left the water system.

Old Business

- 911 Signs ~ Suggestion to use the Sheriff when he's on patrol to inform residents of the 911 sign regulations.

New Business

None

A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Aversano

Dorset Fire District #1

Date 6/12/17

Regular Meeting X

Special Meeting

(Please Print)

Testifying

Name	Mailing Address	Representing	(Yes or No)
Giany Longacre	2533 Route 30 Dorset	self	No
ANDY LONGACRE	2533 ROUTE 30 DORSET	SELF	No
GREG KIPPLER		DICO	? Yes
Shawn Hazelton Chief	433 PAVIS WAY Dorset	DFD	? Yes
R. Gaiotti	238 MAACKUIEN	DFD	YES
Jordan "Skip" Dickison	20 Maple Lane, Dorset	self.	No.

May 2017 fire calls

- 1) 5/5/2017 Mutual Aid East Dorset unattended fire on Finnbar Forest rd.
- 2) 5/5/2017 104 Kirby Hollow road Tree and wires down.
- 3) 5/5/2017 854 Hollow road remove tree from road.
- 4) 5/5/2017 3518 Route 30 Tree and wires down.
- 5) 5/5/2017 210 Danby Mountain road Tree and wires down.
- 6) 5/5/2017 Danby Mountain road Tree on wires same as previous call.
- 7) 5/13/2017 Mutual aid 378 Village Street East Dorset Fire alarm.
- 8) 5/18/2017 Mutual Aid Sykes Hollow road Pawlet Brush Fire, burnt for 7 to 8 days.
- 9) 5/21/2017 Mutual Aid Route 7a & Harmony Lane East Dorset Accident.
- 10) 5/25/2017 Mutual Aid 653 Upper Squirrel Hollow Road East Dorset Tree and wires down.
- 11) 5/25/2017 1054 Lower Hollow road Structure fire, Burnt to ground before receiving call.
- 12) 6/6/2017 Mutual Aid Pleasant Street East Dorset Tree on Wires burning.
- 13) 6/7/2017 3528 Dorset West Road Malfunctioning gas fire place.
- 14) 6/8/2017 3156 Route 30 Barrows house Fire Alarm burnt hair from curling iron.