



# DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Dorset Water Co.

**Mailing: PO Box 341 Dorset, VT 05251**  
**Fire Station: 2877 Route 30 Dorset, VT 05251**  
**Town Office: 112 Mad Tom Rd E. Dorset, VT 05253**  
**Phone: 802-362-4571 x 4**  
**Email: [dorsetfire341@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetfire341@gmail.com)**

## **DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING** **August 14, 2017**

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

**Absent:** Steve Jones

**Others Present:** Colin Stabile, Joe Clark

B. Weiss, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **Approval of July Minutes**

Tabled until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum from July meeting.

### **Fire & Water Financials (Gaiotti)**

R. Gaiotti reported:

- Water District cash on hand balances
- Fire District cash on hand balances
- Draft audit in process ~ operating loss for water & operating surplus for fire.
- KME truck maintenance expense was \$11,000
- Delinquent fire tax collected is approximately \$4,500

M. McWayne moved and R. Squire seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Water Operator's Report (McGinnis)**

J. McGinnis reported:

- August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with R. Leary to discuss and schedule reservoir valve leak repair.
- 249 Meadow Lane Leak ~ meeting with R. Leary to discuss leak solution
- 2488 Route 30 ~ J. Stannard & M. Keen are meeting with Dydo about repairs. It was determined that it was too noisy on the service lines when running a correlator to differentiate individual leaks. Discussion ensued covering bylaw regulations, water shut-off, and the rights of the Water District with regard to recalcitrant owners. A. de Rham noted that the Water District should not be put in the middle of repair negotiations for a private line and should take a stance to have the owner fix the problem or the water will be turned off. J. McGinnis is to talk to Dydo tomorrow for an update and will advise R. Gaiotti.
- 3878 Route 30 ~ report of low water pressure. J. McGinnis is to meet with R. Leary on August 16<sup>th</sup> to talk about installing a curb stop so that it can be used to find the leak. A. de Rham suggested there might be an obstruction such as sand in a filter. Discussion of curb stop installation and State right-of-way ensued.
- Adams/Brooks property ~ meeting scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup> to track service line.

M. McWayne moved and A. de Rham seconded to approve the Water Operator's report as presented. A. de Rham requested that future reports list:

- the date the incident is first reported
- the date of estimated completion/progress
- the date of conclusion/solution

Motion carried 4-0.

R. Gaiotti recommended focusing on the new water supply so that leak detection is not as critical; repairs can be wrapped up into the bond process and repairs can be more methodical. It was requested that J. McGinnis begin charting the change in spring production and provide a table of monthly, yearly, and previous year precipitation and another table with usage.

### **Fire Chief's Report (Hazelton)**

S. Hazelton reported eight incidents ~ report attached. R. Squire asked if the two Fire Departments have had their meeting and S. Hazelton said that H. Towsley has not been receptive to their requests. A. de Rham stated that the two Prudential Committees agreed to have a meeting and coordinate equipment so a letter should be written to the East Dorset Prudential Committee requesting this meeting. M. McWayne is to be the liaison to spearhead the effort to have the two departments schedule a meeting. Discussion of equipment duplication was had with C. Stabile disagreeing that there was duplication in equipment. A. de Rham

asked what was the ten year strategic plan on truck use and purchase. M. McWayne responded that it depended upon what you want to get back out of the trucks when selling them (Class A pumper is 20 years and younger – ideally sell by 15 years for best resale value). S. Hazelton noted that they were interested in purchasing a fast attack truck. B. Weiss wanted to see an analysis of annual maintenance, estimated trade in value and cost of new truck. B. Weiss asked if S. Hazelton has contacted the ISO group yet and S. Hazelton responded no, he did not have the number (B. Weiss is to email the phone number). M. McWayne is still working on the alarm system quotes. C. Stabile asked if the firefighters could purchase a better fire training box and A. de Rham noted that there is a purchase policy of getting three bids. Budgeted money for the training box (education/retention line item?) and for painting/maintenance of the building was discussed. A budget status report was requested as part of the financial report.

S. Hazelton reported that they ran out of diesel fuel again and M. McWayne thought it might be a miscommunication and said to call Marcell to make sure they are doing an automatic delivery. S. Hazelton researched prices for cleaning supplies and Foley Distributing had the best quote.

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

A. de Rham moved and M. McWayne seconded to approve using Foley Distributing for purchases of cleaning supplies. Motion carried 4-0.

Research into the uses/expenditures of the Education/Retention fund (\$22,000) is to be done to see if it can be used to purchase the training box.

R. Squire moved and M. McWayne seconded to authorize the use of monies from the Education/Retention fund account to purchase a training box after receiving the required number of bids and research for restrictions is completed. A. de Rham amended the motion by adding: if the use of this fund is not allowed, the training box is to be purchased from the line item. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Water Manager's Report (Gaiotti)**

- Water System User Guide ~ guide was reviewed. Suggested adding the installation of PVC piping with tracer wire when approved by Water Operator under Pipe Specifications. All agreed it was a good idea to send the guide out with the water bills and have available for all water customers.
- Residential Census Form ~ suggested changes:
  1. Change check boxes to space for number of bedrooms (main house) & number of bedrooms (guest house)

2. Change Automatic Sprinkler System to Automatic Lawn Irrigation System
  3. Ask for description of Other Water Use Outside the Home such as facets, fountains, etc.
- Water easement documents have been forwarded to J. Barlow for final drafting. Final agreements will be forthcoming after meeting with land owners.
  - Meeting with J. McGinnis to discuss Water Operator job description and scheduling.
  - Discussion of Adams/Brooks leaving water system and billing for the first quarter (July, August & September). Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

R. Squire moved and A. de Rham seconded to approve the Manager's Report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

#### **Engineer's Report (Kepler)**

G. Kepler was not present and R. Gaiotti reviewed the Engineer's report covering the need for signatures for the asset management paperwork and an update from Patrick Smart (amended permit to operate).

A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to sign the asset management agreement as presented, but the document is to be reviewed for scope of work and costs before being submitted (schedule meeting with J. McGinnis for final lists). Motion carried 4-0.

#### **Attorney's Opinion on Levying Charges or Taxes (Weiss)**

Discussion ensued regarding the defense of existing case law, if needed, and the need to find a feasible approach if someone leaves the water system. A. de Rham suggested highlighting the water district on a tax map to identify properties that can drill a well to help define a list of potential users which could be lost. The Board members talked about the benefits of the water system to homeowners with new supplemental water; the possibility of gaining new users and preventing user drop-off. B. Weiss recommended that everyone study the Barlow letter so that a strategy can be created to address this situation.

#### **New Business**

R. Squire has spoken with L. Hardy who has suggested that the community may be willing to support a fundraising effort for the water system.

M. McWayne moved and R. Squire seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Aversano

## Dorset fire report July 2017

- 1) 7/11/2017 to 169 Eagle ridge road East Dorset for a Fire Alarm for burnt food.
- 2) 7/19/2017 Mutual Aid to 182 Heatherington road West Pawlet for structure fire.
- 3) 7/25/2017 to Maple hill & Route 30 Dorset smoke condition live burn training at station.
- 4) 8/2/2017 to 698 Hollow Road Dorset Gas Alarm "FALSE ALARM" alarm went off previous night at 21:30 with no call to us.
- 5) 8/11/2017 Mutual Aid to 229 Green Peak Orchard Fire Alarm.
- 6) 8/12/2017 to 121 Nichols Hill Road Fire Alarm home owner changing battery set off alarm.
- 7) 8/13/2017 EMS Assist to 365 Dogpatch lane Cardiac arrest.
- 8) 8/13/2017 to 125 Red Trail lane Fire Alarm "FALSE ALARM" nothing found on investigation.