



# **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**

**October 16, 2017**

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

B. Weiss, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. stating that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to review and approve Bylaw amendments for the Dorset Fire District #1.

B. Weiss had prepared a PowerPoint presentation that covered the water system improvements and their importance, along with explanation of the bylaw amendment. The current projects for water system improvements will be a metering station and a supplemental water supply. A system monitoring station will be setup near the beginning of the distribution system. Daily readings are required by the State of Vermont for consumption and chlorine levels. The State of Vermont is also requiring an additional water supply in order to remove their moratorium. The estimated date of completion is fall of 2018. Future projects may consist of system-wide service line replacement and individual water usage meters. Service lines are the responsibility of property owners, but a system-wide update of lines along with meter installation may be considered for a future project. Discussion of long service lines, extending water mains and service lines that have been recently repaired took place. Metering will allow for billing based on water consumption by individual users and allow for more accurate leak information.

B. Weiss explained the estimated costs for system improvements and also possible funding solutions:

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| • Metering Station   | \$ 60,000   |
| • Supplemental Water | \$400,000   |
| • Water Meters       | \$150,000   |
| • New Service Lines  | \$600,000   |
| Total                | \$1,210,000 |

The presentation gave the average cost of water for users in Dorset, East Dorset and Arlington. The point was made that Vermont's statewide annual water pricing is an average of \$850 to \$1,500 per user. B. Weiss noted that system improvements have been deferred for many years and a moratorium on new water users or any additional water usage by existing users has been placed on Dorset by the State.

D. Carse asked if fire hydrants would be covered under these proposals and B. Weiss responded no, that making the fire hydrants viable again could possibly be a third phase, but would require another reservoir on the Route 30 side. J. Cook suggested that the cost of the water loans be shared by the entire Dorset Fire District, not just the water users. R. Fox agreed and noted that the water district is a benefit to everyone and it is everyone's responsibility to insure the vitality of the historic district. M. McWayne commented that upgrading the main lines and having a third source of water for fire protection might make District wide involvement more agreeable. It was noted that eventually the moratorium on additional water usage would affect property values of the users. M. Freeman felt that the Water Company adds value to the Fire District as an asset and everyone shares the same water. She expressed that the Fire District should have a share in this project. B. Weiss stated that there could be push back from non-users as no one helps a homeowner pay for the installation, repairs or water lines for private wells. M. McWayne stated that tonight's meeting was to address the bylaw changes and payment discussions could be at a future time.

The purpose of the bylaw changes is to encourage users to remain on the water system, as anyone leaving the system increases the burden on the other users. Permission to leave the system must be obtained from the Prudential Committee and they will continue to pay an infrastructure availability fee equal to the current annual total water fee. R. Squire read the proposed bylaw changes aloud. A. Longacre suggested changing the word "continue" to "start" in Article #18 and J. Kingston felt that using the word "insuring" in Article 1, #2 (Powers) was a liability. A. de Rham responded that water system operation follows State requirements and the word "insuring" has been in the bylaws for a long time.

B. Weiss called for a floor vote on the proposed bylaw amendments signed by the Board on September 11, 2017 and as outlined in the attached document. The bylaw amendments were passed by a verbal floor vote of the majority of attendees.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motioned by R. Squire and seconded by A. de Rham. (Motion carried 5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Aversano

**DORSET FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
SPECIAL FIRE DISTRICT MEETING  
WARNING**

The legal voters of Dorset Fire District No.1 are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Dorset Firehouse, 2788 Route 30, Dorset, Vermont, on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following Article:

**Article 1.** Shall the Bylaws of Dorset Fire District No. 1 be amended as follows:

**POLICY**

Dorset Fire District #1 exists to promote the welfare of this Town; to provide fire protection and water service to those within the fire and water districts; to be a good community neighbor providing such emergency aid, search and rescue services within the Fire District as well as mutual aid to neighboring fire districts, as is practical; and to educate our citizens and school children in the rules of fire prevention and safety.

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**Powers**

2. The Fire District shall have all of the powers, so far as the same may be applicable, now given by Chapter 171 of Title 20, Vermont Statutes Annotated and Chapters 89 and 129 of Title 24 of Vermont Statutes Annotated. These include but are not limited to: asset management of the Fire Department and water Company; providing efficient fire protection; insuring a pure and adequate water supply; entering into inter-local contracts or other similar private contracts to provide fire services, emergency aid, and search and rescue services to others; and levying a tax and assessing annual water use fees, and infrastructure availability fees, subject to a vote at annual or special meetings of the Fire District. It shall be governed by a Prudential Committee.

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**Payment of Water Fees, Infrastructure Availability Fees, and Fire Taxes**

10. Fire taxes, ~~and~~ water fees, and infrastructure availability fees shall be mailed on or about September 1st of each year and quarterly thereafter. They are due and payable as stated in the notices. Property owners are responsible for the payment of water fees, fire taxes, infrastructure availability fees, and any other costs properly payable to the Fire District. Property owners are also responsible for notifying the Fire District of any change in mailing address and failure to receive a bill does not relieve the owner of the obligation for payment of penalties and/or interest for late payment. Change in ownership of a property does not relieve the owner of any charges accrued for fire or water services, fees, penalties and/or interest for late payment with the Fire District.

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**Disconnection**

18. No properties connected to the system shall be permitted to voluntarily disconnect. Any water user who converts to a private water source shall continue to pay an infrastructure availability fee equal to the then-current total annual water fee for that property as established by the District for providing water service.

19. ~~18.~~ All water service is subject to involuntary disconnection as a delinquency collection procedure under the terms of Chapter 129, Title 24, of the Vermont Statutes Annotated (Uniform Water and Sewer Disconnect ~~Policy~~) as amended from time to time.

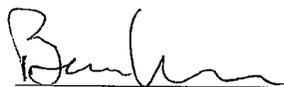
20. ~~19.~~ Should a user ~~wish to be taken off~~ elect to disconnect from the system, the disconnection will occur at the Corporation Cock. In the event that a user is connected with other homes from a pipe after the Corporation Cock the disconnection and closure will take place only at the point where the user's pipe connects to the pipe line leading to the next user. All costs to effect this disconnection will be borne by the user requesting the disconnection as per paragraph number 5 of these bylaws.

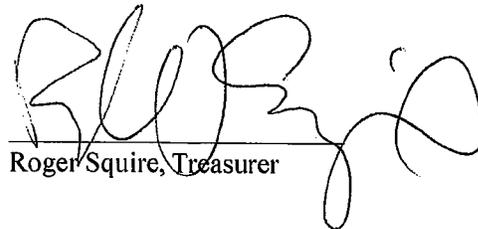
21. ~~20.~~ If a user ~~chooses to draw water from any source other than that supplied by the Fire District~~ maintains a private water source, the water lines from the alternative private source may not be connected in any manner to the lines of the water system including shunt valves or switchovers where any possibility of cross contamination can occur. ~~All such connections must be approved by the Prudential Committee.~~

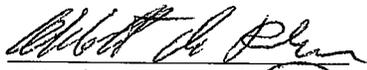
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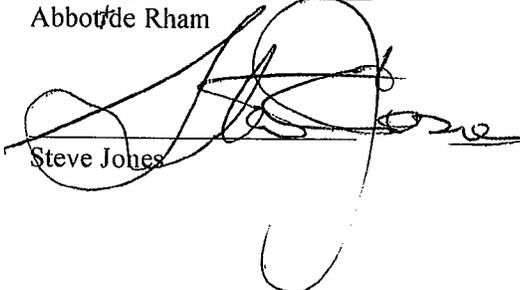
Approved and adopted at a meeting of the Prudential Committee of Dorset Fire District No. 1 duly called, noticed, and held on September 14, 2017.

  
Ben Weiss, Chair

  
Roger Squire, Treasurer

  
Abbott de Rham

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Milton McWayne

  
Steve Jones