



DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.
Dorset Water Co.

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DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1

December 9, 2019

Present: Ben Weiss, Chairman, Abbott de Rham, Lee Fox, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)
Absent: Milt McWayne, Roger Squire
Others Present: Shawn Hazelton (Fire Chief), Greg Kepler

Ben Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of November Minutes

L. Fox moved and A. de Rham seconded to approve the November 18, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Engineer's Report (Kepler)

G. Kepler reported:

- Status of Gravel Well Project ~ Calculated yield for the 3-day pump test was 17.5 GPM and well recovered rapidly. This site may be able to support another gravel well with a recommended 50-foot distance between them. Testing for water quality for the presence of coliform, E.coli, turbidity, color, iron, manganese, volatile organic compounds and PFAS were done and results listed in the report. Discussion of treatment options such as filtering and softening took place.
- Metering Station Information ~ Metering graphs showed that over the Thanksgiving weekend water usage spiked almost double. The members talked about possible reasons for the excessive water usage such as commercial use, meter malfunction or calibration, power outage, and blow off lines. It was suggested that contact be made with the commercial water users and the metering manufacturer to see if they could offer any insight.
- Meter Pit Research ~ The price for battery operated (rechargeable) branch line meters was estimated at \$5,000 to \$6,000 and meter pit manhole was \$5,000 to \$10,000.

- HN Williams Water Allocation ~ average daily design water demand was reduced by 242 GPD. A request to the State to ask for an increase of 242 GPD of available system reserve capacity was made. Awaiting official response from State.

L. Fox moved and A. de Rham seconded to approve the Engineer's Report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Water Manager's and Water Operator's Report (Gaiotti)

R. Gaiotti reported:

- Otter Creek will be submitting a PER by the end of December to the State to keep the District's position for financing/construction for 2020.
- It was explained that the State views the additional source well and leak repairs as all one part of the total and they are interested in the Phase 2 options of what will come next. Replacement of galvanized service lines could be considered under the lead forgiveness/discount rule which could expand State funding. G. Kepler suggested wrapping capital planning with the PER (Preliminary Engineering Report). Discussion ensued about Phase 2 projects and the possibility of having a May 2020 bond vote in order to be eligible for any possible State funding. A. de Rham brought up the topic of the rock well and suggested finding an appropriate vendor to give an opinion about resurrecting the original rock well. Discussion took place on how to make a decision for the installation of another gravel well versus resurrection of the rock well. The 17 GPM from the new gravel well is not very much, especially in light of the State moratorium.
- A. de Rham asked that branch line pit meters be placed on next month's agenda so the Board can decide if they are beneficial or not. R. Gaiotti noted that the State will be paving Route 30 next summer – so pit meters should be installed in the spring before paving.

A. de Rham moved and L. Fox seconded to approve the Water Manager's and Water Operator's Report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief's Report (Hazelton)

S. Hazelton gave the monthly report for the Fire Department. There were eight calls between November 20th to December 7th. The 911 addressing for 364 and 384 Barrows Heights Lane is incorrect with the higher numbered house being below the lower numbered house on the road.

A. de Rham suggested that S. Hazelton write a letter to the truck manufacturer requesting them to repair the exposed section on the new fire truck.

L. Fox moved and A. de Rham seconded to accept the Fire Chief's Report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

DFD and Water Company Finance Report

R. Gaiotti presented the monthly financial reports for DFD. Delinquent water accounts are \$8,006.74 and fire delinquencies are \$4,118.22. DFD expenses were average for the month.

The brush truck has been sold. R. Gaiotti mentioned that the new fire truck was paid for out of the fund balance and truck escrow account and the sinking fund accounts should be rebuilt.

A. de Rham moved and L. Fox seconded to accept the Financial reports as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Review of Proposed Water Ordinances

B. Weiss noted that the ordinance did not contain any language to cover the continuation of charging a fee if someone voluntarily disconnects from the water system. He wanted to make sure that the DFD Bylaws and the ordinances support each other and that the terminology matches. The Board members spoke about definitions and what to call the different types of water lines such as private distribution lines, multi-user lines, private main, and service main. It was also mentioned that corporation stop and curb stop were confusing terms and G. Kepler said that the District should control from the main to the curb stop.

Changes suggested:

- #14 on page 4 of the ordinance talks about water charges based on Equivalent User Units (EUUs) and the District uses calculations based on bedrooms which does not seem consistent.
- #15 on page 5 requires meters for “new” customers, but the District eventually wants all customers to have meters. This needs to be clarified.
- Language is needed in the ordinance to deal with curb stops so the District has the legal right to address any issues.
- Include language prohibiting contractors from shutting off water mains (G. Kepler mentioned that other Towns charge fees for shut-offs and operator time.)
- Classifying each valve with a description so it is more concise and less confusing.
-

Board members are to mark up their copies of the ordinance and email changes to R. Gaiotti.

B. Weiss requested that a planning document that lists the goals of the District be drafted and G. Kepler responded that the PER may suffice as a roadmap for the District goals. He said that the PER outlines what the State expects and the District intentions (meters, alternative water source, service line replacements, etc.).

A. deRham brought up the topic of “service life” and the right for the District to fix/replace lines or valves when they reach the end of their service life – the District does not want to own service lines, but wants the control to fix when necessary.

Old Business

None

New Business

- S. Hazelton asked about the budgeting process and using the preliminary budget for the Town as the DFD budget is not approved until May.
- S. Hazelton expressed the DFD’s condolences and their gratitude to Mark Putnam for his service to the Dorset Fire District #1.

Accounts Payable Warrants

It was the consensus of the Board to review invoices and sign monthly accounts payable. The Board members also gave permission for the use of R. Squire’s signature stamp on this month’s checks.

A. de Rham moved and L. Fox seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Dorset Fire District #1

Date 12/9/19

Regular Meeting X
Special Meeting

(Please Print)

Name	Mailing Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes/No)
Shawn Hazelton	433 Pauls way Dorset VT	Fire Chief	Yes