



# DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Dorset Water Co.

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## DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1

**April 12, 2021**

**(Via Zoom Call)**

**Present:** Ben Weiss, Chairman, Roger Squire, Lee Fox, Abbott de Rham, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Shawn Hazelton (Fire Chief).

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Greg Kepler, Cindy Loudenslager

Ben Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

### **Approval of January Minutes**

Lee Fox moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve the March 8th minutes as presented, motion passed, 4-0.

### **Annual Meeting Preparation:**

Ben Weiss noted that Cindy Loudenslager was interested in filling Abbott de Rham's seat on the Prudential Committee at Annual Meeting. Abbott is taking up residency out of State, Ben thanked Abbott for his time and expertise on the DFD Board. Cindy is attending the meeting tonight to start to get up to speed on various items.

R. Gaiotti presented the Annual Report information including the Fire & Water Budgets for FY22. Lee Fox noted a couple of edits for the Annual Report document. Discussion ensued about Fire and Water budgets and upcoming needs for the Fire Department: new air packs, possible re-sealing of the Firehouse floor. R. Gaiotti noted that the fund balance in the Fire Division fund could support part of the air pack purchases and the budget could support the rest. Further discussion ensued about water budgets and phasing in higher rates in anticipation of the bond payment in FY23 or FY24. It was the consensus of

the board to keep the water budget close to level in FY22 and anticipate a phased increase for FY23 and FY24 in anticipation of the bond payment from the upcoming project.

### **Bond Project Update – Status of DWSRF Process:**

R. Gaiotti noted that status of information that DFD and engineers need to produce and get to the State as part of the subsidy process:

- Archeological Resource Assessment (pending)
- Bond Opinion (pending)
- Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) (State reviewing)
- Staring of easements with line owners

B. Weiss noted that DFD needed to approve the ESA. Roger Squire moved and Abbott de Rham seconded to approve the Step III ESA (pending State review).

### **Engineer's Report**

G. Kepler presented that Engineer's Report which covered:

- Safe yield estimate update
- ARA coordination
- Coordination with SB Church on Cheney site well work (May)

Lee Fox moved and Abbott de Rham seconded to approve the Engineer's report as presented, motion passed 4-0.

### **Water Manager's Report**

R. Gaiotti went through the monthly manager's report giving updates on:

- DWSRF planning/ meetings
- Easement draft status and plan to implement
- Operations work and Safe Yield planning etc.

Abbott de Rham moved and Lee Fox seconded to approve the Water Manager's Report, motion passed 4-0.

### **Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Hazleton gave the monthly report for the Fire Department activities. He noted the calls for the month and the work done by the members. He noted that 43 calls for the year already, which is more than normal. Calls for the last month ranged from Brush fires to fire alarms. Abbott de Rham noted that the Fire Chief's report should be moved to the beginning of the meeting, to allow the Fire Chief to not have to sit through the entire meeting, B. Weiss noted that he would

make the change for the April agenda. Lee Fox moved and Abbott de Rham seconded to approve the Fire Chief's report, motion passed 4-0.

**Water/ Fire Financials**

R. Gaiotti presented the monthly financial information for Water & Fire Divisions. The water division awaits a reimbursement for the Preliminary Design under the Planning Loan (around \$40,000). Water Division is still operating within the \$50,000 cash flow loan from the Fire Division. He also noted that most of the \$85,000 preliminary engineering costs have been paid out to Otter Creek for the water project.

Roger Squire moved and Lee Fox seconded to approve the monthly financials, motion passed 4-0.

Lee Fox moved and Abbott de Rham seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager