



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

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1

March 9, 2020

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

Absent: Milt McWayne, Abbott de Rham

Others Present: Jonathan Ams, Shawn Hazelton, Joe Clark, Jacob Gribble

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

Approval of February Minutes

Tabled until next meeting – lack of a voting quorum.

Engineer's Report (Kepler)

G. Kepler reviewed his report:

- FY20 Priority List application was completed and submitted.
- Gravel Well Project ~ Source Evaluation Report is still under review. The State response to the OCE report points out that the treatment costs are high for the benefit received and encourages the District to revise strategy to repair and replace distribution system. Grant funding may be available. In answer to B. Weiss' question, G. Kepler responded that the State would not permit the well as a permanent or emergency source without other alternatives. A conference call with OCE and the State included discussion on pursuing PER for distribution system improvements, loan forgiveness funding and inventory each property to document galvanized service lines.
- Planning Loan Application for system wide PER ~ application submitted, but it is recommended to revise the scope to include line survey for distribution changes. B. Weiss asked if OCE had clear directions and if

the PER will include estimates. G. Kepler responded yes and suggested that the District would be in a better position after the PER is complete to get funding. B. Weiss questioned the viability of well #2 if they wait to do anything with it and G. Kepler strongly recommended getting a source protection plan in place after settling on the yield. Discussion ensued regarding well #1 & #2 for use in emergency situations and long-term maintenance/treatment. Discussion moved on to cost of distribution system surveys with G. Kepler suggesting that it may be possible to get it done for \$10,000 to \$15,000 with Simon Operations and himself.

J. Cook suggested that the Board contact the Arlington Select Board to discuss their water system repairs and conversation followed reviewing what has been done and why. L. Fox moved and R. Squire seconded to allocate up to \$15,000 to obtain documentation of the distribution lines by a system wide survey. Motion carried 3-0. It was the consensus of the DFD Board to sign the loan application for the system wide PER.

- Metering Station ~ no significant changes. L. Fox asked about the line from the reservoir to the meter being included and calibrated or the eight-inch main replaced. Simon Operation will be checking to make sure the blow off valves are shut off.

R. Squire moved and L. Fox seconded to accept the Engineer's report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Route 30 DFD Old Firehouse Property

J. Ams introduced himself saying that he has purchased the Dorset Exchange Consignment store property and the house next door on Route 30. He is interested in purchasing the DFD owned property between himself and the Post Office. Discussion ensued concerning the appraisal and availability of water and sewer options along with the use of the building. B. Weiss stated that the Board would be interested in entertaining an offer from J. Ams for the purchase of the property.

Fire Chief's Report (Hazelton)

S. Hazelton gave the monthly report for the Fire Department. He listed the calls and locations for the month. S. Hazelton requested that a special budget line be added to the FY21 budget for the purchase of a portable, battery operated Jaws of Life tool. Three bids were solicited.

Reasons the equipment is needed:

- for faster response time for extrication
- other Firehouse models are outdated and older versions do not always work on the newer vehicle models with stronger metals
- portable model which does not require hosing to the fire truck

- includes two batteries, charger, cutter, spreader and ram

R. Squire moved and L. Fox seconded to approve the addition of \$35,000 in a separate line item for the purchase of a Hurst Jaws of Life tool as described above. Motion carried 3-0.

L. Fox moved and R. Squire seconded to accept the Fire Chief's report as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Water Manger's Report (Gaiotti)

R. Gaiotti noted that his report included many of the topics discussed under the Engineer's report such as the well update, addressing system wide distribution lines, and new planning loan information. Leak detection with Matchpoint and Simon Operations is scheduled for the end of March. R. Squire moved and L. Fox seconded to accept the Water Manager's report as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Department & Water Company Financials (Gaiotti)

R. Gaiotti presented the monthly financial reports for DFD reviewing cash balances for fire and water. Follow-up letters to extremely delinquent water clients have been sent and future discussion about water shut-offs to be had when the weather is warmer. L. Fox moved and R. Squire seconded to accept the financial report as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion of Possible Short-Term Water Projects

Simon Operations (Chris) is to put together numbers for improvements for Route 30 South private main & service lines. Discussion included multi-user service lines, pending ordinance language, responsibility for shared lines, replacement with plastic lines, and getting consumption down to be prepared for drought situation. B. Weiss noted that they could allocate money from the contingency fund to do some projects and install meters for the larger water users. G. Kepler said that Matchpoint could revisit their previous leak checks to quantify the numbers to see if they are different or not. L. Fox moved and R. Squire seconded to apply the contingency fund (\$25,000) to tackle three smaller projects:

- Replacing the multiuser service line on Route 30 North
- Replacing the multiuser service line on Dorset West Road South
- Install meters for non-residential users – starting with the largest users.

Motion carried 3-0.

Water Budget (Squire)

R. Squire noted that the Financial Committee discussed adding \$5,000 to the contingency fund so that they are in a better position for the future. This will not have too much effect on rates. L. Fox commented that it is reasonable if

rates have to increase by two percent each year. B. Weiss said that the budget includes the bond payment that the District does not have yet. This can be moved to a sinking fund for debt retirement. It was the consensus of the DFD Board to approve the FY21 Water Budget at \$138,500. The voters will have the final approval in May 2020.

Ordinance

The ordinance was reviewed and changes suggested:

- Page 3 - #9 Add word “or” before “*to be kept running for any longer*” in the first sentence.
- Page 4 - #15 Delete word “fixed” in the second sentence. (*which shall be a base charge charged to each...*)

The ordinance will be reviewed by the DFD’s attorney and finalized at the next meeting.

Old Business

New Business

S. Hazelton informed the Board that he is researching the replacement of the bulbs for the overhead lighting fixtures at the firehouse with LED energy efficient bulbs – possible cost is five boxes for \$495.

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the monthly accounts payable.

It was the consensus of the DFD Board members to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Dorset Fire District #1
Date 3/9/20

Regular Meeting
Special Meeting

(Please Print)

Name	Mailing Address	Representing	Testifying (Yes/No)
Jonathan Amis	P.O. Box 252	self	
Shaugh Hazelton	433 Pauls Way	Chief Fire Dorset	yes
JOE CLARK	P.O. 121 Pawlet, VT	1 st ASST DFD	YES
Jacob Gribble	P.O. 110 Manchester	2 nd ASST DFD	yes