



DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.
Dorset Water Co.

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DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1

December 14, 2020

(Via Zoom Call)

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

Absent:

Others Present: Greg Kepler

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

Approval of November Minutes

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

Otter Creek Engineering Report:

Greg Kepler gave a brief report of the status of service line replacement project. He noted that the District has met the 12/1 Permit to Construct requirement and the permit was considered administratively complete. He noted that it may be some time until DFD hears back from the State on any questions or issues related to the review. It was his understanding that Willie Nickerson would be reviewing the plans and permit application. OCE and GKC will plan to reach out to the State sometime in January/February to check in. He also noted that DFD will have to begin work on easements, meetings with users, and a bond vote by the spring 2021 to keep on track. Discussion ensued about easements and easement language. Abbott de Rham noted that language should be included that prohibits structures from being built over the easements as that is currently a problem for DFD.

Engineer's Report:

Greg Kepler presented the monthly engineer's report. G. Kepler had spent time further researching the well and possible vendors for work on the gravel or bedrock well. SB Church from Connecticut has provided pricing for gravel well test drilling and quality testing. They noted that there was a lens of gravel at 112' that they thought an adequate volume of water could come from. This is a different lens than what VHB used for well # 2. Discussion ensued about options and methodology for trying to get a higher yield from the gravel well and whether it was worth the investment. Lee Fox noted that he was not comfortable with the additional expense and stated that once leaks are fixed and yield estimates determined DFD would be in a much better place. Most members agreed, but noted that DFD might still need an additional water source because the State can be difficult when permitting safe yields of springs. Discussion ensued about the timing for the SB Church work and that it would allow DFD to close out the Cheney Road site for good. A. de Rham noted that the site is still beneficial to DFD and drilling a test well and testing for quality would be the first steps. If the quality is poor, the site is done. If the quality is more promising then DFD can begin the complicated process to construct, test, and permit a new gravel well if the investment is worth it. Milt McWayne noted that he agreed with Abbott and thought it was worth pursuing. Ben Weiss noted that DFD needs to figure out where they stand with the Cheney Road site and put things to bed. Greg Kepler noted that the total cost for test drilling and quality testing would be in the range of \$25,000 and could be done in the spring of 2021 at the earliest. Further discussion ensued about the proposal.

Abbott de Rham moved and Milt McWayne seconded to allocate up to \$25,000 for the SB Church proposal that included water yield and water quality testing at the Cheney site, motion passed 4-1, Lee Fox opposed.

Abbott de Rham moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve the engineer's report, motion passed 4-0.

Water Manger's Report:

- R. Gaiotti gave the monthly operations report as noted
- Quigley work finished
- 92 Barrows Heights replaced their service line at their cost
- Service calls from a few customers
- Leak on Route 30 has been illusive, unable to pinpoint exact spot of the roughly 10gpm leak.
- OCE met the 12/1 deadline

Abbott de Rham noted that it would be a good idea to put a sign on the blow off at the hydrant on Barrows Heights so it doesn't get turned off by accident. Lee Fox moved and Roger Squire 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. There were a few false alarm calls and car accidents, member turnout has been good. Milt McWayne moved and Roger Squire 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. He noted that the Town had paid the Fire tax payment, and Water will need to look at cash flow moving forward to fund the design work being done by Otter Creek, as roughly half of the \$85,000 preliminary engineering costs have been paid out. Roger Squire asked about when DFD would make the transfer to the truck sinking fund, R. Gaiotti noted that would be done before June 30th.

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

Other Business:

Roger Squired stated that she had been contacted by Georgine Holman about a possible water allocation for a house site so she could subdivide a lot off Playhouse Lane in the village. Discussion ensued about the current available allocation of 372 gallons per day. Greg Kepler noted that the a 3 bedroom house under the water supply rule is noted as using 420 gallons per day, so the allocation currently isn't enough. It was noted that under the Dorset zoning bylaw, both properties might need to be served by public water to be part of a subdivision for lots a half acre in size. R. Gaiotti is to review it and contact the property owner.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager