



# 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**  
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## **DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1**

### **July 8, 2019**

**Present:** Ben Weiss, Chairman, Roger Squire, Abbott de Rham, Shawn Hazelton (Fire Chief),

**Absent:** Milt McWayne, Lee Fox, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)

**Others Present:** Justine Cook, Ginny Longacre, Frank Parent (Quigley Representative), Barbara Carse, Donald Carse, Jim McGinnis, Scott Kaler,

Ben Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

### **Approval of June Minutes**

Minutes were deferred until next month due to lack of a voting quorum.

### **Jim McGinnis Recognition**

B. Weiss presented a gift in recognition and gratitude to Jim McGinnis for his dedication and service of over 20 years to the Dorset Fire District #1 Prudential Committee. J. McGinnis expressed his thanks and offered his continuing support when needed.

### **Quigley Plan Review**

F. Parent, representing R. Quigley of 59 Barrows Heights, reviewed renovations and configurations with the Board along with access to water. The water connection is difficult to accomplish and R. Quigley is worried about possible damage to a large tree on another property, the dry well system, the catch basin and landscaping. B. Weiss asked if there was an alternate way to dig and F. Parent responded that they could dig straight which is more expensive. A. de Rham cautioned that the pipe may go under the shed as the shed was more than likely added after the lines were installed. B. Weiss asked if there were any bedrooms in either addition and F. Parent responded no, they are only adding a half bathroom. B. Weiss stated that G. Kepler and R. Gaiotti knew more about this situation and both were absent tonight. B. Weiss expressed his reservation about digging due to the drywell/septic

system and A. de Rham was concerned about the water main's proximity to the drywell without being sleeved. R. Quigley was curious about cost sharing ideas and F. Parent asked if there was a way to cost share on a plan to replace the line. B. Weiss thought it might be possible to cost share by having R. Quigley cover the cost of installing a 4 inch line, but really install an 8 inch line and the Water District would cover the difference between the two. A. de Rham commented that with current septic standards, if the location of the main is near the septic and the septic needs to be replaced, the State will not allow it near the water main. F. Parent will consult with R. Quigley about the options.

### **Carse Fence Review**

D. Carse presented four pictures with regard to location, size and height of the proposed stockade fence to be installed. The stockade will have 5 posts (4" x 4" x 10') with 8 foot sections for total length of 32 feet. The fence will be of a greenish hue to blend in with the trees. A. de Rham asked if the fence structure will be installed on the Carse property line and D. Carse responded yes. A. de Rham clarified that a fence installed on the property line is considered to have shared maintenance between properties. He would like a long-term agreement that maintenance of the fence would be the responsibility of the homeowner. D. Carse agreed to a long-term maintenance agreement. A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to approve the pressure treated stockade fence as proposed and described at tonight's DFD meeting to be installed tight against the current split rail fence with the good side to the firehouse. Maintenance to be the responsibility of the homeowner of 2804 Route 30 – currently Don & Barbara Carse. Motion carried 3-0.

D. Carse also mentioned the firehouse stockade fence around the propane tank saying that he had talked to S. Hazelton about repairing it and covering the tank more fully. S. Hazelton explained he was researching costs. A. de Rham suggested doing a "space off" slot with a one foot overlap in fencing so that the delivery person can walk between the fences to deliver propane.

### **Engineer's Report (Kepler)**

In G. Kepler's absence, the Board members read through the Engineer's report with no comments offered. R. Squire moved and A. de Rham seconded to approve the Engineer's report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

The July 3, 2019 draft letter to Patrick Smart, PE (DEC, DWGWPD) was discussed with B. Weiss saying that this letter was approved to be sent at the last meeting. A. de Rham moved R. Squire seconded to have G. Kepler create a separate letter of authorization with signature line spaces for the Board to sign based on his July 3, 2019 letter to be submitted to P. Smart regarding the permit to operate and the utilization of four hydrants. This document should be officially entered into the Prudential Committee's files for future reference. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Water Operator's Report**

A report was not submitted and A. de Rham requested that the Operator include tonight's report at the next meeting.

### **3093 Route 30 Water Leak (Scott Kaler)**

S. Kaler asked how leak situations were handled due to the issues at his house. B. Weiss noted that the Mr. Kaler's contractor shut off the water main without notification to the Prudential Committee or Water Operator. The Water District is responsible for the corporation cock and the water main pipe. The homeowner is responsible for the curb cock valve and piping all the way to the house. It was stated that the contractors know better than to turn off the water main. S. Kaler said that on June 13<sup>th</sup> he was informed that he had a 10 GPM leak at his house, but he did have full pressure inside the house. He also noted that on June 21<sup>st</sup>, his contractor and three Town people were present and the hole by the curb valve was not leaking when first dug up. Mr. Kaler said that on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, a new line was installed and two-thirds of the way out from the house to the curb there was no indication of a leak.

A. de Rham stated the Dorset Water District has hired leak detection professionals with tracking equipment and acoustical listening devices. He also said that the galvanized service lines are well past their service life, but the water mains are in good condition. A. de Rham stated that contractors are aware they cannot turn off the water main without permission and the Town's people present did not give permission. B. Weiss commented that Chris Hayes, Water Operator, was on-site after the water was turned off. S. Kaler said that the problem started June 13<sup>th</sup> and they dug to the curb side. He found a contractor in the hole playing around with the valve and asked him to get out of the hole as he wanted other opinions. S. Kaler noted that Rob Leary was his plumber and B. Weiss was told that B. Herrmann's workers had turned off the main. S. Kaler stated that they had dug from the house along the top of the old line to install new copper piping and there was no leak. B. Weiss explained that the water monitoring system showed 63 GPM at 2:00 a.m. and went down to 57 GPM after the leak was fixed. S. Kaler said that there was a curbside valve leak on June 21<sup>st</sup>, but A. de Rham noted that the monitoring pre-dates the curbside leak.

Cost distribution question was answered by B. Weiss saying that beyond the corporation cock to the house is the homeowner's responsibility.

Discussion ensued regarding the list of priorities given at the annual DFD meeting. J. Cook was under the impression that the Board had decided to scrap the service line replacement proposal and bring in a storage tank in order to do the fire hydrants. B. Weiss explained that leak investigation by Matchpoint is a good approach to reduce water consumption and a change in priorities is based on data from engineers. A. de Rham commented that the lines are reaching their end of service life and should be replaced, but wholesale replacement is expensive and time is needed to figure out the process.

S. Kaler stated that the only major leak existing by his house was at the corporation cock and there was no leak in his house. A. de Rham said that more information is needed. S. Kaler questioned how the repair process should work and A. de Rham responded that the Water District owns the corporation cock and connection to the main and the homeowner owns from the curb stop to the house – there are three valves involved. B. Weiss said that

the lead connection to the corporation cock failed and that is owned by the homeowner. A. de Rham drew a picture to explain the connections calling the valve a gooseneck fitting which is part of the service line and that the homeowner's contractor chose to turn off the main.

J. Cook expressed that she thought a top priority of the Committee was to replace service lines and A. de Rham responded that priorities may change dependent upon how leaks and the monitoring station work out. The replacement of all services lines would take an extended period of planning time before it is even started. B. Weiss explained that he presented a number of options at the annual meeting – none of which were approved at the time. It would take a special meeting to approve a plan. It was noted that it would be a golden opportunity to do a replacement when the State repaves Route 30. This would also require a bylaw change to replace stops. Discussion followed regarding cost to homeowners and A. de Rham stated that this is why it takes a long time to plan as there are many ways to do the numbers for cost. J. Cook said that she felt metering was overkill, potable water should only be addressed and improvement costs for the homeowner could be overwhelming. A. de Rham noted that Dorset water bills are below most other small water systems. B. Weiss commented that metering was a big accomplishment for the water system and A. de Rham added that leaks are first and replacement is second to consider.

#### **Fire Chief's Report (Hazelton)**

S. Hazelton read his list of calls for July 2019 and stated that letters have been sent to some homeowners for permission to enter their properties to test dry and wet hydrants. A. de Rham requested that a list of active maintenance be kept on these locations and S. Hazelton replied that there are eight locations that are tested once a year. One has already failed which is Myrickview. R. Squire moved and A. de Rham seconded to accept the Fire Chief's report as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **Water Manger's Report (Gaiotti)**

In R. Gaiotti's absence, the Board read his report. A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to accept the Manager's report as presented with the amendment of striking the bulleted item of "*Budget/operations meetings for DFD*" or receiving a copy of the budget details from that meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

It was requested that the Water Operator give clarification of the events that happened at the Kaler residence.

#### **DFD Finance & Manager's Report:**

Board members reviewed the financial reports and discussed delinquent taxes. Discussion included having Simon Operations find the curb stops for certain delinquent properties, sending a letter detailing the shut off action to be taken and adding the cost of curb stop repair, if necessary. R. Squire moved and A. de Rham seconded to accept the finance report as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business:**

- B. Weiss explained that J. Towsley felt that there was no value in the old firehouse building and would do a property appraisal for \$500. It would be an additional \$500 to appraise the building. R. Squire moved and A. de Rham seconded to proceed in acquiring an appraisal from Jack Towsley for the old firehouse located near the corner of Church Street and Route 30. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:**

- The new fire truck cab and chassis should be ready in six weeks
- Discussion of fire truck and brush truck sale ~ M. McWayne to be consulted on pricing and multiple site listings.
- It was the consensus of the Board members to pay and signature stamp the Bulldog and VACD invoices before the next meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to sign monthly invoices and accounts payable.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano

Town of Dorset ~ Dorset Fire District #1

Date 7/8/19

Regular Meeting X  
Special Meeting     

| (Please Print)<br>Name | Mailing Address                  | Representing | Testifying<br>(Yes/No) |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Frank Parent           | PUB 714 E. Dorset                | Quisby       | Y                      |
| Barbara Carse          | Box 573, Dorset, VT              |              | Y                      |
| DONALD CARSE           | Box 573, Dorset, VT              |              | Y                      |
| JIM MCGINNIS           | PO Box 731, Dorset, VT           |              | N                      |
| Shawn Hazelton         | 433 Pauls way Dorset VT          | Dorset fire  | Y                      |
| Ginny Longacre         | 2533 Route 30                    | self         | N                      |
| Ed Kider               | PO Box 1376 Guildford N.Y. 12084 |              | N                      |
| Justin Cole            | P.O. Box 536, Dorset, VT         | ←            | no                     |
|                        |                                  |              |                        |