

# **Dorset Fire District #1 Prudential Committee Meeting**

**December 12, 2016**

Members Present: Ben Weiss, Abbott deRham, Roger Squire, Milt McWayne, Mark Putnam

Members Absent:

Also Present: Jim McGinnis (Dorset Water District), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset Town Manager), Alan Casey (Fire Chief), Justine Cook, Robert Menson, Dina Janis (Dorset Theatre Festival), Joan Menson, D. Green, C. Lennox, Greg Kepler

B. Weiss opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

## **Approval of November Minutes**

M. Putnam moved and R. Squire seconded to approve the November 14, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0 (M. McWayne abstained).

## **Proposal to Renovate Old Firehouse (Dina Janis)**

D. Janis informed the Board that the Dorset Theatre Festival was interested in obtaining a permanent office space in Dorset and thought that the building owned by the Prudential Committee located next to the Post Office might be a good location for their office along with a visitor center. The idea would be to explore options, fundraise and apply for grants to fix the building and negotiate a reasonable rent with a long term lease. Discussion covered the topics of tax ramifications for renting, non-profit status, renovation responsibilities, and the Town taking over the building from the Dorset Fire Department #1 (DFD). A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded that the Dorset Fire District #1 (DFD) is interested in pursuing the concept of giving the building owned by the DFD #1 to the Town in order to explore the possibilities of re-purposing the building for use by the Dorset Theatre Festival and as a Visitor Center. Motion carried 4-0.

## **Vermont Planning Loan Program (Ashley Lucht)**

Tabled until further notice due to weather.

## **Water Study Report (Greg Kepler)**

G. Kepler submitted a written report outlining the permitting process for a new public community well dated December 7, 2016. He noted that the current work is investigative work for finding a proper well site and uncovering deed restrictions/covenants. A. de Rham commented that deadlines for the grant were being met and G. Kepler suggested that all of the grant information be submitted a month early in case there are questions. R. Gaiotti noted that the

Land Trust and Nature Conservancy covenants were difficult to change and the DFD Board could communicate with the Select Board and Conservation Commission about Cutler Park. A. Casey asked if they could use the fire house well for a water supply and M. Putnam said that the water needs to be pumped from a well to the reservoir and from the reservoir to the main lines making the capacity of the reservoir important along with a steady yield from the well. Also, public water sources require larger setback restrictions.

**Quigley Service Line Modifications (Frank Parent)**

Not present at meeting.

**Fire & Water Financials (Rob Gaiotti)**

R. Gaiotti reviewed his written December 12<sup>th</sup> financial report mentioning:

- Cash on hand in water and fire accounts
- Delinquent water and fire payments/delinquent balances
- Difficulty of using a lien process to collect delinquencies versus shutting off the water

B. Weiss asked about financing the pavement of roads and J. McGinnis replied that the DFD contracts with O'Brien who then bills the District.

A. de Rham moved and R. Squire seconded to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

**Fire Chief's Report (Alan Casey)**

A. Casey reported that there were 96 calls for the year and 11 calls from November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>. He handed out a document for smoke alarms which is taken directly out of the Bylaws. It was the consensus of the Board members to repair the generator and have a preventative maintenance schedule put in place for this generator. A. Casey is to talk to B. Tyler about the generator warranty.

A. de Rham moved and M. McWayne seconded to execute and pay for an extended agreement with the Washington County Dispatch from January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2021 starting with \$3,500 for the first year and increasing \$200 each year until 2021 (\$4,300). Motion carried 4-0.

**Fire Calls:**

11/15/16	Upper Hollow Road	Brush Fire
11/19/16	56 Stonewall Lane/Burns	CO Alarm/Low Reading
11/23/16	3229 West Road	Fire Alarm/Cooking Mishap
11/25/16	512 Peace Street	Good Intent Call
11/26/16	Dorset Inn	Malfunction LP Gas Fire Place
11/30/16	Barrows House	Fire Place Malfunction
11/30/16	126 Sugar House Lane	Fire Alarm

12/01/16	1045 Kirby Hollow Rd/LTS	Fire Alarm
12/07/16	314 Tower Road	Fire Alarm
12/12/16	8 Church Street/Dorset Inn	Smell of Gas
12/12/16	118 Lower Hollow Road	Fire Alarm

R. Squire referred to last month's meeting discussion about having the Dorset and East Dorset Departments review their equipment together and A. Casey responded that this has not been done yet. M. Putnam asked about the sale of the older fire truck and A. Casey replied that they will keep this truck until ready to purchase a new one. A. de Rham reiterated that the two Fire Departments should talk about coordination of equipment first. R. Squire moved and M. McWayne seconded to accept the Fire Chief's report as submitted. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Water Operator's Report (Jim McGinnis)**

J. McGinnis reviewed his written report of December 11, 2016 – attached. Discussion ensued regarding the Barrows House water leaks and the best way to address this situation. There were some discrepancies regarding the information given and received and some members of the Board wanted the leak problem fixed immediately. A. de Rham moved and M. McWayne seconded to notify the Barrows House to repair the leak immediately. Motion carried 3-0 (R. Squire abstained).

A de Rham moved and M. Putnam seconded to accept the Water Operator's report as submitted. Motion carried 4-0.

R. Squire inquired about the mapping of 41 curb stops for private owners and J. McGinnis noted that he was asked to do this two years ago by the Board. R. Squire would like J. McGinnis to continue the mapping of private owner curb stops as a one of his priorities.

### **Old Business**

- Forest Service Grant Application ~ (A. Casey) State will reimburse the Fire Department for the brush fire handled on Tower Road at the standard rates
- Mudgett Audit Update (Squire) ~ R. Gaiotti is to contact the Mudgett office.
- Hand Fire House Solar Project (Weiss) ~ the Firehouse roof is 2' x 4' construction and unable to support solar panels. The Hands' are interested in a ground location, if possible.
- Firehouse Clean-Up Update (McWayne) ~ No update available. A. Casey noted that a dumpster has been loaded and removed already.
- ISO Rating Project (Putnam) ~ M. Putnam said that there has been no progress on the ISO rating, but the next step is to have the Chief submit a letter substantiating changes made which improve the ISO rating. R. Gaiotti encouraged M. Putnam to have a conversation with H. Towsley

(EDFD) who recently dealt with the ISO rating in East Dorset. It might be possible to have the two departments complete the ISO testing together.

### **New Business**

- Dept. of Health Boil Notice Reporting (McGinnis) ~ Received email from David Love, Compliance Analyst & Operator Certification Coordinator, who confirm verbal approval of water safety.
- Fire Budgeting Process (Hazelton) ~ S. Hazelton was not present
- Petition for Firehouse Alarm Systems in Dorset & East Dorset ~ It was the consensus of the Board to have M. McWayne contact S. Ludlam, EDFD, to move forward in soliciting quotes for burglar and fire alarm systems for each firehouse as a joint project and also do a separate quote for just Dorset.
- Dispatch Contract with Washington Co. (Weiss) ~ Action taken to renew contract by motion made earlier in the meeting.
- 24-Hour Notice to Water Users before Shut-Off's (Weiss) ~ B. Weiss requested that there be no less than 24 hour notice to water users before shutting off the water. B. Weiss encouraged J. McGinnis to talk to Dydo about advance notice and J. McGinnis was given permission to deliver letters/postcards to water users regarding shut-offs. R. Squire brought up the issue of billing homeowners for water repairs after the repairs are done by the Prudential Committee. B. Weiss and R. Squire are to draft a letter for everyone on the water system giving the engineering standards and the procedures for repair of leaking pipes to be reviewed at the next meeting. A. de Rham recommended that documentation and inspections should be carried out on each repair project.
- Barrows House (Weiss) ~ Discussion regarding the repair of leaks at the Barrows House was initiated. B. Weiss noted that the Barrows House was made an offer that if they dug a dry hole in trying to fix a leak, the Prudential Committee would pay for it. A. de Rham and J. McGinnis disagreed with this assessment citing that they used best judgement of where to dig. The Board agreed on the compromise to swap doing the pavement of the repair hole on Lower Hollow Road in payment of the invoice for the dry hole dug.
- Proposed Service Line Repair Communication (Squire) ~ Board members agreed that a standardized leak/repair notification form need to be implemented as soon as possible.
- R. Squire requested that delinquent water tax customers be posted on the DFD website and Town report
- Discussion of budget process for DFD and syncing the timing with the Town for inclusion at the Town Meeting in March. It was recommended to change the DFD annual meeting date as a voted article at the next May annual meeting.

R. Squire moved and M. McWayne seconded to move into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. Executive Session ended at 10:00 p.m.

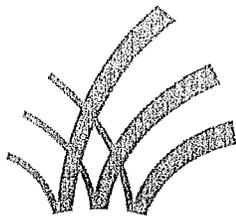
M. McWayne moved and M. Putnam seconded to issue a check to J. McGinnis in the amount of \$1,000 for compensation of additional work hours for water emergencies. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. by consensus of the Board members.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Aversano





# DORSET THEATRE FESTIVAL PLAY IN VERMONT

Dorset Theatre Festival Prudential Building  
Proposal Letter of Inquiry  
October 28th, 2016

To whom it may concern:

As you may know, the Dorset Theatre Festival will celebrate its 40th Year Anniversary in 2017. We are thrilled and honored to have been part of the history and culture in Dorset Village for these past four decades and look forward to continuing to grow and thrive for many more years to come. As part of our own growth and expansion during these past several years, we are in need of a permanent office space for our year round operations. It was brought to our attention that the Prudential Building, though in great need of repair, might present a unique opportunity for us at this time in our search for a home, while benefitting the town as we expand our role as a major contributor to the quality of life in our region through the arts.

Dorset Theatre Festival is interested in exploring a partnership with the Town of Dorset that would allow us to lease the Prudential Building located next to the Post Office. Our intention would be to implement a fundraising campaign to rehab the space pending Board approval, fixing the structural issues, bringing in power and installing composting toilets and other basic systems which would allow us to transform the space into a Destination Dorset Visitors Center and our year round Dorset Theatre Festival Business Office. The hope would be that we could negotiate a long term low rent lease which would take into consideration our renovation of the space and its service to the community.

During the past several years, DTF's Artistic Director, Dina Janis has served on several key study groups engaged in thinking strategically about economic development in the region. These include her appointed role on the NEDS study group as well as her appointment as BCRC Commissioner for Dorset in 2016. DTF has shown great leadership in developing partnerships that are intent on raising the profile of Southern Vermont, and the arts and cultural offerings here in particular. Our initiatives such as Hills Alive So VT- a collaboration between with the region's top arts institutions, our Giving Back Program which underwrites affordable tickets to a host of community groups such as Vermont Military, EMS, Police, Firefighters, Farmers, Teachers, Habitat for Humanity Volunteers and families, and Refuse to Use participants, are examples of DTF's commitment to community.

Our vision for the Prudential Building would be to turn the front storefront area of the space into a Destination Dorset Visitors Center and man this center with our own staff. All local businesses and non-profits would be invited to display their brochures and posters in this front area of the building during our regular weekly office hours. A Town Events Calendar would be created that would make it possible for all visitors to the town to find out what is happening on any given day in Dorset Village and its immediate surroundings. We are envisioning the Visitors Center area of the



Memorandum

Kepler Consulting, LLC

To: Dorset Fire District #1 Project File      Date: December 7, 2016  
From: Meddie J. Perry (VHB)                      RE: Permitting Outline for new Public Community Well  
& Greg Kepler (Kepler Consulting)

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This Memorandum has been prepared based on the request by DFD#1 that Kepler Consulting prepare information required to submit a Planning Loan application to the VT ANR for the work to develop a new Public Community Well. As DFD#1 continues to pursue a supplemental water supply source, the following Well Permitting Sequence outlines the process required by the VT Environmental Protection Rules Chapter 21 "Water Supply Rule - 2010" ("Rule") and the recommended next steps for investigating and permitting a potential new Public Community Water source. (I.e.-Scope of work anticipated). The following narrative information will also be extensively utilized in the preparation of an Engineering services agreement to accompany the Planning Loan application.

If the Fire District has any questions about the below outlined procedure or process after reviewing this memo, please advise Kepler Consulting. Noteworthy is that all tasks outlined below, with the exception of the last task (#10-Construction) are anticipated to be eligible under the VT ANR's Planning Loan program. The physical construction is not an eligible activity under this funding program, but is an eligible activity under the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program, and requires a separate funding application to be submitted once the planning and engineering work have progressed to the point where the construction details are known and costs can be estimated.

*Also noteworthy is that this document has been drafted based on the Cutler Forest parcel being the selected site, and we realize that the Fire District may choose an alternate site for developing a well, in which case minor revisions to the following information may be required.*

## **I. Background**

The Fire District is seeking additional water supplies in order to alleviate water shortages that have occurred during dry spells, and to allow lifting of a moratorium on new water system connections. Presently, the water system is supplied exclusively by springs, which flow by gravity to a storage tank located above the elevation of the distribution system. Based on the work completed to date in investigating potentially connecting the Gilbert springs as new spring sources, completing several

40 IDX Drive  
Building 100, Suite 200  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
P 802.497.6100



preliminary siting assessments for a new well on various properties, and conducting a fracture trace analysis, the Fire District has expressed a preference for developing a new well at one of the sites under consideration. Noteworthy is the current Rule requires wells rather than springs to be used as new water sources for Public Community Water Systems, except in special circumstances.

As outlined below, Kepler Consulting LLC, with VHB as its sub consultant, intends to proceed with the following tasks for of a new well on the Cutler Forest property that is owned by the Town of Dorset. The Map of Exploration Sites for Well Drilling on page 1 of the Attachment shows the locations of the Cutler Forest property, Gilbert Spring, and existing water system components.

## **II. Well Permitting Sequence**

VHB/Kepler Consulting recommends the following sequence for permitting a new well as a source of water to the Dorset Fire District #1 system.

### **A. Initial Assessment**

VHB and Kepler Consulting have already completed a site visit and assessment of the town-owned Cutler Forest property, and have determined that an area of approximately 2.3 acres is acceptable for installing a public community well or wells, in consideration of required setbacks and environmental constraints such as surface waters and significant wetlands. The Cutler Forest Site Well Siting Map on page 2 of the Attachment shows the property, an aerial photograph base, the constraints and setbacks, fracture-trace analysis results, and the 2.3-acre Well Exploration Area. Additional maps on pages 3 and 4 show the Well Siting information over bedrock and surficial geologic map bases, respectively.

VHB's assessment of nearby water well completion reports suggests that it may be possible to drill a bedrock well that can yield 50 gallons per minute on this site, but many nearby wells have much lower yields, therefore a detailed geologic well siting analysis is recommended to locate the optimal available drilling location. The well locations are shown on the maps on pages 2 through 4 of the Attachment; refer to detailed well information presented on pages 5 and 6 of the Attachment.

It may also be possible to install a screened gravel well, based on the presence of a kame deposit noted on the surficial geologic map, and layers of sand and gravel identified in area well completion reports. Gravel wells have the advantage of yields that are more predictable and often higher than bedrock wells. More detailed testing, including test drilling to collect and



analyze samples of gravel below the water table, would be needed to site and design a gravel well.

B. Well Siting

To identify a suitable location for drilling a well, VHB recommends performing an on-the ground geophysical reconnaissance to ground-truth the fracture-trace analysis that has been conducted, and to identify specific drilling locations. This work would locate geologic features that would be targeted for drilling in order to increase the chances of encountering adequate yield from a bedrock well. Accessibility for a drilling rig also would be considered in the selection of a drilling site. At the conclusion of this work, VHB would stake and GPS-locate one or more well drilling sites.

C. Landowner Agreement (This is a DFD#1 task)

Before proceeding with the more detailed phase of permitting, the Fire District should have legal counsel review the Land records and any associated covenants, deed restrictions, etc. In order to obtain a Source Permit from the VT ANR, a legal opinion is required indicating that all land within a 200-foot radius isolation zone around the well (or as approved by the Secretary) shall be owned or legally controlled by the DFD. Securing a written agreement for water rights and for control of the required 200-foot radius source isolation zone may be required.

D. Detailed Source Permitting

Detailed Source Permitting, installation, and testing in accordance with Section A-3.3 of the Rule would be performed, including the following tasks

1. Source Permit Application: VHB would submit a Source Permit Application to the VT ANR, which must be signed by an authorized Fire District representative. The application would include preliminary engineering plans showing the proposed well location and construction details, source isolation zone, and conceptual-level design of the connection to the existing water system to meet the requirements of the Rules, Section A-3.3.2.1, which would be developed by Kepler Consulting.
2. Site Inspection: A site meeting with VT ANR officials is required following review of the Source Permit Application.
3. Public Notice: The Fire District must notify abutting landowners, and the VT ANR must post a notice in a newspaper and in the Dorset Town Office, about the Source Permit



## Memorandum

Application. A 30-day public comment period ensues, and a public meeting may occur if requested by the public.

4. Well Installation: After the public comment period has ended, the VT ANR may issue an approval to drill the well as proposed. The Fire District would contract with a Vermont-licensed water well driller to install the well. Other contractors would be needed to create an access road for a drilling rig. Once the well has been installed successfully, the well drilling results would be reported to the VT ANR, and testing would take place.
5. Source Testing Application: VHB would submit a proposal to the VT ANR for the detailed testing of the well as outlined below in tasks 6 through 8, along with a Well Completion Report documenting the well drilling results. Upon ANR approval, testing would begin.
6. Safe Yield and Water Quality Testing: VHB in conjunction with Kepler Consulting would perform a pumping test on the new well. The testing generally involves pumping from the well at a measured and controlled rate for 72 to 96 hours, using a temporary pump and power source to be provided by the well driller or other contractor. The pumping test rate must be at least as high as the safe yield that will be approved. An additional one-day "step test" is also required, involving pumping the well at varying rates and measuring the water level drawdown.

Monitoring of water levels in the new well and in all other wells within a designated monitoring radius is required around-the-clock during the testing, owner permission pending. This monitoring is required to determine if use of the new well will cause unacceptable interference to existing wells. Monitoring of water levels also must occur for 48-hour periods immediately prior to and after the pumping test.

At the end of the pumping test, VHB would analyze the well water for the complete list of water quality parameters regulated by Section 6 of the Rule for new sources.

7. Source Protection Area Delineation: VHB would delineate the watershed area contributing recharge water to the well based on the pumping test results and a hydrogeologic study of the area.
8. Source Evaluation Report: VHB would submit a comprehensive report of the well's safe yield, water quality, source protection area and isolation zone, construction, and a source protection plan. Upon review, the VT ANR would notify the public of the



## Memorandum

proposed source protection area, may convene a public hearing, and ultimately may issue a Source Permit approving use of the well at a designated safe yield.

9. Engineering Reports and Design: After a Source Permit has been issued, Kepler Consulting will proceed with the engineering design of the piping, pumping, and infrastructure to connect the new well to the water system. The engineering report, plans and specifications and possibly other appurtenant documents; (e.g. stand-by chlorination system design, long range plan, and possibly other related information that may be required depending on siting issues and well water quality results) must be submitted to the VT ANR along with an application for a Permit to Construct a Public Water System, for review and approval. Kepler Consulting's scope of engineering work for approval to connect to DFD system and construction shall be determined at a later date, once the well has been drilled and the yield and water quality are known, so that pumping and water treatment needs can be determined.
  
10. Construction: After the VT ANR has issued a Permit to Construct a Public Water System, construction of the infrastructure to connect the well to the water system may begin. At the completion of construction, record drawings, test results (pressure, leakage, bacteria), and an Operations & Maintenance Manual must be submitted to the VT ANR prior to putting the new well on-line. Note - Physical Construction of the well connection is not eligible for funding under the Planning loan program, but is an eligible activity under the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program, and requires a separate funding application to be submitted once the planning and engineering work have progressed to the point where the construction details are known and costs can be estimated.

December 11, 2016

To: Dorset Fire District #1

Re: Report on Status of Dorset Water

This report covers the period from November 13 to December 11, 2016.

**Water Test:** The monthly coliform test was conducted on 11/22/16 and we passed.

**Chlorinator:** is functioning well.

**Reservoir Building:** The rodent trap is still baited in the chlorinator room. There have been none caught during this period.

**Spring Houses:** Are tight.

**Reservoir Overflow System:** The valve that controls the inflow to the reservoir was frozen when I went up there on Saturday. I winterized the building and the reservoir and the valve had thawed by Sunday morning and the reservoir was filled.

**Reservoir Bypass System:** Is working and will continue to be used until spring production drops drastically.

**Reservoir Levels:** Are normal.

**Leaks Status:**

**3009 Rt 30:** This leak was repaired on Nov 22 by Noel Dydo. The leak was on the service line about 18 inches into the road. After the repair the line was checked and it was quiet at the point of repair, curb stop and inside the basement.

**3360 Dorset West Rd:** This property came off the system on November 9. Their well is now supporting them.

**Leaking 6 inch Gate Valve at intersection of RT 30 and Meadow Lane:** This was dug up on December 6 and replaced.

**Leaking 6 inch Valve at Intersection of Church St and Rt 30:** Saturday morning I drove by there and notice water on the road in the vicinity of the valve. There was ice also on the road. Went to the fire house and got a 25lb bag of salt and melted it. Wanted to exercise the valve but there was too much traffic. The Town crew will come with a truck to park between me and traffic on Tuesday at 10 AM. There also some damage risers in the valve box that will have to be replaced.

**Service Line Leak on the West side of Dorset West Rd:** There is a 800 foot length of service line that has the South of a leak. The noise is loudest around Nims Rd. Using a 54 inch T bar made by Noel Dydo I have covered 400 feet of the distance and so far the loudest noise is just North of Nims Rd. This is near a small creek running under West Rd. Is it the creek or the leak? I will be using Aaron for this also next week.

**Barrows House:** From November 21 to 23 Barrows House put a new tap with service line into the Main on Hollow Rd. This replaced a service line that was leaking at several locations. It was replaced with PVC which was wired from the new curb stop to the two buildings it supported – the stable style building and the pool house. I tracked and marked it on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is another leak under their parking lot. I talked twice to Richard, their manager. He said Steve Bryant is handling this personally. I presently have a call into Steve asking him to contact me about the leak under their parking lot.

**Fire Hydrant #9 by 2845 Rt 30** has a suspected leak. I will be checking it this weekend. If it is leaking it is not a big one. It was close to the leak at 3009 Rt 30.

**The Suspected Leaks around the Green:** I will be working with Aaron next week using his correlator to assist in locating them.

### **Deferred Maintenance**

Fire Hydrant 11A, the last Hydrant on Route 30 North has a leaking seal at the base of the barrel. However the Gate Valve controlling water to the hydrant is shut off, so there is no leak.

Fire Hydrant 16, the first hydrant on West Rd after Church St heading South. The Hydrant valve does not hold. However, the gate valve for that hydrant holds. There is no water going to that hydrant now so there is no leak.

### **Needed Maintenance on the System**

**Valve Box 6 inch main:** The location is near the intersection of Dorset West Road and Church St. The valve box is not vertical. You cannot get a gate valve key on the gate valve because the box is so far off vertical. The sides are still stable.

There is a 6 inch gate valve on Church St which has been paved over several times. This needs to be uncovered and the valve exercised to insure it is functional. It is near the second fire hydrant on Church St from West Rd. I have marked it on the road and it is on the old maps.

There are four curb stops on Kent Hill Rd that have been heavily damaged by a contractor working for the Lou Maguire's on Kent Hill Rd. He was working on the Maguire's and dug them up. Realizing his mistake he replaced them with a valve box without stems. Also the stand pipes were too short so he has two pipes standing on each other unconnected. I called him he claimed they were a new style. I told him he hasn't heard the end of this. I will be pursuing this.

### **Mapping of the Dorset System**

**Curb Stop Mapping** – I have mapped a total of 41 curb stops.

I have also marked out the Transmission lines from the reservoir to the first the first fire hydrant on Church St.

**Spring Production:** is approximately 200-205 GPM. Spring 2 which are not on the system, but is the highest one in elevation are still dry. For the year we are 8 inches short of rain since 1/1/2016. What is saving us is the vegetation is dormant.

Respectively submitted

Jim McGinnis  
Water Operator

# FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE DORSET WATER CO.

## BACKGROUND

As outlined at our recent information meeting, the Dorset Water Co. is facing significant challenges including lack of adequate water supply, aging supply lines and fire hydrants not available for firefighting.

This committee is responsible for pursuing solutions to these problems, while simultaneously overseeing the Dorset Fire Dept., directing our water operator, intervening with water customer issues, directing engineering studies, formulating water emergency strategies and communicating with district residents.

While some of this work can be handled by a 5-person volunteer board, much of this work is beyond our levels of expertise and available time. The status quo is not an effective approach to solving these challenges and can be expected to lead to attrition in prudential board.

## MANAGEMENT POSSIBILITIES

Given that the prudential committee needs help with the management of the water company, I see three possible options to consider and discuss.

### 1. Give the water company to the town of Dorset

DFD would negotiate with the town of Dorset to assume full responsibility of the Dorset Water Co.

PROS	CONS
Town Manager is trained and experienced in administering public systems	Town is reluctant to assume responsibility of an aging water system.
Town offices are staffed during business hours and already receive calls from water customers.	Town is reluctant to get involved in the politics of a small village water system.
Town employs a full-time crew and owns equipment that could be used for water repairs.	Village loses local control.
Significant cost savings could be achieved.	May require approval of VT legislature and if so, would be a lengthy process.

**2. Hire a Water Director**

The DFD would recruit, interview and hire a director to oversee the daily operations and future planning for the water company. Water fees would be raised to cover the cost of this employee and benefits.

<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
Water Director will free prudential board of daily operations management.	A part-time position may be difficult to staff.
Water Director would be experienced in overseeing and funding municipal construction projects.	Finding a qualified person in this area may be challenging.
Our level of customer service would improve.	Could be a lengthy recruitment and training process.

**3. Service Contract with the Town to Administer the Water Co.**

The DFD would negotiate a service contract with the Town of Dorset to administer the daily operations, maintenance and future construction of the water system. Water fees would be raised to cover the cost of this administration.

<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
All the benefits of giving the water system to the town without the political and legal challenges.	
All the benefits of a Water Director without the recruitment challenges.	
Village of Dorset maintains local control.	

**CONCLUSION**

Option 3 appears to be the best possible approach to the providing the prudential committee with help in managing the water company.