



Dorset Fire District No. 1

2025 Annual Report

Monday May 12, 2025

Annual Meeting

At 7:00 p.m.

Meeting and voting takes place at the:
Dorset Fire Station
2788 Route 30
Dorset, VT 05251

Dorset Fire District No. 1 Important Info:

Prudential Committee Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm

Fire Department Training takes place every Tuesday at 6pm

Fire District Annual Meeting takes place on the second Monday in May at 7:00pm

All meetings are held at the Dorset Fire House 2788 Route 30.

Taxes & Water Fees

Taxes and Water fees are collected at the Town Manager's Office located at 112 Mad Tom Road East Dorset, VT 05253. Mailing Address: PO Box 341 Dorset, VT 05251

For questions or information contact: 802-362-4571 x 4 or email:

dorsetadmin@comcast.net

Water Operations

Water Operator: Chris Hayes, Simon Ops. 802-793-9429 or email:

chayes@simonop.com

Water Manager: Rob Gaiotti 802-362-4571 or email: townmanager@gmail.com

Cell: 802-417-7814

Fire District Website: www.dorsetfiredistrict.org

Fire Operations

Fire Chief: Jacob Gribble 802-375-4233 or email: dorsetfire@comcast.net

MEETING NOTES:

Dorset Fire District 2024 Elected Officers

Prudential Committee, 1 year term expires 2025	Cindy Loudenslager
Prudential Committee, 1 year term expires 2025	Ben Weiss
Prudential Committee, 3 year term expires 2027	Jon Ams
Prudential Committee, 3 year term expires 2025	Lee Fox
Prudential Committee, 3 year term expires 2026	Roger Squire
Fire District Treasurer, 1 year term expires 2025	Lee Fox
Fire District Clerk, 1 year term expires 2025	Roger Squire
Fire District Moderator, 1 year term expires 2025	Kevin O'Toole
Fire Chief	Jacob Gribble
1st Assistant	Joe Clark
2nd Assistant	Chris Dyer

Appointed Officials:

Water Operator	Simon Operations
Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper	Nancy Aversano
Water Manager	Rob Gaiotti

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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

Phone: 802-362-4571 x 4

Offices: Town Office 112 Mad Tom Rd E. Dorset, VT 05253

Email: dorsetfire341@gmail.com

Posted: April 7, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE:

WARNING

Dorset Fire District No. 1 - 2025 Annual Meeting

Dorset Firehouse 2788 Route 30

Monday May 12, 2025 – 7:00pm

The legal voters of the Dorset Fire District No. 1 are hereby warned and notified to attend this meeting to transact the following business:

1. Reading the minutes of 2024 annual meeting held on May 13, 2024, and act upon the same.
2. To hear reports of Officers of the Fire Department and Prudential Committee.
3. To act upon the proposed budget for the Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and authorize the Prudential Committee to set the tax rate following the publication of the Grand List.
4. To act upon the proposed budget for the Water Department for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and authorize the Prudential Committee to set rates for water users.
5. To elect members of the Prudential Committee, one member to a three-year term, and two members to one-year terms.
6. To elect a Clerk, a Treasurer, a Collector of Taxes and a Moderator.
7. To transact any other business to properly come before the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Weiss, Chairman, Prudential Committee

Dorset Fire District No. 1



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Dorset Water Co.

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Fire Station: 2877 Route 30 Dorset, VT 05251
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Dorset Fire District Annual Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2024

Present: Dr. Joe Ruggerio, Gay Squire, Nancy Faesy, Sanfra Weiss, Susan O'Leary, Skip Dickenson, Justine Cook, Kit Wallace, Lindy Bowden, Jacob Gribble, Joe Clark, Rusty Kelly, Chris Dyer, Alan Dufrense, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Henry Chandler (Moderator)

Members Present: Ben Weiss, Lee Fox, Roger Squire, Cindy Loudenslager, Jon Ams

Approve 2023 Minutes: Gay Squire moved and Justine Cook seconded to approve the 2022 DFD Annual Meeting Minutes, motion carried unanimously.

DFD Reports for 2024: Ben Weiss presented the annual reports for the Prudential Committee. The Fire Department budget is up 3% to \$198,000. He noted that a new truck purchase is in the works and the FD plans on some ISO testing soon. The Water budget is up 3% to \$157,000, rates are still estimated, the Service Line project will start in June. Zaluzny Excavating will start a second summer construction season on the water service line replacement project.

Fire Department Budget:

Sanfra Weiss moved and Gay Squire seconded to approve the 2024 Fire Department Budget, motion passed unanimously.

Water Department Budget:

Skip Dickenson moved and Sanfra Weiss seconded to approve the 2024 Water Department Budget, motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers for 2024:

Prudential Committee: 1 year – Cindy Loudenslager, 1 year – Ben Weiss, 3 year – Jon Ams

Clerk: 1 year – Roger Squire, Treasurer & Collector of Taxes: 1 year – Lee Fox, Moderator: 1 year – Kevin O'Toole

Robin Chandler moved and Kit Wallace seconded to approve the slate of elected officers for DFD for 2023, motion passed unanimously.

No other business came before the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by motion of L. Beckwith and second by J. Dickinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Gaiotti

Dorset Fire District No 1

Fire Department Report 2024



The Dorset Fire District #1 serves over 1000 property owners in the Town of Dorset and operates the Dorset Water Company, providing water to approximately 180 customers. Our next annual meeting will be held on May 12, 2025.

The fire department responded to 144 calls in 2024, with the following breakdown:

In 2024, the firemen of the Dorset Fire District #1 logged a total of 2800 hours of training.

Fire Chiefs

Chief: Jacob Gribble

1st Assistant Chief: Joe Clark

2nd Assistant Chief: Chris Dyer

Firefighters

Tyler King, Captain

Edan Ryan

Ayden Crispe

David Green

Oliver Dimeo, Jr.

Alex Mintz

August Stauffer

Randy Welp

Rusty Kelly

Shawn Hazelton

Cooper Greene, Jr.

Gregory Harrington

Cole Edison, Jr.

George Thompson, Jr.

Prudential Committee

Ben Weiss: Chairman

Lee Fox: Treasurer

Roger Squire

Cindy Loudenslager

Jonathan Ams

Type of Call	Amount
Auto Accidents	15
Brush Fires	5
Chimney Fires	1
CO Alarms	14
Elevator Alarms	1
EMS Assists	5
Fire Alarms	39
Fireplace/Woodstove Malfunction	1
Furnace Malfunction	1
Mutual Aid:	
Arlington	2
East Dorset	20
Manchester	11
Rupert	3
Propane Leaks	5
Structure Fires	3
Trees and Power Lines Down	14
Vehicle Fires	0
Woods Rescues	0
TOTAL	144

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1-FIRE DIVISION 2025/2026

	FY24	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 TO DATE	FY26 BUDGET
REVENUES					
DEL. FIRE TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INTEREST	\$0.00	\$209.00	\$0.00	\$113.11	\$0.00
TOWN APPRO.	\$193,000.00	\$193,000.00	\$198,760.00	\$149,092.50	\$209,250.00
DONATIONS	\$0.00	\$41,079.25	\$0.00	\$7,150.00	\$0.00
SALE OF EQUIP	\$0.00	\$30,479.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TRUCK LOAN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INSURANCE REIMBURSED	\$0.00	\$29,621.00	\$0.00	\$5,509.65	\$0.00
DISPATCH REIMBURSED	\$0.00	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	\$2,750.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$193,000.00	\$299,588.25	\$198,760.00	\$164,615.26	\$209,250.00
EXPENSES					
ADVERTISEMENTS	\$100.00	\$212.50	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
FIRE PREVENTION	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
INSURANCE	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,758.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 21,182.74	\$ 19,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 441.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 77.14	\$ 1,000.00
POSTAGE & PRINTING	\$ 200.00	\$ 484.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 9.85	\$ 250.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,963.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,500.00
CLERK/MGR FEES	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
DAM FEE	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DISPATCH CONTRACT	\$ -	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -	\$ 2,750.00	\$ -
FUEL	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 8,436.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,952.32	\$ 5,950.00
EQUIP - MAINT.	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 51,455.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 38,861.20	\$ 25,000.00
NEW EQUIPMENT	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 20,981.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 27,842.33	\$ 23,000.00
TRUCK PAYMENT	\$ -	\$ 28,594.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,353.00
TRUCK SINKING FUND	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
FIRE HOUSE MAINT.	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 15,973.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 20,052.56	\$ 20,000.00
FIRE HOUSE SUPPLIES	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,098.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 784.00	\$ 497.00
UTILITIES	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 11,587.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,026.13	\$ 11,500.00
DUES/TRAINING	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 256.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,482.70	\$ 3,500.00
MEALS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,036.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 950.69	\$ 1,000.00
FEC	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 22,489.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 24,762.96	\$ 30,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,102.00	\$ 2,960.00	\$ 4,260.27	\$ 3,500.00
MISC. EXPENSE	\$ -	\$ 6,043.00	\$ -	\$ 1,161.21	\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 193,000.00	\$ 211,008.50	\$ 198,760.00	\$ 218,906.10	\$ 209,250.00

Water Operations Report 2024

During 2024 we continued our system wide improvement project with Zaluzny Excavating and Otter Creek Engineering. Starting in June work crews began to replace service lines and small diameter mains. As you can imagine the work is complicated and slow at best. We appreciate the patience of our water customers during these construction cycles. During 2024 work crews replaced thousands of feet of small diameter mains and around 50 service lines. We currently have a 3rd season of work out to bid, we are trying to maximize all the loan forgiveness and grants that we have received. As predicted last year the Zaluzny contract finished around \$800,000 under budget. The bids on contract 3 will determine how much funding we are able to leverage, and possible next steps on other capital investment items like the new gravel well on Cheney.

New England Backflow installed the majority of the meters over the course of the winter and we have been able to gather additional data about water consumption in our system. This data further confirms that over 60% of the water leaving our reservoir is still being lost to leaks/waste.

The District constructed a new gravel well at the Cheney Road site and we should have the source permit and cost estimates on next steps soon. We do expect some level of water treatment because of the shallow depth of the well. The good news is that our consultants tell us there is a path to move forward with the well and potentially get the water allocation moratorium lifted by late 2025. This would be a huge step forward for the Dorset Village water system as the moratorium has been an issue for nearly 40 years.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Water Bills are paid Quarterly. Payments are made out to Dorset Fire District and either mailed to PO Box 341 Dorset, VT 05251 or dropped off at the Dorset Town Offices (Mon-Fri 8am to 4pm).

Questions? Contact 362-4571 x 4 or email: dorsetadmin@comcast.net

Water Service is monitored and maintained by the Water Operator Chris Hayes of Simon Operations Corp. Questions/Problems? Contact chayes@simonop.com

DFD—Water Division FY26 Budget

Account	FY24	FY24 Actual	FY25	FY25 to date	FY26 proposed
REVENUES					
02-6000-30.00 Interest Income	\$500	\$1,406.00	\$500	\$1,229	\$500
02-6000-30.10 User Fees - Delinquent	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$0	\$500
02-6000-30.20 User Fees - Current	\$153,000	\$154,539.00	\$158,000	\$117,878	\$163,000
02-6000-60.00 Grant Revenue	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-6000-70.00 Planning Loan Revenue	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-6000-71.00 Sinking Fund Transfer	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-6000-72.00 Fire Depart Engineering Revenue	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$154,000	\$155,945	\$159,000	\$119,107	\$164,000
EXPENSES					
02-7000-01.00 Bank Service Charge	\$0	\$45.00	\$0	\$15	\$0
02-7000-02.00 Chemicals	\$650	\$532.00	\$500	\$464	\$500
02-7000-03.00 Clerical Supplies	\$300	\$370.00	\$300	\$0	\$300
02-7000-04.00 Clerk Fees	\$3,200	\$10,650.00	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
02-7000-05.00 Contingency	\$12,800	\$0.00	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
02-7000-07.00 Dues & Publications	\$300	\$390.00	\$300	\$315	\$300
02-7000-08.00 Fuel	\$600	\$0.00	\$700	\$503	\$700
02-7000-09.00 Insurance	\$4,000	\$4,412.00	\$4,500	\$4,938	\$4,800
02-7000-11.01 Maintenance - Main Line	\$10,000	\$16,369.00	\$15,000	\$6,051	\$16,500
02-7000-11.02 Maintenance - Reservoir	\$2,500	\$9,614.00	\$2,500	\$4,376	\$3,500
02-7000-11.03 Maintenance - Road	\$1,500	\$0.00	\$1,500	\$0	\$2,500
02-7000-11.04 Maintenance-Service Line	\$0	\$14,755.00	\$0	\$9,303	\$0
02-7000-12.00 Mileage	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-13.00 Misc. Expenses	\$250	\$290.00	\$300	\$102	\$500
02-7000-14.00 Planning Loan Expenses	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-15.00 News Letter	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-16.00 Operating Permit	\$2,000	\$1,612.00	\$2,000	\$1,271	\$1,950
02-7000-18.00 Postage	\$750	\$820.00	\$800	\$730	\$800
02-7000-19.00 Printing	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-20.00 Professional Fees	\$15,000	\$15,928.00	\$12,000	\$13,660	\$12,000
02-7000-21.00 Repay Loans/Debt Retirement	\$38,500	\$0.00	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
02-7000-22.00 Sinking Fund	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$4,500	\$0	\$5,000
02-7000-23.00 System Operator	\$57,000	\$58,757.00	\$58,550	\$50,436	\$59,000
02-7000-24.00 Telephone	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-25.00 Testing	\$1,800	\$1,737.00	\$1,500	\$1,925	\$1,800
02-7000-26.00 Consumer Confid Reports	\$350	\$0.00	\$350	\$0	\$350
02-7000-29.00 Other Expenses	\$0	\$3,000.00	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$154,000	\$139,281	\$158,800	\$97,089	\$164,000
Rates/ Payments (average per user /178 users)	\$860		\$888	\$662	\$916
Net Increase/Decrease	\$87		\$28	-\$225	\$253
% Increase/Decrease	10.13%		3.16%	-34.04%	3.07%

Dorset Fire District Annual Meeting Finance Info:

FY26 Budgets:

Fire: \$209,250

The FY26 Fire Budget is 5% higher for this year. The Prudential Committee and the Fire Chief continue to work diligently to streamline the budget for efficiency.

Water: \$164,000

The FY26 Water Budget will be 5% higher than FY24.

FY26 Average annual bill of \$915

FY24 Annual Audit

Dorset Fire District has hired the audit firm of Mudgett, Jennett & Krough-Wisner PC to conduct an external audit of the Fire District Financial Statements.

The FY24 Audit presented NO material weaknesses or deficiencies

Figures are reported as net of Fire Fund/Water Fund together. All Fire funds and Water funds are separated with separate bank accounts and ledgers.

Net Position:

Assets Fire: \$1,765,157 Assets Water: \$3,335,708

Liabilities Fire: \$580,583 Liabilities Water: \$2,902,922

Net Fire: \$1,184,574 Net Water: \$432,786

Net position includes all cash and capital assets of the District

Statement of Revenues & Expenses (FY24):

Total Revenues: \$332,379 Total Expenses: \$266,550

Fire Fund had a net decrease of \$11,849

Water Fund had a net surplus of \$65,829

District Debt:

At Current Total District (Includes Fire & Water Funds) debt balance:

Water: \$1,023,842

Fire: \$487,863

This represents the current balance of the Planning Loans received to fund the new water source project and perform a system side preliminary engineering report.

**Copies of the FY24 Audit can be picked up at the Town Offices or viewed online at
www.dorsetfiredistrict.org**

Questions?





Burning Status By Permit Only

Outdoor burning is currently allowed, provided you receive a written permit from a fire department official. We urge extreme caution when burning.

For all burn permits, please contact:

Jacob Gribble at (802) 375-4233



Volunteers Needed:

The Dorset Fire Department is currently looking for volunteers to join the department. All training, gear and other expenses are covered, including a stipend based on your involvement.

Available positions include:

Firefighters

Drivers

Helpers at Firehouse (during calls)

To volunteer or get more information, please contact:

Jacob Gribble at (802) 375-4233

Delinquent Water Fees as of April 29, 2025 (30+ days past due)

Stimson, Ellen	\$3,943.09
BIC Properties	\$228.65
Felis, Austin	\$854.46
Bickford, Michael	\$340.67
Orr, Richard	\$236.00
Total	\$4,748.41

*** = paid or partially paid**



Dorset Fire District No. 1
PO Box 341
Dorset, VT 05251