



Dorset Fire District Annual Report 2026

Monday May 11, 2026

Annual Meeting

At 7:00 p.m.

Meeting and voting take place at the:
Dorset Town Offices

200 Raptor Lane

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 shifting to be held at the Town Offices 200 Raptor Lane Dorset, VT 05251

Taxes & Water Fees

Taxes and Water fees are collected at the Town Manager's Office located at 200 Raptor Lane Dorset, VT 05253. Mailing Address: 200 Raptor Lane Dorset, VT 05251

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

dorsetadmin@comcast.net

Water Operations

Water Operator: Chris Hayes, Water Treatment Professionals. 802-732-6011 or email: vaportrail@vermontel.net

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 2025 Elected Officers

Prudential Committee, 1 year term expires 2026	Cindy Loudenslager
Prudential Committee, 1 year term expires 2026	Ben Weiss
Prudential Committee, 3 year term expires 2027	Jon Ams
Prudential Committee, 3 year term expires 2028	Lee Fox
Prudential Committee, 3 year term expires 2026	Roger Squire
Fire District Treasurer, 1 year term expires 2026	Lee Fox
Fire District Clerk, 1 year term expires 2026	Roger Squire
Fire District Moderator, 1 year term expires 2026	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

Phone: 802-362-4571 x 4

Fire Station: 2877 Route 30 Dorset, VT 05251

Offices: Town Office 200 Mad Tom Road Dorset, VT 05251

Email: dorsetfire341@gmail.com

Posted: April 6, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE:

WARNING

Dorset Fire District No. 1 - 2025 Annual Meeting

Dorset Town Office 200 Raptor Lane

Monday May 11, 2026 – 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 2025 annual meeting held on May 12, 2025, 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027, 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027, 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



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 200 Raptor Lane Dorset, VT 05251

Email: townmanager@gmail.com

Dorset Fire District Annual Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2025

Present: Rosalie Fox, Justine Cook, Gay Squire, Joe Clark, Chris Dyer, Jacob Gribble, Randy Welp, Rob Gaiotti, Kevin O'Toole.

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

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes - Rosalie Fox moved and Justine Cook seconded to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, motion passed.

Rosalie Fox moved and Justine Cook seconded to approve hearing the reports of the Officers of the Fire Department, motion passed.

Lee Fox gave an overview of the FY26 Fire Department Budget, large items include truck payments, firefighter compensation, building maintenance and new equipment. Total budget is \$209,250. Jacob Gribble gave an overview of the 2024 year, there were 144 calls (record for DFD), a new attack truck, tanker truck is being built, improvements to the Fire Station. New tanker will hold 3000 gallons of water. Roger Squire gave an update about the DFD upcoming fundraising effort for equipment and building maintenance. Costs of fire fighter equipment are rapidly increasing in costs, so the District is looking to fundraising as a way to offset costs for taxpayers.

FY26 Water Budget is \$164,500 which is up 5% from FY25. The project to replace service and small diameter mains continues. The first phase over the last 2 construction cycles came in nearly \$800,000 under budget and DFD has a project bid

out for 2025 summer work. New England backflow installed meter. There are additional projects for 27 additional service lines and partial services under Route 30. Rob Gaiotti gave a DFD water debt and project overview. Ben Weiss gave an overview of running power to the metering station which would allow for less water operations service time. Discussion continued about the water moratorium and potential improvements to the system. Ben Weiss also presented info about well no. 3 on Cheney Road.

Reports were approved by the voters unanimously.

FY26 Fire Budget Approval - Randy Welp moved and Justine Cook seconded to approve the Fire Budget, motion passed.

FY26 Water Budget Approval - Rosalie Fox moved and Gay Squire seconded to approve the Water Budget, motion passed.

Election of Members:

Prudential Committee 1-year terms: Cindy Loudenslager, Ben Weiss

Prudential Committee 3-year term: Lee Fox

Moderator 1 year: Kevin O'Toole

Gay Squire moved and Justine seconded to approve the slate of directors for the Fire District, motion passed.

Election of Officers:

Treasurer 1 year: Lee Fox

Clerk 1 year: Roger Squire

Transact any other business:

Justine Cook inquired about a taste test for the new well. The well source permit would be needed before that would be allowable.

Gay Squire moved and Rosalie Fox seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager

Fire Department Report 2025

DORSET FIRE DEPT. 2025 REPORT

In 2025, the firemen of the Dorset Fire District #1 logged a total of 1,697 hours of in-house training. They also had 4 firefighters take classes at FDIC for another 32 hours of training.

This fall, the department took delivery of new pumper/tanker truck with a 3000-gallon water capacity.

This year's fundraising campaign raised over \$30,000 and enabled the department to purchase new infrared cameras for firefighting and rescue work, and new specialized washing and drying equipment for turnout gear. Thank you to all who donated.

The department currently has 20 members, but is always looking for volunteers, with or without firefighting experience (training supplied).

Fire Chiefs

Jacob Gribble: Chief

Joe Clark: Assistant Chief

Firefighters

Tyler King, Captain

Shawn Hazelton, Captain

Eaden Ryan

Ayden Crispe

Nichol McKeighan

David Green

Alex Mintz

August Stauffer

Randy Welp

Rusty Kelly

.Jeremy Casey

Greg Harrington

Jonathan Huntoon

George Thompson

Cooper Greene

Oliver Dimeo

Gabriel Casey

Tucker Casey

The fire department responded to 151 calls in 2025:

Type of Call	Calls
Accident with Injuries	1
Brush Fires	3
CO Alarms	5
CO Problems	1
EMS Assists	11
Fire Alarms - False	18
Fire Alarm - Cooking Food	8
Fire Alarm - Fireplace	4
Fire Alarm - Other	30
Furnace Malfunction	2
Good Intent Call	1
Hazmat	8
Mutual Aid:	
Arlington	1
Danby	1
East Dorset	21
Manchester	15
Pawlet	1
Rupert	3
Structure Fires	2
Transformer Fires	1
Trees across Roads	3
Trees on Wires	2
Wires Down	1
Woods Rescues	1
TOTAL	151

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1-FIRE DIVISION 2026/2027

	FY25	FY25 ACTUAL	FY26 BUDGET	FY26 TO DATE	FY27 BUDGET
REVENUES					
DEL. FIRE TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INTEREST	\$0.00	\$172.00	\$0.00	\$104.00	\$100.00
TOWN APPRO.	\$198,760.00	\$198,790.00	\$209,250.00	\$104,463.00	\$215,500.00
DONATIONS	\$0.00	\$8,150.00	\$0.00	\$44,102.00	\$0.00
SALE OF EQUIP	\$0.00	\$909.00	\$0.00	\$77,493.00	\$0.00
TRUCK LOAN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INSURANCE REIMBURSED	\$0.00	\$5,509.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DISPATCH REIMBURSED	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,750.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$198,760.00	\$219,030.00	\$209,250.00	\$228,912.00	\$215,600.00
EXPENSES					
ADVERTISEMENTS	\$100.00	\$209.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
FIRE PREVENTION	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
INSURANCE	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 21,921.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 31,463.00	\$ 20,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,000.00
POSTAGE & PRINTING	\$ 200.00	\$ 93.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,014.00	\$ 250.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,500.00
CLERK/MGR FEES	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
DAM FEE	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ -
DISPATCH CONTRACT	\$ -	\$ 2,750.00	\$ -	\$ 5,650.00	\$ -
FUEL	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 7,857.00	\$ 5,950.00	\$ 6,104.00	\$ 8,000.00
EQUIP - MAINT.	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 45,413.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 30,559.00	\$ 25,000.00
NEW EQUIPMENT	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 39,805.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 56,782.00	\$ 24,000.00
TRUCK PAYMENT	\$ -	\$ 23,127.00	\$ 50,353.00	\$ 50,725.00	\$ 50,353.00
TRUCK SINKING FUND	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FIRE HOUSE MAINT.	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 21,036.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,273.00	\$ 22,000.00
FIRE HOUSE SUPPLIES	\$ 300.00	\$ 814.00	\$ 497.00	\$ 539.00	\$ 500.00
UTILITIES	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,116.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,649.00	\$ 13,000.00
DUES/TRAINING	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,482.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 373.00	\$ 2,500.00
MEALS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,307.00	\$ 1,200.00
FEC	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 26,850.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,614.00	\$ 30,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 2,960.00	\$ 2,172.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,508.00	\$ 3,500.00
MISC. EXPENSE	\$ -	\$ 2,338.00	\$ -	\$ 2,056.00	\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 198,760.00	\$ 229,368.00	\$ 209,250.00	\$ 246,825.00	\$ 215,503.00

Water Operations Report 2025

The last year was another busy one for the Dorset Village Water System. Phase 1 of the service line replacement project came in over \$800,000 under budget which was great news. The District pivoted quickly and was able to bid out additional service line work on Route 30. It is important to note that around \$650,000 of the \$1.2 million project will be covered by grants and loan forgiveness. This was a major motivation to move the phase 2 project to construction. Casella construction won the bid and will begin work spring 2026. Work will start near HN Williams and continue through the summer.

Last fall the operations staff located and repaired a major leak on Dorset West Road. Since that time, the water system has used far less water. There is good news in that the State has verbally told us that the moratorium could be lifted in June. This would be the end of a 40-year-old problem!

Additionally the District just finished a safe yield study for Kellogg springs and is expected to receive a source permit for the springs with a yield of 68 gallons per minute. The District has also received the source permit for the well on Cheney Road. The yield is 150 gallons per minute and the well is a significant asset for operational redundancy. The well had test results will very small amounts of PFAS and the District will have to determine how best to move forward with use of this asset moving forward. During the January public hearing we received input that any use of the well source should be treated before entering into the system. The treatment building and equipment could cost around \$1.5 million. The District is waiting to see the additional results from Phase 2 service line work to better understand how to move forward with future capital investments.

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 FY27 Budget

Account	FY25	FY25 Actual	FY26	FY26 to date	FY27 proposed
REVENUES					
02-6000-30.00 Interest Income	\$500	\$1,934.00	\$500	\$1,324	\$500
02-6000-30.10 User Fees - Delinquent	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$0	\$500
02-6000-30.20 User Fees - Current	\$158,000	\$157,269.00	\$163,000	\$72,361	\$167,000
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	\$159,000	\$159,203	\$164,000	\$73,685	\$168,000
EXPENSES					
02-7000-01.00 Bank Service Charge	\$0	\$30.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-02.00 Chemicals	\$500	\$464.00	\$500	\$622	\$750
02-7000-03.00 Clerical Supplies	\$300	\$225.00	\$300	\$91	\$350
02-7000-04.00 Clerk Fees	\$5,000	\$14,550.00	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
02-7000-05.00 Contingency	\$10,000	\$0.00	\$10,000	\$0	\$5,000
02-7000-07.00 Dues & Publications	\$300	\$315.00	\$300	\$0	\$300
02-7000-08.00 Fuel	\$700	\$503.00	\$700	\$0	\$700
02-7000-09.00 Insurance	\$4,500	\$4,938.00	\$4,800	\$2,386	\$4,800
02-7000-11.01 Maintenance - Main Line	\$15,000	\$6,051.00	\$16,500	\$24,915	\$12,500
02-7000-11.02 Maintenance - Reservoir	\$2,500	\$18,007.00	\$3,500	\$6,577	\$2,500
02-7000-11.03 Maintenance - Road	\$1,500	\$0.00	\$2,500	\$0	\$3,500
02-7000-11.04 Maintenance-Service Line	\$0	\$10,774.00	\$0	\$20,957	\$0
02-7000-12.00 Mileage	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-13.00 Misc. Expenses	\$300	\$140.00	\$500	\$0	\$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	\$1,644.00	\$1,950	\$738	\$1,950
02-7000-18.00 Postage	\$800	\$949.00	\$800	\$730	\$1,000
02-7000-19.00 Printing	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-20.00 Professional Fees	\$12,000	\$17,930.00	\$12,000	\$12,973	\$12,000
02-7000-21.00 Repay Loans/Debt Retirement	\$38,500	\$0.00	\$38,500	\$0	\$65,000
02-7000-22.00 Sinking Fund	\$4,500	\$0.00	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
02-7000-23.00 System Operator	\$58,550	\$60,570.00	\$59,000	\$46,212	\$45,000
02-7000-24.00 Telephone	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
02-7000-25.00 Testing	\$1,500	\$1,975.00	\$1,800	\$1,560	\$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	\$158,800	\$142,065	\$164,000	\$120,761	\$168,000
Rates/ Payments (average per user /178 users)	\$888		\$916	\$407	\$938
Net Increase/Decrease			\$28	-\$509	\$532
% Increase/Decrease			3.07%	-125.26%	2.40%

Dorset Fire District Annual Meeting Finance Info:

FY27 Budgets:

Fire: \$215,503

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: \$168,000

The FY27 Water Budget will be 2.4% higher than FY26.

FY27 Average annual bill of \$938

FY25 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 FY25 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: \$1,548,303 Assets Water: \$4,415,080

Liabilities Fire: \$488,425 Liabilities Water: \$3,551,610

Net Fire: \$1,059,878 Net Water: \$863,470

Net position includes all cash and capital assets of the District

Statement of Revenues & Expenses (FY25):

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

Fire Fund had a net decrease of \$115,402

Water Fund had a net surplus of \$11,649

Includes asset depreciation

District Debt:

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

Water: \$3,299,857

Fire: \$487,863

**Copies of the FY25 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 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 7, 2026 (30+ days past due)

Smith – 40 Cheney	\$198.21
White – 3119 Dorset West	\$218.21
O’Leary – 3299 Dorset West	\$214.88
Total	\$452.30



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