

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
Monday, Sept. 10, 2012
5:00PM, Ludden Memorial Library

Board Members Present: Chairman, Malcolm Gill, Robert Withrow, Hart Daley, Scott Belskis

Board Members Absent: 1 (one) vacancy

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), David Phair (Public Works), Jim White (Water Department Superintendent) Richard Pickett (Chief of Police).

Citizens Present: Walter Newman, Dan McKay, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mitchell, Craig Woods, Darlene Brann, Scott Dennett, Chris and Edgar Cormier, Norine Clarke (Recorder of Minutes)

Others: Tom Carroll (Patriot Renewables), Don Hutchins (DOT), Alice McKay

Press: WVAC TV 7, Eileen Adams

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Gill announced that he had correspondence to present and read to all present the letter of resignation of Town Manager Eugene Skibitsky effective Jan. 2, 2013. Motion to accept Mr. Belskis, seconded by Mr. Withrow. Vote 3 for and 1 abstention by Mr. Gill.

2. Approval of Minutes: Board minutes of Aug. 27, 2012 were presented for approval. With no objections given, they were accepted as presented.

3. Approval of Warrants and Payroll: Chair Gill presented the Warrants and Payroll as listed on the Agenda as a-c. Hearing no objection, they were passed as presented.

4. Department Head Reports:

a. Public Works: Dave Phair reported on the Common Road work done by the Town Crew. Shoulders were repaired, ditching was done, one culvert was moved and three were repaired. The culverts have been covered with gravel to allow settling and need to be paved with four inches of pavement. \$3360. will be needed for this part of the job. Motion by Mr. Withrow, second by Mr. Daley

Question Mr. Daley—Has the pot hole by Chris Hebert’s driveway been looked at?

Answer Mr. Phair—Yes but it is not included in this price.

Vote taken passed 4-0

Mr. Phair is putting together a package for the Highway Committee about Science Hill Road near the Hall property. There are 3-4 houses and about 800 feet of road.

The crew did some limbing at the stop sign on Coolidge Rd. which should be ditched. It never has been designated as a road. They have also been repairing trucks, collecting more oil, and working on the hockey rink.

Mr. Phair met with A & W Paving and Mr. Newman about repairs on his driveway today. The plans did not arrive yet. \$2430 is the most recent estimate of cost.

Question Mr. Belskis—The fill put on Coolidge Rd. was gone after 2 days.

Answer Mr. Phair—It did not hold up to the heavy rains on Friday.

Question Mr. Daley—Where are the plans for Mr. Newman’s driveway?

Answer Mr. Phair—Curt from A & W Paving did not get them back to us this afternoon.

Question Mr. Belskis—What about the man hours for the cemetery work?

Answer Mr. Phair—We are still keeping track and will have to justify whether it is more important to have them do that or do other jobs.

Mr. Don Hutchins of Canton who works for Fleet Services at the DOT was asked to present the option of the town purchasing gas and diesel for the town vehicles at the DOT facility. With a signed contract with any town, each vehicle is given a card which allows it to be filled at their pumps. The drivers are given PIN numbers. The contract does not insist that the Town use DOT’s facilities exclusively and if it is cheaper to get it elsewhere, that is perfectly acceptable. As of Sept 10, diesel was priced at \$3.43 and unleaded was priced at \$3.26. These prices include a 10 cents per gallon surcharge to cover DOT’s infrastructure. They have their own personnel available for their installation and repairs on their facility. DOT would bill monthly and could send weekly reports.

Question Mr. Belskis—Does a printout come with the bills?

Answer--Yes.

Question Mr. Daley—How do we know about price changes?

Answer—The statewide average price goes up more slowly but the lower prices also come down more slowly.

Question Mr. Belskis—Are there any problems tracking?

Answer--None

Question Chair Gill—Are any other towns using this service?

Answer—The largest is Topsham but there are many others. None are local.

Question Mr. Withrow—Is this a statewide price?

Answer—Yes.

Question Mr. White—Can the Water Company use the cards?

Answer—Yes.

Question Mr. White—Do you have a back-up power source?

Answer—We have a back up generator.

Question—How many cards can we have? We have 2 trucks and a backhoe.

Answer—You would get three cards.

Fire Chief Dennett was asked for his opinion and he said that most of their vehicles use diesel so it seems like an attractive offer.

Chief Pickett said that they would have to have three cards for the three vehicles but 4 pin numbers to cover the 4 patrolmen.

Darlene Brann reported that if we keep tanks in the ground they must have fuel in them at all times and it is not good for the vehicles to use old fuel. You can only pump down to 800 gallons in each tank. There were many questions about our current prices and our tanks and pumps. It was agreed that even though the town signed a contract that our own equipment should not be removed right away.

The other towns that use our pumps are Carthage, Mexico, the RSU buses and Med Care but each should sign their own contract with DOT.

After all discussion, Gene agreed to go ahead with the contract to give it a trial run.

Mr. Hutchins said that all issues must be reported to DOT so that they can be dealt with

Mr. Belskis made a motion to give Chair Gill the authority to sign the contract. Second by Mr. Daley. All agreed. Mrs. Brann and Mr. Woods were asked if they agreed and they did. Mrs. Brann said that it was recommended that a roof be put over our tanks.

b. Water Department: Superintendent Jim White reported.

Replacement of the Irving water meter is still waiting to be installed.

To date 53 meters have been installed and maybe another 7 will be done before winter.

Mr. White presented copies of generator choices and prices to the board. He apologized for a great difference in price from his estimate at the last meeting. These prices range from \$47,000. to \$59,000. These would not be complete prices as there would need to be about \$1,000. spent for wiring. Al Hodson also recommends it should be under a roof.

Question Mr. Belskis—What power usage would be required to cover the water plant?

Answer—50kw range is about what is needed but the generator purchased should have a larger output. The Power Products offer seems to have more options.

Question Town Mgr---Is it automatic?

Answer—No, the preference is that it not be automatic but would be started by someone on site. Turn off would be manual also. The instruments will run for a couple hours on their own because of UPF back-up.

Mr. Withrow—What it would amount to is a \$60,000 insurance policy if we purchase the unit.

Mr. White—I agree but the choice will be the Selectmen's because this is more than this year's savings. Next year's project (Pine St. from Rowe to North) will require \$65,000.

Town Mgr—suggested a budget picture.

Mr. White—the reservoir has a million gallon capacity. If it drops to 800,000. it would hamper fighting fires.

Chair Gill—Could it be put in next year's budget?

Mr. Belskis—Then it would go to a Town Meeting vote.

Mr. White—No. The water rate payers pay and the Selectmen act as the Board of Trustees who must make the decisions. We can do both the road and the generator only if we assign the carryover money.

Town Mgr.—We will know in April what the carryover will be.

Mr. Daley—The budget process won't start for 60 days and these prices are only good for 60 days.

Mr. Belskis—We should wait for the budget process.

Mr. Withrow—I agree

Mr. White—If you do nothing now, I will put it in my budget.

Chair Gill got a verbal go ahead from the Board to allow Mr. White to put it in his budget.

c. Chief Pickett

Under the regular meeting rotation, the Police report is given during the second meeting of the month so Chief did not have a full report.

Recommended all citizens remember school has started and to use caution.

The Drug Take Back program will be on Sept. 29, probably at the Town Office.

Chief encouraged people to be aware that as the economy gets worse, crime goes up and folks should lock their homes and cars.

Chief then asked if he could give the rest of his time to Chris Cormier and his father Edgar who live on High St. Agreed. They are very concerned about the speed and the condition on High St. and the danger to drivers and pedestrians, especially children. The sidewalk is on the same level as the road. The recommendation they had was that the hill leading up to High St be 2 way and then turn on to Pine St. which would be 1 way to Rowe or North and High St be 1-way coming back from North to the top of the hill.

Mr. Daley reported that in his experience in Lewiston and Boston, that 1-way drivers tend to drive faster because they are not expecting oncoming traffic. Mr. Withrow added that High St. is a very narrow street which makes it worse, also, Pine St is used as a 2-way street all winter with Irving trucks. Chief said that there must be a public hearing for those people living in the affected area.

Town Mgr.—recommended that Al Hodsdon look into the situation for a construction plan to help with the issue.

5. Old Business:

a. Fuel System was discussed under Mr. Phair's report.

b. Road Projects

1. Mr. Newman. There was no further discussion of the proposed repairs.

Mr. Gill wanted to make a public apology for a remark made a year ago at the Corner Store.

Mr. Newman accepted the apology.

2. The Town Manager reported that Al Hodsdon and J. Manzer sent the documents for the Arched Culvert repair on Porter Road to be signed. It is a state approved repair with a cost not to exceed \$15,000 and must be completed by Oct. 1, 2012.

Motion to sign the repair contracts and also those with Ted Berry and Knowles. Second by Belskis.

Question Mr. Belskis—Is there any guarantee?

Answer Town Mgr—The DOT has agreed to the method of repair, and in the contract it says “one year guarantee”.

Vote 4-0

Porter Road washout.

Al Hodsdon contract is prepared to go out for bids which can be opened the first meeting in October.

Motion by Mr. Daley to put the Porter Rd washout out to bid.

Second by Mr. Withrow Vote 4-0.

Town Mgr—The state can not reimburse the Town but can reimburse the contractor once the contractor is chosen.

c. Wind Ordinance:

The review by Kristen Collins of the wind ordinance was received this afternoon. Because of the late arrival, Chair Gill suggested that discussion be tabled to the next meeting. Motion by Mr. Daley, second by Mr. Withrow, Vote 4-0.

d. Bond Bank Vote:

A legal pre-worded motion was presented for consideration in order for the bond to be issued.

INSERT BOND HERE

Motion Mr. Withrow, second Mr. Daley, vote 4-0

6. New Business:

a . October Meeting Dates

Chair Gill asked that the meeting dates for October be changed from the second and fourth Monday to the third and fifth Monday as he and Mr. Withrow will not be available for the second Monday. Motion by Mr. Belskis, second by Mr. Withrow, vote 4-0.

b. MMA Voting Credentials

No one is available to go to the Convention so no credentials will be required.

7. Town Manager's Report:

a. This is Constitution Week and there is a Proclamation that can be signed by the Selectmen. Motion to accept by Mr. Daley, second Mr. Belskis, vote 4-0. Vote was followed by the signing by Selectmen.

2. Dani Ranger report: Coach Mike Poulin has reported that the team will make the memorial plaque portable so they may take it to away games as well. At the end of the season they will lodge it at the high school.

3. Wording will have to be agreed on for the ballot items for wind energy and the withdrawal from RSU #10. Mr. Daley said that if there was to be an explanation of the results of a yes vote, there should also be an explanation of the results of a no vote. The Town Manager will work on the wording of the items.

4. There is a Complaint Policy for Selectmen that describes the process that must be followed if a Selectman receives a complaint which was accepted by past Selectmen.

5. There are books of Policies and Ordinances which are kept in a bookcase in the Town Managers office.

6. Gretchen Bradbury wrote a letter of request that the Selectmen consider buying an ad in the Dirigo yearbook. Motion Mr. Daley to support the students by purchasing a \$50 ad, second Mr. Belskis, vote 4-0. The money will come from the Selectmen's discretionary fund.

7. There will be two public hearings at the high school on Monday, Sept. 17. Starting at 5:00PM will be the Sewer Rate Hearing. At 6:00PM the Selectmen will have a short meeting to set the rate and immediately following the hearing on the RSU #10 petition.

8. A method must be chosen to replace the Town Manager. One method is to hire MMA to do a search.

Question Mr. Belskis—The Selectmen need to know what the process is and how much is the fee.

Chief Pickett urged that a background search be done and offered to help with that.

8. Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Belskis—Wants a decision about what account to put the \$10,000 for the wind study in. There are some bills outstanding for legal fees that need to be deducted.

Mr. Daley—no comment

Mr. Withrow expressed his regrets that Mr. Skibitsky would be leaving the Town Manager position.

Chair Gill also wished to express his regrets.

Mr. Belskis wanted to ask Mr. Carroll, who was in the audience, when the MET towers were put up.

Mr. Carroll said that one was put up before and one after the moratorium. He said he was given permission to leave them in place during the moratorium.

Mr. Belskis—The moratorium means everything stops.

Mr. Carroll—The original project in 2009 was called Timberwinds which included Dixfield and Canton. Then the project was split. The studies were continued to gather data for the Canton project. In the spring of 2012 the bird and bat studies were begun.

Chair Gill this discussion was not on the Agenda and would have to be continued outside of the meeting.

9. FYI: So noted.

10. Next Regular Meeting: Monday, September 24, 2012 at Ludden Library Meeting Room 5:00 PM.

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM by Mr. Belskis, seconded by Mr. Withrow vote 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke
Recorder of Minutes

/nhc

Attachments

