

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
Minutes of Meeting  
Board of Selectmen  
Monday, February 11, 2013  
5:00 p.m. Ludden Memorial Library**

**Board Members Present:** Malcolm M. Gill, Robert V. Withrow,  
Scott W. Belskis and Norine H. Clarke

**Board Members Absent:** Hart L. Daley

**Administration Present:** Samantha Hill (Secretary)

**Citizens Present:** Dan McKay, Warren Oldham

**Press:** SunJournal, WVAC

**1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Accepted as read by Chairman Gill.

**3. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** No discrepancies were noted and the warrants and payroll were accepted by Chairman Gill.

**4. Public Comment:** Chairman Gill has taken all comments and suggestions from the other Board members and incorporated them into the Guidelines for this section of the agenda. Mr. Belskis conveyed a concern from a citizen that the section on Complaints be reworded to read “Personal Complaints” must go through the proper channels so if any Town personnel are involved their identities are protected.

**5. Department Heads:**

**a. Water Dept. – Jim White:**

- In regards to the Water Abatement passed by the Board members at the January 28, 2013 meeting, Mr. White felt he had not been clear that the abatement should have only been for the Billing Quarter prior to the Incident, not the whole quarter.
- Truck Windshield- Mr. White stated that his busy schedule has not allowed him to address getting the windshield repaired.
- There have been a few complaints of frozen pipes that the Water Dept. has to address, one being the shut off valve on High Street. They had to dig down through the frost line to repair.
- State DOT Mill & Fill Project- Concerned that since this project was set to happen this year that the replacement of the main water line should be done before this project is started so that part of this

work will not have to be dug up once it has been completed. With this short of amount of time before this project is to be started and the man power that the Department has at this time, Mr. White feels that the Department would not have adequate enough time to get their portion completed.

**b. Public Works Dept. – David Phair:**

Due to the Snow Storm, Mr. Phair was unable to attend the meeting. He did however forward an updated copy of his 2012-2013 Storm Tracker Spreadsheet for Mr. Skibitsky to hand out to the Board Members. The spreadsheet consists of Salt, Sand and Overtime used by the Department over the winter season so far.

**6. Old Business:**

**a. Appointments – Town Manager, Deputy Treasurer and Finance Committee:**

- **Eugene Skibitsky** – On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted:
  - Yay – Mr. Withrow, Mrs. Clarke and Mr. Gill
  - Abstain – Mr. BelskisTo appoint Mr. Skibitsky to the positions of Town Manager, Road Commissioner, Tax Collector and Treasurer.
- **Samantha Hill** - On a motion from Mr. Withrow and second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Hill to the positions of Executive Secretary to the Town Manager and Assistant Welfare Administrator.
- **Aaron Perreault** - On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Perreault to the Full time position in the Finance Committee.

- b. Bangor Savings Investment Account-** Effective January 1, 2013 there was a change in FDIC Coverage of noninterest-bearing transaction accounts that exceed \$250,000. It will no longer be insured over that amount. Sherry Roberts a Representative of Bangor Savings has presented a few options for the Board of Selectman to consider helping cover our investments that go over that dollar amount. One option that Mr. Skibitsky feels would benefit the Town's accounts would be an IDC (Insured Cash Sweep). The current rate of interest on this account is .15% which is considerably higher than what our current accounts hold. There are no monthly fees associated with this type of account, like our current accounts have. The only difference is that you are only allowed 6 transactions a month versus our unlimited amount of transactions with our current. The Board members would like to invite a representative from Bangor Savings to come to the next Selectman's meeting to answer a few questions before they taken any action.

**7. New Business:**

- a. **MDOT Construction Area Permit:** Mr. Skibitsky presented a letter requesting the Board Members vote to approve an Overweight Limit Permit for the MDOT for when they start the Mill and Fill Project on Route 2. This is a standard procedure for construction that may start in April. On a motion from Mr. Withrow and second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Permit for the MDOT.
- b. **Budget Process:** Mr. Skibitsky handed out the Calendars for the dates of the Selectman Meetings with the Department Heads to go over their Budgets. It also gave the potential date of this year's 2013 Town Meeting. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to accept the dates of all the Budget Hearings and the Date of the 2013 Town Meeting.
- c. **Teamsters 120 Day Notice:** Mr. Skibitsky received a letter from the Union stating that it was time to start negotiations' for the new 3 year contract. A negotiating committee will need to be formed comprising of the Town Manager, 2 Selectman, Dept. Head for Public Works and the possibility of legal counsel. The committee will need to prepare a contract that fields the needs of our local union members and present it to the Union. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Gill, Mr. Daley, Mr. Skibitsky, Mr. Phair and legal counsel to form the Negotiating Committee for the Union Contract.

## 8. Other Business:

- a. **Correspondence-** so noted.
- b. **Other**

## 9. Town Manager's Report:

- Sun Journal Article on RSU 10 facility changes - a copy of the article was handed to each Board member with specific attention to the potential closing of the former Central office adjacent to Dirigo High School. And the potential for building a system wide Central bus garage on a portion of land owned by Region 9 in Mexico. This would serve buses in all three regions.
- 2013 Oxford County Tax - Dixfield's Tax Levy for 2013 has been set at \$110,770.00 which is a savings of \$3,365.00 over last years Tax Levy.
- Sewer Project – DOT wrote a letter outlining problems that they have had with the contractor on this project. The work has been completed and the last modification of the contract still needs to be paid. A portion of the contract amount was not used due to unnecessary contract items. So the portion of that contract will go towards paying the last Contract Modification #24 from January 5, 2013 leaving a balance of \$1100.00 that will need to be covered. Mr. Skibitsky asked that the Board vote to get those funds through the Bond Bank. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and second from Mr. Belskis, the Board voted unanimously to have those funds covered through the Bond Bank.

- Safety Issues at the Town Garage – On January 24, 2013 the Teamsters Local #340 members met to discuss Safety Issues. Mr. Skibitsky will meet with Mr. Phair in regards to their concerns. Mr. Skibitsky was called into the Town Garage on a Sunday to see a leak that is an ongoing issue with the roof. On a motion from Mr. Belskis and second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to have Mr. Phair contact the State to see if they have or can suggest a Commercial Inspector to come in to do a thorough Inspection of the roof so that it may be fixed correctly. This Information will be brought to the next meeting.
- Lepage Shift – Mr. Skibitsky outlined some of the impacts that this new proposal may have on the Town. He provided the 2012 Enhanced BETE Municipal Tax Rate Calculation form reflecting the proposal changes. One of the proposals is the removal of the Homestead Exemption from all Property owners under the age of 65 years of age. The shift would mean an increase in the tax commitment of approximately \$253,000 and the MIL Rate would increase from 19.45 to 22.08.

**10. Board Questions/Comments:**

**Mr. Withrow:** Updated the Board on where the RSU 10 Withdrawal Committee stood in the process. The committee is voting on retaining legal counsel at the next meeting on Wednesday February 13, 2013. At that time the lawyer for RSU 10 and our lawyer will go over the potential 10 year plan and see what process will need to be followed to stop the Withdrawal process.

**11. FYI:** so noted.

**12. Next Meeting:** February 25, 2013, 5:00 p.m., Ludden Library

**13. Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Withrow and second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha A. Hill

Secretary

/sah

Attachments