

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Minutes of Special Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, July 29, 2013**  
**5:00PM, Ludden Memorial Library**

**Board Members Present:** Malcolm Gill, Robert Withrow, and Dana Whittemore, and Hart Daley. Scott Belskis joined the meeting at 6:15 pm.

**Administration Present:** Linda Pagels-Wentworth (Town Manager), Richard Pickett (Police Chief).

**Citizens Present:** Walter Newman, Dan McKay,

**Non-Citizens Present:**

**Press:** Eileen Adams, Sun Journal

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman asked for a moment of silence for former selectmen Tony Martin who recently passed.
- 2. Agenda Adjustments:** none were requested
- 3. Approval of Minutes**  
Chairman Gill hearing no errors or omissions declared the minutes accepted as presented.
- 4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll**  
Hearing no objections, Chairman Gill announced that they would be accepted as read.
- 5. New Business**
  - a. Setting the 2013-2014 Tax Mil Rate:** Following a period of discussion Mr. Withrow made the motion to set the tax mil rate at 19.30. Mr. Daley seconded the motion. Motioned passed 5-0. Vice-Chairman Belskis joined the meeting during discussion of this agenda item.
  - b. Tax Acquired Property Update:** Following an update by the town manager a motion was made by Mr. Daley and seconded by Mr. Whittlemore to authorize the town manager to proceed with the Tax Sale Notice and Bidding. Motion passed 5-0.
- 6. Public Comment and Correspondence:**  
A motion was made by Mr. Whittlemore and seconded by Mr. Withrow to set the date for the public meeting for the General Assistance Ordinance Appendix

Updates ,previously set for first meeting in October, for the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and to set August 26<sup>th</sup> as a second meeting date for a regular selectmen's meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

The Town Manager informed the Board that she had responded to Mr. McKay's questions regarding the possibility of the town offering additional tax exemptions. She had also responded to concerns regarding the Severy Hill project and would be meeting with an engineer 5:00 pm on Wednesday.

Public Comment: Dan McKay:

Mr. McKay noted a correction that needed to be made in the statement made by the town manager regarding the amount of reduction in the tax bill for a property valued at \$100,000

Mr. McKay commented on the possible confusion in holding a Special Selectman's Meeting, a School Referendum Vote, and a Special Town Meeting in the same week.

#### **7. Board Questions/Comments**

Mr. Withrow asked for an update on the C.D.B.G. income survey. The town manager provided a list of the remaining households to be surveyed. Chairman Gill, Mr. Withrow, and Mr. Whittlemore volunteered to assist with completing the needed surveys.

Mr. Whittlemore shared with the Board the comments he heard while surveying Colburn Ave. regarding safety and parking issues during back to back ball games held at the Colburn Street ballfield. He expressed interest in the town acquiring some land for parking in the area if some become available.

Vice-Chairman Belskis referred to the recent straw poll regarding referendum and secret ballot voting for the annual town budget. He urged that a committee be formed to research putting this change in place.

Mr. Daley expressed concern regarding losing power during storms due to dead trees and trees growing over power lines. The town manager was instructed to follow through with CMP. Public Works and Town Patrols to be vigilant in watching for overgrown and dead trees that could pose a problem and reporting them to the Road Commissioner.

Vice-Chairman Belskis asked the town manager if she had anything to report yet concerning the AVCOG LEAN Program. She reported she had not as this was a Special Selectmen's meeting and would report at a Regular Meeting.

Chairman Gill remembered the former Selectman Tony Martin and expressed this was a loss for the community.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2013 at 5:00 PM.

**9. Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Withrow and seconded by Vice-Chairman Belskis at 6:00 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Pagels-Wentworth  
Town Clerk

/lspw

Attachments