

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
Monday, Aug. 26, 2013
5:00PM, Town Office**

Board Members Present: Malcolm Gill, Scott Belskis, Dana Whittemore, Hart Daley and Robert Withrow.

Administration Present: Linda Pagels-Wentworth (Town Manager), Dave Phair (Public Works).

Citizens Present: Walter Newman, Dan McKay, Freemont Tibbetts, Norine Clarke (Recorder of Minutes).

Non-Citizens Present: Leo Jolin, Public Works

Press: WVAC- TV 7.

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Agenda Adjustments--None

3. Approval of Minutes: Hearing no errors or admissions, Chairman Gill declared them accepted as presented

4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll: Hearing no objections, Chairman Gill declared them accepted as presented.

5. Department Head Reports

a. Public Works:

The '99 GMC was taken out of service Monday, Aug. 26, 2013. There was not a motion made previously to go ahead with the sale of the vehicle. Mr. Phair requested that the minimum bid be \$5500 in order to cover the plow gear.

Mr. Withrow made a motion to put the truck out to bid with a minimum bid of \$5500. Seconded by Mr. Whittemore. All in favor.

New Truck:

Mr. Phair was notified today (8/26/13) that the new truck was ready for delivery as soon as a check was received. A discussion followed about the amount to be taken from reserves and the amount to be borrowed. This check will cover only the truck. The remaining equipment will be purchased from HP Fairfield. The Town Manager will make preparations to borrow the correct amount for the balance needed.

Severy Hill Update:

Mr. Phair reported that Engineer Hodsdon had been on site twice and was pleased with the work. The shoulders have been regraded to a three to one ratio, a culvert has been extended

and there will be rip rap placed in the “pool” area at the bottom. Crushed shale will be obtained from Swayze in Andover for the job.

Mr. Daley remarked that he felt that the Common Road still needed to be checked. Mr. Jolin said that he does most of the ditching and the angle is not changed, just cleaned. The culverts are placed deep so that they will not freeze and so that they are low enough to collect the run-off.

Miscellaneous:

Science Hill might be a good place to put the reserved re-claim material Public Works has on hand.

Rollins Ridge Road is on the list to be ditched.

b. Town Manager’s Report

- i. Those selectmen who have not completed Freedom of Access Training need to obtain their certificates for the office files.
- ii. NIMS compliance also has to be met.
- iii. The town manager will research what the procedure has been to obtain the loan for the new truck.
- iv. The month end bills are due to be paid.
- v. The new dental insurance will go into effect on Sept. 1, 2013 which will produce a savings.
- vi. The revenue/expense reports are ready.
- vii. The Administration legal line is over-expended but the savings in the health insurance should make up the difference.
- viii. The next meeting of the municipal collaboration group will be during the week of Sept. 1. Dixfield will receive an invitation.
- ix. The town manager will be meeting with the manager of Irving Mill.

6. New Business

a. Consideration of Need for a Town Fireworks Ordinance

An ordinance can control the days, hours, distance from structures and effect of fire danger index.

The State Fireworks Ordinance is very inclusive .

Discussion followed and all agreed that there had not been many complaints and those had all been dealt with so the Selectmen would not propose a town ordinance at this time.

7. Old Business

a. Consideration of Town Meeting Referendum Straw Poll

Following discussion, the Board agreed that what they felt that the citizens wanted was to have secret ballots on financial issues. This can be accomplished by making a motion at the beginning of a Town Meeting to have secret ballots on all financial articles.

Mr. Belskis suggested that a committee could be formed to make a proposal about how to handle the options.

b. CDBG Update

The area of the survey need to be reconfigured to reflect all work in the area including the water department’s scheduled improvements. The Water Department project costs can be used as

additional match. Ellis, Kidder, Rowe and Dix streets will be included. There are 65 surveys done out of 100 needed. The survey should be completed in September.

8. Correspondence

A rebate has been received for Workmen's Comp.

Public Comment

Mr. McKay wanted to know why secret ballots were used at two different Selectmen's meetings, once in the election of the Chairman and once in electing the new Planning Board member. He felt that the citizens had a right to know how the selectmen voted. The members reported their votes. Chairman: Voting for Mr. Gill, Mr. Withrow, Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Gill. Voting for Mr. Belskis, Mr. Daley and Mr. Belskis.

Planning Board Member: Voting for Jeff Knight, Mr. Gill. Voting for Norman Mitchell, Mr. Daley, Mr. Belskis, and Mr. Whittemore.

Mr. McKay also felt that it was important that voting on money articles be made comfortable for the citizens by offering the opportunity to vote by secret ballot at a polling place from 8am to 8pm, not just at town meeting and that town meeting could be a place for the debating to take place.

Mr. Daley suggested again that perhaps having a committee to discuss the straw vote or have the selectmen be the committee if they were in agreement. Another option was to have another straw vote at the November election. He asked if the Town Manager could bring in a couple of options to the next Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Newman asked about the storm water situation on Lancaster St. He said that winter will be here soon and will affect where the water goes. The Town Manager suggested that they meet at 9:00am the next morning (Tues. 27, 2013) on site and Mr. Newman agreed.

9. Board Questions and Comments

Mr. Withrow asked Mr. Phair about how the mowing was working out at the cemeteries and was the seasonal employee also doing weed whacking. Mr. Phair said that he was doing both but that the weather had not been cooperative this summer.

10. Next Meeting

Next Selectmen's meeting will be Sept. 9, 2013. Other meetings are as listed on the agenda.

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Belskis to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Daley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, recorder of minutes
nhc/