

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
Monday, Nov. 4, 2013
5:30PM, Ludden Memorial Library

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

Administration Present: Linda Pagels-Wentworth (Town Manager).

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

Town Employees: Chief Richard Pickett, Water Supervisor Jim White, CEO Calvin Beaumier, Leo Jolin, James Scott.

Press: WVAC TV 7, Cherri Crockett (Rumford Times), Matt Daigle (Sun Journal)

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Adjustments: The Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. §405(6)(A) for the purpose of Personnel was postponed until the November 18th meeting.

3. Public Hearing: General Assistance Ordinances

Recent legislation has reduced the food limits allowed on General Assistance and so the town must provide the opportunity to receive public comment prior to consideration of the adoption of the revised Appendices B for inclusion in the General Assistance Ordinance..

There were no questions or comments, so the meeting returned to the Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Daley asked that the minutes of October 21, 2013 have an addition to his response to Mr. McKay's question that if Patriots Renewables were to offer another gift to the Town would the Board of Selectmen accept it. Mr. Daley requested that it be noted that he had said "he personally would not, but could not speak for the other Selectmen". See Oct. 21 minutes item #10, second paragraph.

Hearing no other comments, the minutes were accepted with the addition.

5. Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Hearing no objections, the Warrants and Payroll were accepted as presented.

6. Department Head Reports

a. Police Department

Chief Pickett reported that the National Drug Take Back program was held from 10-2 on Oct. 26, 2013. Though this is a successful program, there was not much citizen participation in Dixfield this time.

The Halloween Walk occurred as planned in spite of the rain and there were about 350-450 people who attended. There was an act of criminal mischief during that time and the perpetrator was caught on the spot for breaking a windshield. One female driver was detained at P'zazz/Showroom Shine until the event was over, for driving past the barricade and proceeding up the hill on the route of the Walk which was closed to traffic.

The School System is working well with the Police Dept. to make the schools safer.

Chief Pickett asked for permission to get bids for a new Police vehicle and put an older vehicle out to bid. There were no objections.

b. Water Department

Jim White has spoken with Hometown Energy and they will start the Oil Tank Replacement Program in the next 2-3 weeks.

The Computer upgrade is nearly complete

The Divers have been here to clean the reservoir. The sediment level was higher than expected due to the extra time between cleanings. There was about four inches instead of two inches. This raised cost about \$500 above the estimated cost, to make the bill about \$3300. A video of the cleaning is available to any who would like to see it. Mr. Gill asked what the sediment was composed of and Mr. White said it is a very fine harmless particulate carried in the water that collects over time. While the divers were working, the crew trimmed the weeds from the banking around the reservoir.

The hydrants are ready for winter.

7. New Business

a. Approval of General Assistance Ordinance Updates

Mr. Withrow made a motion to accept the changes (Appendices B revisions) and Mr. Daley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the copies were signed.

8. Old Business

a. Consideration of MCOPA Police Study Contract

The \$6000 fee for the survey is non negotiable but is a good value the Town Manager reported. The savings in the insurance account would be enough to cover the program. Chief Pickett added that he and the department would welcome the study to help them find places where they could improve and he had good words for the MCOPA (Maine Chiefs of Police Association) organization. Mr. Withrow remarked he felt it would be money well spent and Mr. Daley said that it would not be a burden on the taxpayers. The Town Manager said that the results could help in planning the finances for upcoming years. Mr. Daley asked when it would begin and she reported that it would be 2-3 weeks. He also inquired if they would let the town know who would be in the study group and she said they would know just before it began. Chief Pickett said the study had been needed for some time.

The motion to contract for the study was made by Mr. Belskis and seconded by Mr. Daley. All were in favor.

b. Consideration of Mexico Water District Water Contract

The Town Manager reported that the only change in the Water Contract was from a 2% increase yearly increase to a 3% increase. There are some changes in the gas reimbursements and overtime costs for any “out of the ordinary” usage.

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to enter into the agreement and Mr. Withrow seconded. All were in favor.

c. Consideration of Junk Yard Permits

The Junkyard Permits were not voted on at the last meeting awaiting CEO input and were presented for approval for following meeting as an action item. CEO Beaumier reported that the six applicants remaining had no issues (Lester and Claude Averill, Robert Blanchard, Clifford Hall, Norman Mitchell, and Morrison Motors). (James Speranza had not applied for a renewal)

Mr. Belskis made a motion to issue the permits and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. All were in favor and the permits were signed.

d. Consideration of future Budget Referendum Voting

It has been determined that the method of voting at the Town Meeting would be an annual decision by the Selectmen.

e. Consideration of Maintenance Garage Building Issues

It rained on Fri. November 1 and the Town Manager and the CEO went to the third floor of the Maintenance Garage to check the eaves area of the roof. Due to corrosion, you can poke your finger through the metal roof and many bolts are loose, missing, or have nuts that are loose or missing. It is moisture in trapped under the insulation along the inside of the eave so it is corroding and rusting. The CEO said that the roof should be inspected regularly. The building sits on a sand/gravel aquifer so the building shifts. If the heat could be kept down to the lower floors, not only would there be less heat loss but it would keep the damaging condensation down. The CEO noted that he thought there was heat loss at the top of one of the garage doors. A building inspector will check the roof to recommend the torque needed on the bolts and cables.

9. Public Comment / Correspondence

The Town Manager referred the Selectmen to an article in their packet about Farmington voters approving a TIF District.

Mr. Fremont Tibbetts spoke to express his concerns that the public was not notified in advance about Mike Rogers from the Maine Revenue Services being at the last Selectmen’s meeting. He also was upset that information was not in the newspaper following the meeting. He asked why the public had not been told about such an important person being in town. Mr. Belskis answered that he had requested that the Selectmen have a workshop to learn more about how assessing and TIFs work. He and Mr. Daley and Mr. Whittemore had not been present at earlier meetings when Mike Rogers was here.

Mr. Tibbetts also spoke about his distaste for executive sessions and felt that all issues should be discussed publicly.

Mr. Dan McKay was upset that the repair of the Maintenance garage roof was taking so long. He was told the issue was discovered Friday, the engineer would be coming Wednesday and that they needed to order supplies.

10. Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Whittemore said he had no concerns for this meeting.

Mr. Withrow mentioned that Appraiser John O'Donnell said it has been about 6 years since the last appraisal and Mr. Withrow wondered what plans are there for the next appraisal. The Town Manager said that there needs to be discussion at Budget time about setting some money aside to fund the next appraisal.

Mr. Belskis and Mr. Daley did not have any comments.

Chairman Gill said that he would like to address an issue that had come up at the last meeting concerning the damage reported at the Severy Hill Cemetery. Mr. Norman Mitchell had reported that some markers and stones had been damaged by the mower.

Chairman Gill presented photos and introduced Mr. James Scott who is a 27 year military veteran who did the mowing this past season. The photos were taken November 1 and Mr. Scott stated that any damage shown was already there when he began mowing.

11. Next Meetings: Chairman Gill noted that the November. Selectmen's meetings were as listed on the Agenda

12. Executive Session

Item 12 was removed under section 2: Agenda Adjustments.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Withrow. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, recorder of minutes
nhc/