

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014
5:30PM, Ludden Memorial Library

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

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

Town Employees Present: Chief Richard Pickett, Water Supt. Jim White, Calvin Beaumier, Leo Jolin

Citizens Present: Freemont Tibbetts, Darlene Brann, Dick Frost, Norine Clarke (Recorder of Minutes)

Non-Residents Present:

Press: WVAC-TV 7, Matt Daigle Sun Journal

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Adjustments: Motion made by Mr. Whittemore, seconded by Mr. Withrow to add and Executive Session on Labor Negotiations I M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) in place of agenda item 8. All were in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes: Hearing no objections or corrections, Chairman Gill declared the minutes accepted as presented.

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

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Water Department:

Mr. White updated the Board that:

1. 63 meters were installed, 66 were removed.
2. The generator is ready for use.
3. A High St. house that is usually shut down for the winter could not be because the curb stop in the road in front of the residence is broken. The owner and Mr. White agreed to leave it on but water bills will stop until he returns home.
4. There was one freeze up in Dixfield over the weekend and Mr. White turned the water off at the meter.
5. The SCADA system will be altered at no additional charge to match Mexico's

alert system which sends an email which converts to texts to the employees.

b. Police Department:

Mr. Pickett reported that the Police Department Study group came and spent a couple days at the department.

The delivery of the vehicle that the selectmen authorized should be here in about 4 to 5 weeks.

Lieutenant Howe has received a commendation from the Oxford County Sheriffs Gallant and Daley for services given at an operation in Peru.

6. New Business: None.

7. Old Business:

Mr. Tibbetts was present to reiterate his concern for the safety of ATV and snowmobile riders crossing Rte 142 by the bridge just beyond the campground. He said he had spoken to Gene Uhard at the DOT and he wanted Chief Pickett to go and speak to him about signage. He thanked the Town Manager and Mr. Belskis for coming to look at the area in question. When asked why he had closed his land to ATVs and Snowmobiles, Mr. Tibbetts said it was because of new taxes. Mr. Daley asked what had happened in 2011 to re-open this dangerous crossing. The original safe passage route was closed due to litigation on Mr. Tibbetts land and some riders started using the old route again. Now that the safe route can be used again, some are still using the unsafe one. Mr. Tibbetts wanted to know why the things he had asked for had not been done (news item warning of the danger, enforcement). Mr. Pickett said that the reporter present at the meeting had put an item in the paper and patrols and checks of the area had been done but had not resulted in anyone being stopped. Mr. Pickett said that he had not seen the video that Mr. Tibbetts said showed someone crossing there so could not tell if the rider or vehicle could be identified.

Mr. Pickett asked for direction from the Board. Mr. Daley summed up the Board position by saying that the Chief had already done what had been asked of him, the article was in the paper, he should keep up the patrols and he should go and speak to Mr. Uhard at the DOT about signage.

Mr. Tibbetts passed out some more CDs to Board members.

8. Executive Session for Labor 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E)

A motion was made by Mr. Daley and seconded by Mr. Belskis at 6:15 p.m to go in to Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), motion passed 5-0 and the Board retired to the Town Office for a conference call with the town's legal counsel . When they returned, Chairman Gill read a statement (attached) from the Board.

Copies were passed out to the public in attendance. A motion was made by Mr. Daley and seconded by Mr. Belskis at 6:44 p.m. to reconvene the regular session.

9. Executive Session: Consideration of Personnel Issue pursuant to: 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A):

A motion was made at by Mr. Daley and seconded by Mr. Belskis at 6:45 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), motion passed 5-0 and the

attending public went out of the room. A motion was made by Mr. Daley and seconded by Mr. Belskis at 6:45 p.m. to reconvene the regular session.

10. Public Comment / Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Public comment: Darlene Brann addressed the Board and began by returning a Thank you card and gift card that she had received for her service in 2013.

She said that the town has no policy for how items are requested for the Maine Freedom of Information Act. She said she presented to the board of Selectmen a request information in writing and stated that more requests will be coming.

11. Board Questions and Comments

Chairman Gill asked for Board comments.

Mr. Belskis asked how the information about the Lean Program was coming. The Town Manager reported that the cost was \$40,000 and the town could not do it without assistance. The Town Manager is currently working on behalf of the Town with AVCOG to receive a grant to develop an affordable model. There is also the possibility that other towns might join in, thus reducing the cost to individual towns. She also noted that there are two good books about the program which can be downloaded to paper or to a kindle.

Mr. Belskis' second question concerned the roof on the Town Garage. Mr. Beaumier had contacted the person who did the work and was notified that the person had made no promises about the results. The problem areas appear to be only on the outside perimeter of the roof.

Mr. Daley—no remarks

Mr. Whittemore asked when the report of the Police Study would be available and was told it should be in a few weeks.

He also asked if there were meeting changes could they be made by phone as he does not access his email during the day. Mr. Daley agreed.

Mr. Withrow asked if there had been any progress on repairing the lights at the skating area and Mr. Beaumier said that because of the weather problems there had been no opportunity to work on it.

12. Next Meeting:

The Board will meet on Jan 27 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library.

13. Adjournment: At 7:14 a motion was made by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Daley, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, recorder of minutes
nhc/