

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, January 27, 2014**  
**5:30PM, Ludden Memorial Library**

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

**Administration Present:** none

**Town Employees Present:** Chief Richard Pickett, Calvin Beaumier, Leo Jolin, Vickie Carrier, Matt Tarasevich.

**Citizens Present:** Freemont Tibbetts, Darlene Brann, Michael Brann, Steve Ellis, Ken Ellis, Dan McKay, Norine Clarke (Recorder of Minutes)

**Non-Residents Present:** none

**Press:** 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:** Chairman Gill announced that a request for a temporary sewer variance be added to agenda item number 6, New Business.

**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:**

**Public Works:** Mr. Beaumier was absent at the time this item came up, so the Board moved to item 6, New Business.

**6. New Business:** A sewer variance was requested by Mary Ann Hamilton for Rita Colburn who is now residing in Bangor in an Assisted Living Facility. The request is that it be abated until the house is sold. There was not enough information for the Board to make a decision so they agreed to table the item until Supt. White could give them more details.

**7. Old Business:** none

## **8. Executive Session: Consultation of Personnel Matters: 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A)**

A motion was made by Mr. Daley to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A) for the purpose of Personnel Matters. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The Board adjourned to the Town Office with the Town Lawyer at 5:35pm and returned at 6:50pm. No action was taken.

Mr. Belskis made a motion to reconvene the regular session, seconded by Mr. Daley, all were in favor.

## **5. Department Head Reports:**

### **a. Public Works**

Public Works Director Calvin Beaumier was present and he tendered his report.

Oxford County EMA has asked for a storm damage report. The work is still being done so the report is not complete yet. There were rain and snow storms, ice, flooding and freezing events.

Route 2 was closed in the latest ice storm. All the Town vehicles needed chains, this was a first. There was one accident involving a town vehicle which will be paid by the Town insurance.

The ice rink has been flooded and they are working on power sources for the lights.

A thermostat has been added to the Municipal Garage to control the heat when no one is there. It comes on at 5:00am and shuts down at the end of the day and on weekends.

The clutch broke on the Wheeler. It was determined that fixing it in house would cost about \$1500, and would tie it up more than a day. MT Pockets repaired for less money with a guarantee and was much faster.

The plow box on the 1 ton needed repairs and it was determined it would cost \$1500 to fix it. Mr. Beaumier got it fixed at a machine shop for \$162.

There was damage to the loader from moving ice from the roads but it was able to be fixed in Wilton in only an hour for \$200.

Salt and sand for citizens of Dixfield has been limited to buckets, not truckfuls. The sand budget has gone over, but there is some left.

Mr. Whittemore asked if snow removal could be avoided at the times when school buses are traveling.

Mr. Gill asked if the ice in front of the mail boxes on Blayne St. had been removed and Mr. Beaumier said they were still working on it.

The Irving grader left piles of ice in the driveways on North St. which had to be removed.

Mr. Daley asked about the ice on Rt. 17 and Mr. Beaumier told him that it was improving.

Mr. Beaumier reported that there are 15 miles in East Dixfield that need sand and/or salt. It is difficult to know whether to add sand or salt mix to the truck when it leaves the garage as there is no place to store any in that area.

## **9. Public Comment / Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Public comment:**

Freemont Tibbetts expressed concerns about the number of cars traveling on the Carthage Road by the Aunt Hannah brook and what might happen in the spring when the brook is stocked and young folks are fishing.

Chief Pickett said that Gene Uhard at DOT would put up caution signs about recreational vehicles. He asked if he could re-visit the changing of the speed limit signs back to 35 from the 55 they are now. The Board tasked him with looking into that. Mr. Daley said that the laws state that changes can be made only by DOT.

Darlene Brann said that because the letter that she received from the Town in response to her request for public information listed costs she felt were prohibitive, she was requesting just one at this time. She asked for a copy of the Town Manager's contract. The Board noted that the request had to be in writing so she wrote a request on her letter and gave it to the Board. Samantha Hill asked why it should cost \$830 and was told it was to cover the time and the cost of printing the large number of items she had asked for.

Chief Pickett notified the Board that Anne Simmons-Edmunds husband has been diagnosed with cancer and that a card would be available for the Selectmen and staff to sign. He also noted that Larry White, a former employee has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and would be going to Pennsylvania for treatment.

Vickie Carrier asked the Board whether the Town Manager would be coming in to the office or was she going to continue to work at home. Mr. Gill said they did not know but would know the next day.

Mr. Ellis asked if it was in Mr. Beaumier's contract to allow him to use the town truck for personal use. Mr. Gill remarked that the Selectmen cannot discuss personnel issues in a public forum.

Mr. McKay asked what if it relates to a budget. Mr. Gill said if there were any financial documents, they could discuss them.

The public was reminded that the first step with a complaint is to file a written complaint to the Supervisor involved. It would be addressed by the Supervisor (in this case, the Town Manager). Any disciplinary action can be given in public. If for any reason the Town Manager were not available, the person to receive the complaint would be the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. McKay asked what was being done about a referendum. Mr. Belskis said that it was the consensus of the Board that there should be one. Mr. McKay questioned how would the public be notified. Mr. Daley responded that there will be a special meeting called before Town Meeting.

Mr. Ellis asked how much saving would there be to the water and sewer department by sending it out of town, and was told that it would amount to about \$10,000 for a one year period. Ms. Hill asked whether that included the cost of re-programing. Mr. Belskis questioned how we would handle rate increases with the PUC if we did not have the records. Mr. Beaumier cautioned that even though the work was being handled out of town for the sewer and water that complete records must be kept in town in case contracts do not get renewed or consultants go out of business.

Mr. McKay asked if the Town Manager had passed the probationary period and Mr. Gill responded yes.

**10. Board Questions and Comments:**

None of the Board members voiced any concerns or comments.

**11. Next Meeting:**

The Board will meet on February 10 at 5:30 at the Ludden Library.

**12. Adjournment:** At 7:40 a motion was made by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Belskis, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, recorder of minutes  
nhc/