

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Selectmen's Meeting

Monday March 10, 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 Employees Present: Water Supt. Jim White, Public Works Director Calvin Beaumier, Fire Chief Scott Dennett

Citizens Present: Mr. Ken Ellis, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Gilsleider, Mr. Dan McKay, Darlene and Mike Brann.

Non-residents Present: none

Press: WVAC tv

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:30 and led the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Agenda Adjustments: None
3. Approval of Minutes: Hearing no correction or omissions, Chairman Gill declared the minutes accepted as presented.
4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll: Hearing no objections, Chairman Gill declared the Warrants and Payroll accepted as presented.

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Public Works—Director Beaumier

The Safety Inspection was cancelled and work is ongoing on the Safety Policy. Posting Roads is currently being done. Mr. Belskis asked who had signed the Postings as he had understood it was done incorrectly last year. This year's are signed by the Road Commissioner.

b. Town Manager Report--Linda Pagels-Wentworth

The CDBG Grant was delivered to Augusta last Friday.

Union Negotiation meeting has been postponed.

There is a Union Arbitration Hearing scheduled for April 30, 2014 at 9:00

The Water Sewer Audits are nearly complete.

Police Chief Pickett had a family medical emergency and will be at the next Selectmen's meeting.

It is possible that the \$84,000 commitment error may be able to be corrected by issuing a supplemental commitment. It has been sent to Counsel who will advise.

The Town Manager will be attending meetings on March 20 and 28.

The Water District meeting is scheduled for Wed. March 12 at 4:00pm.

The Sewer District meeting will be held March 25.

c. Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for the first 8 months of the Fiscal year were handed out and this time the Sewer and Water reports were included in the report. The Selectmen spent several minutes going over the report. There were questions about how the legal fees were distributed. The Town Manager stated that approximately \$5000 was assessed from each of Sewer and Water.

5. New Business:

a. Consideration of Post Office Lease

The five-year lease of with the US Post Office ends on August 31, 2014. A letter offering two alternatives for ongoing leases has been received, a five year lease for \$20,000 annually (current rate is \$17,500), or a ten year lease for \$22,010 annually. A motion was made by Mr. Withrow to approve a five year lease. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daley and the vote was unanimously in favor.

b. Consideration of Town Report Dedication

The floor was opened to discussion of proposed citizens for the dedication. Page 9 of the Selectmen's packet had biographical information of one proposed candidate, Anthony "Tony" Martin. All agreed he was a worthy candidate and Mr. Daley made a motion to dedicate the Report to him. Mr. Belskis seconded and all were unanimously in favor.

7. Old Business:

a. Consideration of Portable Generator Bid Award:

The bids have been returned, two were on time, one was late. Cummings/Northeast had the lowest bid and the engineer has approved their specs and recommends Board approval. Mr. Whittemore made the motion and Mr. Withrow seconded to purchase the generator from Cummings/Northeast. The Board was unanimously in favor. Mr. White asked to be allowed to keep the generator in Mexico where it can be locked up until the building is prepared in Dixfield.

c. Consideration of Town Meeting Voting Methods:

The Board discussed the methods available and the results of the Hearing. It was decided to discuss it with the Finance Committee at their first joint meeting on Mon. March 17 at 5:30pm.

8. Public Comment / Correspondence

There was one piece of correspondence. The yearbook staff at Dirigo High School thanked the Board for their sponsorship.

Public comment:

Mr. McKay asked Chairman Gill if he would step down while he was campaigning for the legislature and Mr. Gill replied he would if the Board requested him to. He also asked if Union negotiations were over and the Town Manager responded no.

Ken Ellis expressed disappointment at Chairman Gill and the Town Manager still being at the table following his letter delivered at the last meeting. He then turned in a petition with over 130 names on it requesting that the Board not renew the Town Manager's contract.

Mr. Daley asked if the signatures had been certified yet and asked to have the procedure clarified about which needs to happen first, certification or presenting the petition to the Board. Mr. Ellis said he would turn the pages in to the Town Office for certification.

9. Board Questions and Comments:

The only Board member with a question was Mr. Belskis and he wondered how the search for new legal representation was progressing. The Town Manager replied that all that had stopped last week while she worked on the CDBG grant and the search would now resume.

10. Next Meeting:

The Board will meet with the Finance Committee on March 17, at 5:30 at the Ludden Library.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on March 24 at 5:30.

The Sewer Administration Committee will meet March 25 at 5:00.

March 31 at 5:30 is a Budget Meeting.

11. Adjournment: At 6:30 a motion was made by Mr. Belskis, seconded by Mr. Whittemore, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, recorder of minutes
nhc/

