

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Selectmen's Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2014**  
**5:30PM, Ludden Memorial Library**

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

**Administration Present:** Interim Town Manager, Eugene Skibitsky

**Town Employees Present:** Chief Richard Pickett, Highway Director Calvin Beaumier, Water Supt. Jim White, Fire Chief Scott Dennett, 2 Ted Berry employees.

**Citizens Present:** Dan McKay, one unidentified man, and Norine Clarke, recorder of minutes.

**Non-residents Present: none**

**Media:** WVAC tv, Matthew Daigle LSJ

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

2. **Adgenda Adjustments:** none

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for March 24, 27, and 31 were tabled because the Selectmen did not have copies of them in their packet.

4. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** These were also tabled.

**5. Department Head Reports:**

a. **Public Works.** Public Works Director Calvin Beaumier reported on the jobs that the crew has been doing: snow removal, safety meetings, cleaning the ice rink, work on trucks, automatic thermostat installed at garage, posted roads, pothole repairs, cleared snow from gate at Harlow Park, inventoried banners and flags and replaced and hung on poles, rain drainage trenches, cleaning the winter equipment for storage, and started the spring sweeping. A replacement storm drain must be installed this summer. The Town Office roof is in need of shingles, the roof has exposed plywood. There is an unaccounted for electrical wire on the roof as well. The heat tape on the Library roof has not been working because the breaker had tripped. Ceiling lights at the Library cannot be replaced without drilling out the framework to uncover them. They were installed that way.

The insurance has paid \$2600 for the mower that burned. The latest bid from Hammond to replace two mowers is \$11,447 each. Other quotes had not arrived at the

specified time. There is about \$31,000 in the Cemetery fund which can be used for the purchase added to the insurance payment. The storage shed needs to be replaced by a 16x20 foot building with a garage door and no windows.

Mr. Belskis asked about incident reports and Mr. Beaumier understood that incident reports are to be filed if property of citizens is damaged. The school department paid for the broken loader window and the backhoe window broke from age.

There was discussion of what process to use to purchase the two new mowers by bid process or quotes and because they must fit such specific descriptions and it is preferable to purchase locally so that repairs are handled easier, Mr. Whittemore made a motion to have Mr. Beaumier get quotes and to use up to \$11,447 each to purchase two mowers. It was seconded by Mr. Daley and all were in favor.

**b. Water Department.** The generator contract is in transit. Hydrant cleaning is underway. The Time Warner Modem had to be replaced by Time Warner. Flushing should begin April 28. No bids were received for Dixfield's Water Dept. Pick-up. It may be that O'Connor can take it in trade. An unoccupied trailer blew out a meter and water flowed freely for a short period of time. The folks responsible for the property have accepted the bill but will not be charged for sewer as the water all went on to the ground. The property at 19 Mill St. will have no new water or sewer charges to the town and the bills are being researched as to how to proceed. The mailing of the reminders of overdue bills for water and sewer has resulted in many contacts and payments

**c. Fire Chief Dennett** reported that the Canton Point Rd has a section that is blocked by water over the road on each end.

#### **6. New Business:**

**a.** The County Assessment for taxes has been received and the amount is \$112,377. Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the assessment for Sept. 1, 2014. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and all were in favor. The document was signed.

**b.** Two representatives from Ted Berry Co. were present to report on current work on the Sewer System. Dave Beacham introduced himself as the Manager of Municipal Crews. The cleaning has been done at the pump station, and the third year of flushing was completed today. Camera vans will be around to check the mains that were flushed. Phone line changes will be improving telemetry. Maps are being updated and they will be involved in the upcoming construction.

**c.** Welfare Administrator was not part of Mr. Skibitsky's appointments. Theresa Hemingway should be named as administrator. Mr. Belskis made a motion to appoint Theresa Hemingway as Welfare Administrator and Mr. Daley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**d.** The Selectmen reviewed a draft of the Ballot Order which must be placed before the Referendum.

#### **7. Old Business:**

**a. Bond Bank Loan** Three commitment letters from the Municipal Bond Bank require agreement and signatures.

**i.** Mr. Withrow made a motion to borrow \$110,000 from the Clean Water Loan fund. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all were in favor.

ii. Mr. Belskis made a motion that the Chairman sign all of the loan forms. Mr. Daley seconded it and all were in favor.

iii. Mr. Belskis made a motion that they borrow one million dollars from the General Obligation for 20 years. (If the town receives the CDBG Grant, this amount will only be \$500,000. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all were in favor.

iv. Mr. Belskis made a motion to borrow \$827,271 from the Drinking Water Fund. It was seconded by Mr. Whittemore and all were in favor.

**b.** The Maine Chiefs of Police group that was here to survey the Police Department will be asked by ITM Skibitsky to come after Town Meeting is over.

**c.** The Town Audit is back as are the Sewer and Water Audits. The Auditors will be invited to come to the first June Selectmen's meeting.

**8. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

### **9. Other Business: Sign Warrant**

Items new to the Selectmen were discussed.

Article 8 will now read "To see if the Town will vote to correct an error in the 2013 commitment by either: **a)** Directing the assessors to issue a supplemental tax commitment in the amount of \$84,143 or **b)** Appropriating \$84,143 from undesignated surplus to be replenished by raising this amount as part of the 2014 tax commitment."

Article 10 will have the last sentence added "This vote shall have ongoing effect until such time as it is modified or repealed at a future town meeting."

Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the Warrant as amended for April 24, 2014. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Selectmen then signed four original copies to be given to Chief Picket to sign and post.

Correspondence: The River Valley Chamber is recruiting exhibitors for EXPO 2014. The letter will be handed to the Dixfield Economic Development Council.

Ann Young has prepared a grant for ergonomic office furniture which will be used in the Mexico Sewer and Water Office for the Dixfield billing. The furniture will be the property of Dixfield.

There is communication from Time Warner concerning their merger with ComCast.

### **10. Board Questions/Comments**

Mr. Daley reported the concerns of a citizen about responsibility for Sewer and Water bills for a deceased parent. The property is now owned by the bank and Ms. Young will contact them.

Mr. Belskis has narrowed the list of possible local legal firms to seven and emails will be sent to the.

Mr. Whittemore asked if there were minutes of the Sewer Meeting that needed to be signed and there are not.

Mr. Withrow had no comments.

ITM Skibitsky reported that the applications for Town Manager are due on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April and a meeting for 10am Wednesday was set to narrow the application list down to five prospects.

**11. FYI as noted on Agenda**

**12. Meetings as noted on Agenda**

**13. Adjournment:**

Motion by Mr. Belskis at 6:53 to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Withrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke recorder of minutes  
nhc/