

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

**Monday, April 28, 2014**  
**5:30PM, Ludden 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, Water Supt. Jim White

**Citizens Present:** Aaron Jamison, Sonya Fuller, Dan Louvat, Dan McKay, Norine Clarke, recorder of minutes.

**Non-residents Present: none**

**Media:** Matt Daigle, Sun Journal

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Agenda Adjustments:** Add 6g: Sewer and Water abatement to New Business.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of March 24, March 27, March 31, April 3, April 16, and March 25 all of 2014 were accepted as presented.
4. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:**
  - a. Accts payable Warrants # 91, 92, 94, 96, and 98 were accepted as presented.
  - b. Payroll Warrants #90, 93, 95, and 97 were accepted as presented.
  - c. Utility Warrants #6 and 7 were accepted as presented.
5. **Department Head Reports:**

Chief Pickett deferred to Supt. White.

Supt. White reported that O'Connors would give only \$2900 for trade-in value for Dixfield's pick-up truck which did not meet the necessary amount for the purchase of Mexico's new truck. Mr. White recommended that the Highway Dept. purchase the truck from the Water Dept. for \$3000. Public Works currently has \$6000 in their capital account. ITM Skibitsky recommended that this is a better alternative than having the regular highway crew taking time to haul the mowing equipment to the cemeteries. The seasonal employee will be able to take the equipment to the job sites himself. The truck has a new sticker good for a year.

Mr. Withrow made a motion that the Highway Dept. purchase the truck. Mr. Daley seconded the motion and all were in favor except Mr. Belskis.

Mr. Whittemore made a motion that \$2500 from the capital reserve fund of the Water Dept. Capital reserves be put with the \$3,000 from the Highway Dept. and the \$19,000 already budgeted to purchase Mexico's truck. It was seconded by Mr. Withrow and the vote was 4-1 with Mr. Belskis voting no.

It was agreed to move item 6 g. up on the Agenda so that Mr. White would be available for the discussion. Mr. Dan Louvat asked for a permanent discontinuance of water and sewer to his property on Weld St. The building was destroyed by a fire on Feb. 28, 2014 and has been vacant since that date. Mr. White said that the water is already closed off and the meter is gone from the property. Mr. Louvat said the sewer has been capped and the house will be torn down and the foundation removed in about a week. The cellar will be filled in and grassed over. Mr. Belskis made a motion to discontinue billing for the sewer as of February 28, 2014. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and all were in favor.

There was discussion about the fact that the Town did not receive the \$500,000 CBDG grant that had been applied for and what the effect of that will be. Mr. Daley questioned whether there should be another hearing to explain the consequences of not receiving the CDBG and whether citizens will realize the vote was to borrow the whole million dollars if needed. Mr. Withrow indicated that at the special town meeting the voters were aware that there was a possibility that the town might not get the grant. Mr. Withrow said that he surveyed High St. for median income on which the grant was based and found that High St. did not qualify. Several other streets did qualify however. If the entire job is not done and some is held to see if the Town could get the CDBG grant another year, Mr. White said there are no guarantees with that grant and the costs will go up every year. High St. has the highest need for work and the past winter has added to the already poor conditions.

#### **5 b. Chief Pickett**

- a. The Drug Take-Back program was held Sat., April 26 and Dixfield was one of four towns to do a survey with 100% participation. This collection resulted in 27,040 pounds of medications.
- b. Chief handed the Selectmen a thank you card received by the department from 66 Weld St. thanking them for services recently rendered.
- c. Chief thanked the Board for the time spent on the Budget process.
- d. Mr. Belskis asked why there was 20 hours of overtime in one week and Chief explained that an officer was needed to cover a shift because he was not available and one officer had to cover court time.
- e. There was a question about how mutual aid for Peru was portioned. Chief replied that there is a computer program that can give the assignments of all officers in the area and they check to see who is free. Rumford has 2 officers on each shift so unless they are both busy, they usually get the call.

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

- a. Building Inspector Appointment: The State now requires that each April any town of over 2000 population must appoint a Building Inspector. Calvin Beaumier the Code Enforcement Officer has been doing this job and does not get paid for doing it. Mr. Withrow made a motion to appoint Mr. Beaumier as Building Inspector for the next year and it was seconded by Mr. Daley. All were in favor and all signed the appointment paper.
- b. The Board was given a copy of a letter about the School Budget from RSU 10. There is a rumor that the Central Office in Dixfield may be closed and a decision would have to be made about what to do with the building.
- c. The Selectmen received a copy of the DOT Bridge Inspection report and Mr. Hodsdon is following up.
- d. A letter offering to place a granite bench on the field hockey field in memory of Dani Ranger was received and the suggestion was that ITM Skibitsky contact the mother and the school. The guidelines for the use of Harlow Park need to be researched. Mr. Daley made a motion to table the request until the Dirigo AD can be contacted and the guidelines reviewed. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- e. Sonya Fuller, a resident of Coburn Avenue came to the Board to discuss the parking issue when there are ball games at the Coburn Ave. field. For one game there were 44 cars parked on the sidewalk, both sides of the street, on lawns and blocking driveways. It generates a safety hazard for people walking on the street and produces garbage for the residents to clean up. Chief Pickett said that if a car is blocking a driveway, it will be towed. Other parking infractions receive tickets. His recommendation was that one side of the street be designated No Parking. Mr. Daley asked which side he would recommend and Chief said the right side driving into the street from Weld St. which is the side of the street where the sidewalk is. Mr. Daley made a motion to have No Parking signs installed on the north side of Coburn Ave (the sidewalk side) from Weld St. to the Thad White Bridge. Mr. Belskis seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- f. Copies of notices of new bank accounts for the loan monies were reviewed and returned to the ITM.

### **7 Old Business**

- a. CDBG denial: ITM Skibitsky will call to see if information is available about why Dixfield did not receive the grant.
- b. Cemetery Mower: Selectmen reviewed three invoices offering prices for the purchase of two cemetery mowers. The best price was from Hayes in Bethel who offered two mowers which met the specifications for a total of \$22,100. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to buy the mowers from Hayes and see if there was trade-in value. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and all were in favor.

### **Item 9 was taken next: Other Business**

ITM Skibitsky gave his report.

The MCOPA representative will be here at the May 23 meeting.

The Auditor will be at the June 9 meeting.

The applications for the seasonal worker position are all in.

The Sample ballot was available for the Selectmen to see and it followed the format of the Town of Peru.

A copy of the budget with the adjustments noted of the changes that will be made if the Referendum passes. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the changes and Mr. Daley seconded it. All were in favor.

It was agreed not to have a Selectmen's meeting on Memorial Day and to hold one later in the week if needed. Mr. Withrow made that a motion and Mr. Whittemore seconded it. All were in favor.

May 5 and 7 are the dates of the Interviews for the new Town Manager. Three candidates will be interviewed each night.

### **The Agenda returned to Item 8 Public Comment**

Dan McKay asked to see and was given a copy of the Sample Referendum. He also noted that if the Water/Sewer/Road project is scaled back, it becomes two projects which will cost more and late summer bidding also adds costs. He asked for the numbers for the amounts of State Reimbursements. He questioned what the penalty would be for not following the police grant.

Sonja Fuller was interested in how much the sewer rates would be affected by the project and would it be as much as 50%?

Dan McKay asked for a sign to be put up to advertise town meetings. He asked about the Revenue Sharing payments and what the total would be and ITM Skibitsky told him the payments came monthly and that they did not know in advance.

Mr. Whittemore left the meeting at 7:15pm

### **10. Board Questions and Comments**

Mr. Belskis—none

Mr. Daley—asked to have an Executive Session scheduled for the May 12 meeting to discuss a Police Personnel issue.

Mr. Withrow—none

Mr. Gill--none

### **11. Next Meeting**

a. There will be a Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, May 12 at 5:30 at the Ludden Library and will begin with a Hearing on the Referendum if anyone has questions.

### **12. Adjournment**

At 7:30pm, Mr. Withrow made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Belskis and the vote was 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke recorder of minutes  
nhc/

