

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

**Monday, June 16 2014**  
**5:30PM, Town Office**

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

**Administration Present:** Town Manager, Carlo Puiia

**Town Employees Present:** Police Chief Richard Pickett, Fire Chief Dennett.

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

**Non-residents Present:**

**Media:** Matt Daigle, Sun Journal, Cherri Crockett, RFT, WVAC tv

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Gill called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Agenda Adjustments: none**
3. **New Business**
  - a. Election of Chair Mr. Gill nominated Dana Whittemore and he declined. Mr. Whittemore nominated Scott Belskis and Mr. Daley seconded the nomination. The vote was 3-1, Mr. Belskis abstained.
  - b. Mr. Belskis took the chairman's seat and Mr. Gill nominated Mr. Whittemore for Vice-Chair which was seconded by Mr. Daley. Mr. Whittemore nominated Hart Daley and the vote was 3-2 in favor of Mr. Daley.
  - c. TM Puiia recommended an agenda change to take up Old Business item a. COPS Grant so that Chief Pickett could go to his 6:00 meeting. Mr. Belskis asked if there were any objections, and hearing none, discussion began on the item. Mr. Whittemore noted that he would agree to allow application for the grant but when the time came to vote on whether or not to accept it, he would not agree to it. Mr. Gill made a motion to allow Chief Pickett to apply for a grant for a fifth officer, which died for a lack of a second. Chief left the meeting.
  - d. The Board returned to item c. of New Business on the Agenda, Executive Department budget decision. TM Puiia reminded the Board of the wording of the guidelines for what would happen if an item on the referendum did not pass and the choices were 1. To revert to last year's budget or 2. To return to the Town for another vote. He noted that since last year's budget

was higher than the amount suggested for this year's budget, he did not feel that would satisfy the intent of the voters. The additional referendum will cost the town several hundred dollars, but does not have to have the polls open until 8:00 since it is only for town business. There must be time allotted to allow for posting and a 30 day notice for absentee ballots. The amount declined by the voters for this year was \$297,667. The budget for last year was \$315,992. The first item in the budget to be discussed was the Selectmen's stipends. Since the previous members of the Board had agreed not to take the money, Mr. Mitchell was asked what he would like to do. He said he would agree not to take the money but was concerned that the State mandated at least a \$10 payment. Other Board members said they knew that was true, but the money could be returned. Mr. Gill noted that some money would have to be allotted in the budget to allow for that to happen. Mr. Daley suggested several places that some amount of money could be cut to bring the total amount down. It was agreed to cut the final budget amount by \$4500 and allow TM Puiia to made the adjustments. Mr. Whittemore made the motion and Mr. Daley seconded it. All were in favor.

- e. Mr. Dennett, chairman of the Finance Committee asked if the Committee was going to be asked to give an opinion and TM Puiia said that the way the guidelines were written this year, that they would not be asked but recommended that it be looked at before another referendum.
- f. Code Enforcement budget decision: following discussion, Mr. Gill made a motion to cut \$1000 from the Code Enforcement budget and to give it a new name which would clarify what items are covered in this item. Mr. Daley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The new budget amount for this item will be \$14,515.

#### **4. Old Business**

- a. Covered above.
- b. Summer meetings

There is already a meeting scheduled for June 23. Dates agreed upon for future meetings were July 14 and 28, Aug. 11 and 25. Sept 8 and 22 and Oct. 6 and 20.

#### **5. Public Comment/Correspondence**

Correspondence: none

Public Comment:

Dan McKay wished to congratulate Norman Mitchell on being elected to the Board. He suggested that the Board consider cutting other budget items. He asked If the vote counts for the referendum were available and TM Puiia told him they were available from the Town Clerk. He expressed concern that the voters can not plan on the mil rate at town meeting because of the school budget and State rulings.

#### **6. Other Business: none**

## **7. Board Questions and Comments**

Mr. Whittemore –none

Mr. Mitchell—none

Mr. Gill--none

Mr. Daley—Handed out copies of the request for a moratorium which had been vetted by lawyers when it was first presented. He reported that he had attended the recent meeting of the Planning Board when the lawyer from Kelly and Assoc. was present. She discussed the adjustments that the Planning Board had made and congratulated them for their efforts. She presented some additional changes. She had a concern about why was there not a moratorium before this and recommended that one be put in place as soon as possible. Because of posting deadlines, 2-4 more weeks before she will be done with her current review of the new changes and scheduling a vote Mr. Daley said that the process must be started now. Laywer Kelly noted that there is a new Federal law in process that Industrial Companies in general (not just wind companies) do not have to compensate towns for negative impact which would mean that the state law giving tangible benefits would no longer be valid. Mr. Gill asked that she present her reasons for a moratorium in writing. Mr. Daley said that the current copy of the request for a moratorium could be used by just changing the dates and that a Hearing would have to be held.

TM Puiia said that this item was not on the Agenda so could not be dealt with unless the Selectmen took a vote showing they felt this was an emergency.

Mr. Daley made a motion to vote that this was an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Gill repeated his request for her statement in writing. All were in favor.

The next motion by Mr. Daley was to set a date for a hearing and a special town meeting to be held with a suggested date of Aug. 7 at 6:00pm at the high school. It was seconded by Norman Mitchell and the vote was 4-1 with Mr. Gill opposed.

## **8. FYI: As stated on Agenda**

## **9. Next Meetings**

As listed on Agenda

## **10. Adjournment**

At 6:50pm, Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke recorder of minutes  
nhc/