

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Selectmen's Meeting

Monday, July 14, 2014
5:30 p.m., Ludden Memorial Library

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, Highway Director Calvin Beaumier, Leo Jolin

Citizens Present: Aaron Jamison, Walter Newman, Mrs. Norman Mitchell, Rick Davis, Norine Clarke, recorder of minutes.

Non-residents Present:

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Agenda Adjustments: none**
3. **Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2014**
 - a. Hearing no objections or corrections, the minutes were accepted.
4. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll**
 - a. Hearing no objections or corrections the Warrants and Payroll reports were accepted.
5. **Department Head Reports**

Director Calvin Beaumier went through his report of work done (see attached) for the weeks in June and first week of July. Grading and rock raking were done to get the most use of the excavator while it was being rented and it helped with the repairs for the July 2 rainstorm. Some scrap metal was sold and check given to Town Office for \$425.94. 100 gallons of waste oil was collected from Peru. The DEDC purchased a picnic table for the Village Green which was installed and anchored in place. Trash cans were placed at the Green and at Riverside Cemetery. (Greenwood Cemetery already had trash cans.) Wash outs from the storm are being worked on and two 4-5yd. rocks were removed from Hall Hill to make plowing easier. A plow/school bus turn-around is being built at the end of Lancaster St. Fill that is being used is the gravel that was saved from Spring sweeping,

and the remnants from the ditching that is being done. Coolidge Rd. and Swan Lane also need turnarounds.

Phil Curtis from the state has been with Supervisor Beaumier to check ditches all over town. Many need to be changed or built. Many stop signs are not visible because of tree and brush overgrowth. Some rock walls are being built in town within the road right-of-ways. Mr. Curtis will be invited to a Roads Committee meeting.

Super. Beaumier wants to replace a 12 inch culvert with a 2 foot culvert and change the angle of the flow on Valley Road. It is not likely that Dixfield will qualify for FEMA damage for the July 2 storm, but there are many repairs that need to be done. Later discussion led to the decision to make the repairs from his regular budget and then get reimbursed from the road Reserve fund. TM Puiia will work with Chairman Belskis to set up a Road Committee meeting soon.

A new form (attached) is in the Selectmen's packets to keep track of job cost distribution.

The Bridge Inspection Report (attached) was discussed and there are some discrepancies about the deficiencies and will have to be checked out. The two locations are Newton Brook and Tucker Brook. Mr. Mitchell said he was afraid that Newton Brook will be affected when the windmills are installed on Canton Mountain.

Chairman Belskis asked for an update on how the Groundskeeper position was working out and Super. Beaumier reported that it was going very well. His work is being done and helps the crew on occasion.

Mr. Whittemore asked if he had been in contact with the school about the moving of the old score board. Super. Beaumier said that he had gone with them to see the scope of the job and told them what needed to be done. An electrician has become involved, Dig-Safe has been notified and 15 foot holes will need to be drilled. When they are ready to move it, he will help.

6. **Old Business**

a. **Approval of Engine Brake Usage**

Chief Picket has talked to the District Attorney and reported the information that this problem is very hard to enforce, especially since Dixfield does not have an ordinance. If we did have one, then there would be costs involved in the enforcement. He said that the problem is more with illegal exhaust systems and the brakes. The exhaust system problem can be enforced. By working with the "Press" and the public all felt this could be addressed.

b. **Endorsement of Disbursement Policy**

TM Puiia passed the copy around for Board signatures.

c. **Wind Energy Facility Moratorium and/or Ordinance Legal Opinion**

The Board was given three opinions: MMA Becky Seal, Kristen Collins and Lee Bragg.

Ms. Seal gave some options. Some would cost legal fees if the validity went to court. A town vote could be called on the original or the revised ordinance. Mr. Daley said they could follow through by voting on the revised ordinance as was planned.

Ms. Kelly said one, she does not feel the court would overturn the original vote on the original ordinance and two, there is nothing to prevent the town enacting a moratorium and she will draft moratorium language.

The moratorium hearing date set for August will not be possible as Ms. Kelly needs more time. Three, the original warrant did not need all five selectmen's signatures; the three who signed was adequate. TM Puiia will contact Ms. Kelly about a timetable.

d. **Endorsement of Tax Acquired Deed with Covenant for 12 Main St.**

Todd Blodgett, the successful bidder for 12 Main St. has been working with TM Puiia to clarify the agreements made at the time of the bid. A new schedule for the demolition of the property has been set. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the deed arrangement and Mr. Daley seconded. All were in favor. TM Puiia asked Board Secretary Norine Clarke to witness the signatures which she did.

7. **Old Business**

a. **General Assistance Ordinance: Appendices A 2014-2015**

Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the Appendices and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

b. **General Assistance to Illegal Aliens**

Letters with differing opinions from Gov. Lepage, MMA, and the Atty. General's office were presented. TM Puiia read the Governor's letter which states that the Town will get no reimbursement money from this program if assistance is given to illegal aliens. The DHHS, not the Town, would make this determination so it was decided to go with the usual policy and follow the State Ordinance.

c. **Vote on candidates for MMA's Legislative Policy Committee**

Two were chosen from the list of candidates. Mr. Daley nominated John Madigan and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Daley nominated Greg Buccina and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

d. **Appointment of Town Attorney for 2014-2015**

Agreement was made that Matthew Tarasevich would continue as the attorney for the current negotiation until they are completed.

From the list of suggested attorneys, Mr. Whittemore nominated Jennifer Kreckel. Mr. Daley seconded the motion with the caveat that Mr. Tarasevich has done a great job but Ms. Kreckel will save the town money.

Mr. Whittemore, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Daley voted in favor, Mr. Gill was opposed and Chair Belskis abstained. When told by Mr. Gill that he thought it would be better for him to vote to show his intent, Chair Belskis said he could not because Ms. Kreckel is his lawyer.

8. **Other Business:**

a. TM Puiia handed out a draft of language of complaint policy procedures for the Board to review and discuss at a later meeting.

b. TM Puiia addressed the issue raised by Mr. Tom Wheeler about people coming into his property following the direction of their GPS devices.

Google has been working with TM Puiia and Super. Beaumier to correct the issue and the misnaming of the road.

- c. TM Puiia handed out copies of the Oxford County Emergency Management Report. The report states that all was done correctly in Dixfield. All departments involved will get the results of the report so that they may be prepared in case of further events.

9. Public Comment/Correspondence

TM Puiia read from a letter from Atty. Lee Bragg who had been tasked with following up on Dixfield's Standard and Poor's rating. The good news is that Dixfield's rating has been upgraded from A plus to double A minus.

A thank you letter from Brian Volkernick thanking the Board for a scholarship received was read.

Comments and Questions. Cherri Crockett, reporter for the Rumford Falls Times asked where the new picnic table given by the DEDC had been placed. It is at the back of the Village Green.

10. Board Questions and Comments

Mr. Whittemore—none

Mr. Mitchell—noted that he would like to invite the members of the Press to sit in the front row.

Mr. Gill--none

Mr. Daley—none

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:** On Wednesday July 16, a Hearing on the Water, Sewer and Road project will be held at Ludden Memorial Library at 5:30 pm

On Tuesday Aug. 12, voting on the 2014-2015 budget items will be held at the American Legion Hall

9. Next Meetings

As listed on Agenda

10. Adjournment

At 7:12pm, 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/

