

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

**Monday, Sept. 22, 2014**  
**5:30PM, Ludden Library**

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

**Administration Present:** Town Manager, Carlo Puiia, RSU 10 job shadow Ron Russell.

**Town Employees Present:** Public Works Director Calvin Beaumier, Police Chief Richard Pickett.

**Citizens Present:** Walter Newman, Terri Mitchell, Peter Holman, Ricky Davis and Norine Clarke, recorder of minutes.

**Out of Town Attendees:** Town Engineer Al Hodsdon, and representing the Mexico Water District Anne Young, Tylene Scott, Charles Lever, Don Cummings, and Byron Ouellette.

**Media:** WVAC Channel 7 and Matt Daigle Lew. Sun/Journal

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Agenda Adjustments:** To 4 a. add warrant #29  
To 4 b. add warrant #28  
To number 6 add b. Mexico Water District  
To number 9 insert Election Warrants
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Whittemore made a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting Sept. 8, 2014 and Special Meeting Sept. 15, 2014. Mr. Daley seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0 in favor.
4. **Approval of Warrants:** After a period of the selectmen signing the warrants, Mr. Daley made a motion to accept all that were on the Agenda and on the Agenda Adjustments. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all were in favor.
5. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.
6. It was agreed to insert 7 c. into this spot in the Agenda (Update on sidewalk and street projects). Engineer Hodsdon gave a report to the Selectmen.

- a. After walking the area with his engineers and Dir. Beaumier, the Lancaster project was approved and he gave Dir. Beaumier a copy of the revisions and bidding specs today.
- b. Newton Ave. was also checked and there is a solution for the drainage.
- c. The new generator for the Water Dept. will not be here till Nov.
- d. The storm drain on High St. was not able to be found but today, Dir. Beaumier was able to track it with a dye solution. At a point on High St, the old sewer was abandoned for the storm drain and a new section was put between and maybe under houses to go to Pine St. The current storm drain system will not be used and a new one will be included in the plans and bids for High St. construction. The plans will be finalized this fall and the bids will go out in early Feb. to get the best prices to start construction May 1, 2015
- e. Eng. Hodsdon gave Dir. Beaumier credit for his persistence so that the project could be done right.
- f. Mr. Whittemore expressed concerns for the loans we have already outstanding and it was pointed out that these were for up-front costs.
- g. Sidewalks. TM Puiia noted that he had spoken to Jamie Milledge and said that he would be back in town in Oct. and will update the plan so that it may be done in this year's budget.

Since the Board of the Mexico Water District was present to discuss what the next steps in the billing process should be, this item was inserted into the Agenda.

The Mexico Billing staff has been working on collecting old debts in water and sewer as well as the current billing and has pared the accounts receivable of old and current accounts from \$128,000 down to \$64,000. However, in doing this, it was discovered that the lien process had not been attended to previously. Some were able to be handled by adding the Town of Dixfield as lien holders on the deeds at the Registry of Deeds but some do not qualify for that method. Some old accounts cannot be liened but can be collected which has been done in some cases. Bills must be under lien certification for 18 months before a foreclosure. Water bills can now be liened. Of the sewer bills, about \$8000 was due and about \$4000 has been collected. Because of this situation the Mexico office has been doing work that was not in the contract because it is believed that the former town manager had said that would be done in house. Mr. Ouellette asked that they be compensated for the large number of hours already spent and an agreement whether they should continue to do the lien process. TM Puiia remarked that the staff was doing a great job. Mr. Daley thanked them for the initiative they took to do the work.

All Selectmen were pleased with the success that they have had. Mr. Belskis made a motion to allow the Mexico staff to continue the lien process with the understanding that they will be compensated for the work. It was seconded by Mr. Gill and the vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Agenda moved back to item 6

**Item 6 cont. Dept. Head Reports:**

**a. Public Works**

Dir. Beaumier reported on work done since his last report (see attached)  
Chair Belskis asked how the seasonal repairs were coming along in preparation for the winter season and Dir. Beaumier reported they were going well but that the oldest plow truck (1993) was finished today but may not be able to be used for much in the spring. TM Puiia said that daily worksheets are being implemented but some coordinating still needs to be worked out. Mr. Peter Holman was recognized and said he agreed with Dir. Beaumier that the hills on Severy need to be paved in order to save the roads and asked if more was going to be done on the Common Rd. Dir. Beaumier said yes, as soon as Severy was finished.

**7. Old Business:**

- a. Mr. Mitchell had sent TM Puiia a draft which changed the percentage of signatures to initiate a recall petition from 10% of the last gubernatorial election voters to 20 %. Mr. Mitchell said he felt this would discourage frivolous petitions.
- b. TM Puiia contacted Bob Schwarz of MCOPA to discuss plans for hiring a new police chief. Suggested items were: \  
Allow 3-4 weeks for applicants to apply.  
Put a committee together with an assortment of members e.g. a citizen, a selectman, members of police/sheriff administration from other towns, etc.  
Be clear if it is to be a working chief.  
Have a background check, psychological test and fitness test.  
Mr. Daley said he would like to see a polygraph test added. He also felt there should be two police administrators from other towns.  
MCOPA would charge a fee if they do the hiring process. Mr. Schwarz said they should count backwards 90 days from Jan. to start the process and he would meet with the Board if they choose.  
TM Puiia said he would have a narrative for the next meeting.

**8. New Business:**

- a. Steve Swan has requested to use the area around the reservoir as a lay-down yard. Selectmen questioned if it was starting a precedent and did it require a certificate of liability. It was also suggested that clean up after use be required. TM Puiia will get more information.
- b. Dixfield's ordinance for a Board of Appeals says that there should be seven (7) members on the board. Currently it is a zoning ordinance. It was decided to place an ad to see if anyone asked to become a member.
- c. Possible Straw Poll questions were discussed.  
Mr. Belskis said the Referendum question has to be asked every year.

Mr. Whittemore asked that a question be asked if the citizens wanted to continue to have 24 hour coverage in the police department. It was discussed whether or not to ask about the town office staying open 5 days a week.

Mr. Mitchell suggested asking about having the Sewer Department and the Water Dept work returned to Town.

At 7:18, Mr. Gill left the meeting.

- d. Public Comment Policy. Chair Belskis said he felt that the 5 minute limit was fair. There was general agreement with the policy but the decision was made to table it to the next meeting when Mr. Gill would be present.
- e. The Hearing for the Wind Ordinance will be held Wed. Oct. 22, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the High School Meeting Room.
- f. The Board will meet with the members of the Mexico Water District at their meeting on Oct. 15, 2014.
- g. It may be possible to make an effort to collect some of the delinquent water and sewer bills through Small Claims Court. TM Puiia will report back.

**9. Other Business:**

The Election Warrants were signed by those Selectmen present.

**10. Correspondence.**

The Board received a Thank You Certificate from the Tyla's Buddy Bench committee.

**11. Board Questions and Comments:**

Mr. Mitchell: no comments

Mr. Whittemore: Made a formal request to ask the Oxford County Sheriff's Dept. for 24 or 18 hour coverage. Chair Belskis made a motion to have TM Puiia get a quote from Sheriff Wayne Gallant for 18 and 24 hour coverage. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor (Mitchell, Whittemore, and Belskis), one abstention (Daley) and one absent (Gill.)

None of the rest of the members had anything to report.

**12. FYI:** Wind Ordinance Hearing Wed. Oct. 22, 2014 at the High School at 6:00pm

**13. Next Meeting:** Mon. Oct. 13, 2014 at 5:30 at Ludden Memorial Library

**14. Adjournment:** Mr. Belskis made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 and was seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke recorder of minutes  
nhc/