

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014 5:30 P.M.  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Chief Pickett, CEO Beaumier, Chief Dennett, Vickie Carrier, Theresa Hemingway, Leo Jolin

Citizens present: Susan Holmes, Peter Holman and Lori, Walter Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Gilsleider, Aaron Jamison, Peter Merrill, Rebecca Howard, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Holman, Cleon Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. Don Lutick, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Swan, Mrs. Mitchell  
and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens: Sheriff Wayne Gallant, Tom Carroll, and Warren Oldham

Press present: WVAC TV 7 and Sun Journal Matt Daigle.

**1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Agenda Adjustments**

a. to 4. a. add #41

b. to 4. b. add #40

**1. Minutes**

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the minutes of Oct. 13 and Oct. 20 and Mr. Daley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**1. Warrants and Payroll**

Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the warrants and payroll with the adjustments. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all were in favor.

**1. Public Comments---none**

**2. Department Head Reports---none**

**3. Old Business**

The copies of the Public Comment Policy which had been approved at a previous meeting were passed to be signed by the Board.

**1. New Business**

a. Presentation by Oxford County Sheriff's Dept. for Law Enforcement Coverage

Sheriff Wayne Gallant handed copies of proposed contracts to the Selectmen which presented costs for 24 hour and 18 hour coverage. For 24 hour coverage the proposed cost for the first year was for a 4 man force for \$429,181 and the 18 hour was \$315,236.

The second year for the 24 hour coverage would be \$364,631 and 18 hour \$283,686. The first year is higher to cover start-up costs such as uniforms at \$5000 per person and converting the Dixfield cruisers which they would take over. All cost to the town would be in the one check including personnel and negotiations which would all be done by the County. Bethel is in its 5<sup>th</sup> contract year and is still at the same cost. Dixfield's full time officers should be fully qualified to be hired by the County and are welcome to apply for the jobs. Mr. Daley, who had recused himself from the board made the comment that the sheriffs would not be under local control, but under State control. There would be no hiring or firing, no contract negotiations, no buying vehicles and the department should rent or buy a local office. Sheriff Gallant suggested that Board members speak to Bethel for feedback. Four other towns are currently looking at proposed contracts. When asked if mutual aid would be continued, Sheriff Gallant said yes.

The current budget for the Dixfield PD with 5 men is \$342,598 which also covers everything.

Mr. Whittemore said that he was the one who had asked to have the proposal for information and options and was not performance based.

The County is also unionized. Raises would be paid out of the Sheriff's budget, not by the towns involved.

Chief Pickett explained the service the town is currently receiving and that any monies remaining at the end of a budget year are turned back to the General Fund.

Mr. Gill made the comment that this should be a Town decision, not one made by the Board of Selectmen.

**b. Discussion with Tom Carroll, representative of Patriot Renewables regarding Wind Power Ordinance.**

TM Puiia said that the Hearing held on Oct. 22, raised some questions other than those directly related to the Ordinance and Mr. Carroll had come to try to clear some of them up. Mr. Daley assumed the asking of the questions. He said his first question was to clarify the number of mills. First it was suggested there be 10-13 turbines, then 12 and now 6.

Mr. Carroll said that the sites go by total megawatts. They do not know how many turbines it would be but would have a total of no more than 20 megawatts. This is the amount currently expected to be unused from the total capacity of the substation at the completion of the Carthage and Canton projects. At this point, the Dixfield project, if doable, would appear to be 6 years out and many things could change in that time. The 3 new turbines in Carthage are 2.85 megawatts each as compared to the original proposal to Dixfield of 1.25 megawatt turbines. Carthage would have a total of 34 megawatts, and Canton 20. The new propeller blades being installed in Carthage have what is referred to as "shark's teeth" on the edges and tests will be done to see how they are performing. They have also been installed in the Beaver Ridge project in Freedom. Mr. Whittemore suggested that this would be a lesser impact than the original proposal.

Mr. Carroll said that if the 4000 foot setback from a property line is passed, the project becomes not feasible. It would require 35 to 40 negotiations for settlements and easements and would make it too difficult and expensive to do the project.

Concerning the change to lower the maximum decibels to 35, it may be possible but not likely. The state requires 42. According to Mr. Carroll, using the World Health Organizations numbers is not a clear comparison because of the way they and the United States do the testing. According to Mr. Carroll, the WHO runs their testing all year round and takes an average. The United States tests 6 times a year for just 12 minutes which makes monitoring much more stringent.

Mr. Carroll stated when Spruce Mountain in Woodstock started up in 2012, there were 6 complaints from 3 people. Mr. Daley countered that he knew of 19 complaints reported in the Bethel Citizen newspaper. There was a 3 week study overseen by the DEP which showed them to be well below the limit.

Mr. Carroll handed the Board copies of a letter written by Vern Maxfield, the Town Manager of Woodstock. He mentioned that the town did prepare an ordinance after Spruce Mountain was done but it was not a negative reflection on Patriots Renewables. Since then, some citizens have asked to have it repealed. Since the sound study in 2013, there have been no further complaints.

Mr. Carroll said the “rule of thumb” is a value of \$2 million per megawatt but is not exact. The value is affected by the amount of roadway needing to be built and any other infrastructure needed. All of that is taxable.

He had heard, when asked about most turbines producing at only 19 to 20% of capacity, Mr. Carroll responded that the average at Spruce Mountain is well above 30% in a 3 year study. FERC data was 31.6%.

Spruce Mountain is a 20 megawatt project and is valued at \$40 million.

Depreciation is taken at 5% per year to a flat line of 30% unless there are upgrades which add to the evaluation. Freedoms turbines having added the “shark's teeth” increased their value.

Mr. Carroll said that the 4000 foot setback from the property line might be possible but it would not be worth the cost to build the project and perhaps the Board should check with another wind company to see what their opinion would be but for Patriots, financially it is not feasible.

Sue Holmes reported that in speaking with the company building the towers in the Gaspé region in Canada, there are almost 900 now and more being built and the set back is 500 meters. Dan McKay indicated a fear that the town would be open to lawsuits with this ordinance. Peter Holman asked about tax relief and was told the Town is already receiving taxes from the power lines. The Carthage taxes are being based on a \$68 million project.

#### **c. Discussion on Water and Sewer Billing Contract with Mexico**

Mexico Selectman Byron Ouellette and Anne Young were present to discuss the contract. Some of the wording needed to be changed and Mr. Ouellette asked for a list of personnel in the order they should be contacted in case of questions.

#### **d. Request by Sign committee for Ione Harlow fund money.**

TM Puia read the portion of the will which explains how the money should be used. The Committee has done research on a Neo-Kraft sign, double sided with 3 lines of type which can be changed digitally. It is estimated to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 installed. The Board is requested to authorize \$10,000 from the Ione Harlow fund with the remainder to

be fund raised or by donation. Letters of request are being prepared. The Harlow fund proceeds are \$41-42 thousand currently. Mr. Daley made a motion to put the request on the warrant for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**e. Approval of Junkyard Permits.**

CEO Beaumier listed the permit owners that needed to be renewed as Claude Averill, Robert Blanchard, Sr., Shannon Drown, Clifford Hall, Norman Mitchell, and Morrison Motors. He said that the only issue was that one of the persons still had some cleaning up to do but all were acceptable. Mr. Mitchell abstained from the voting process. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to approve the permits, Mr. Daley seconded and the vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstained.

**f. Review of State Statute regarding Consumer Fireworks**

Mr. Daley asked Chief Pickett about complaints and referred to the State Law which does limit some types of fireworks and the time of use. The Chief said he was not aware of any complaints but would research and report back at the next Selectmen's Meeting. Fire Chief Dennett said there were also age limits on the use of fireworks. Misuse is not only noisy but can be unsafe.

**g. Consider Requesting a Presentation from the Western Maine Economic Development Council for Dixfield and other surrounding towns.**

Chair Belskis suggested that Glen Holmes of Western Maine Economic Development be invited to the first meeting in Dec. which would be Dec. 8 and start the meeting at 4:30. Mr. Daley made a motion to request the visit and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. All in favor.

**9. Other Business:** none

**10. Public Correspondence:** none

**11. Board Questions and Comments:**

The only Board member who had any comments was Mr. Gill. He mentioned the five items which are on the Straw Poll on the Ballot Tues. Nov. 4, 2014.

Following Mr. Gill's remarks the Agenda was opened for Dan Carrier to speak. He said he has had a forester look at the land which is under question for cutting done in a Flood Plain and the forester reports there are only 4 trees which are in the Zone. The Chairman asked that the report be turned over to the TM and the CEO. The report of the forester working with the Town's CEO was forwarded to the DEP on Fri. OCT. 24. The DEP will respond with a report on the number of trees and the fines suggested. Discussion will be postponed to Nov. 8, 2014.

1. **FYI as on Agenda**
2. **Next meeting Nov. 10, 2014 at 5:30 at Ludden Memorial Library**
3. **Adjournment:** Chair Belskis made a motion to adjourn at 8:41. It was seconded by Mr. Daley and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, Secretary  
nhc/