

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, December 22, 2014, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Chief Pickett, Paul Pomerleau of Ted Berry Co, and Fire Chief Scott Dennett.

Citizens present: Peter and Lori Holman, Aaron Jamison, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Mrs. Mitchell, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens:

Press present: Matt Daigle, Sun Journal, and Ben Hines, WVAC TV 7

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 #59
- b. to 4. b. add #58
- c. Item 8 d. is withdrawn
- d. to Item 9, add Assessor's Property Tax Abatement denial letter
- e. to Item 10, add Correspondence from Jay Bernard.

3. Minutes

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the minutes of Dec 8, 2014 as presented and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. Mr. Whittemore, Mr. Gill and Mr. Belskis voted in favor, Mr. Mitchell abstained because he was absent from that meeting and Mr. Daley was absent.

4. Warrants and Payroll

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the warrants and payroll as in the agenda adjustments. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all present were in favor.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Peter Holman asked about the status of the Recall Ordinance and TM Puiia said it only needs the final approval and it will be brought up after the first of the year.

1. Department Head Reports

Paul Pomerleau of Ted Berry Company was present for the 2015 Sewer Budget discussion.

He listed the items covered by the contract and it was noted that power costs have gone up in this budget. The contract is for \$77,890. Concern was expressed about the four bond principals and the interest. The Revenue side of the budget needs to be addressed.

The discussion was tabled until the next Select Board meeting.

1. Old Business

a. Vote to Set Cemetery Lot Prices: The pricing of cemetery lots was discussed and the fact that an effective date needed to be set to give public notice of the increase. Chair Belskis made a motion to set the price at \$300 (\$150 for the lot and \$150 for perpetual care) to be effective March 1, 2015. All present were in favor.

b. WEF Ordinance: TM Puia listed the “housekeeping” changes that need to be made. Lawyer Kristen Collins sent an email with adjustments and wording changes for better language. Chair Belskis asked the Board about planning a Workshop with the Planning Board. TM Puia will make the “housekeeping” changes and have draft copies available at the Workshop Mrs. Holmes asked if Section C concerning infrasound would be discussed and was told yes. The final draft will be made available after the Workshop. TM Puia will coordinate the date and the workshop will be open to the Public.

1. New Business

a. Opening Fire Pumper bids

Chief Dennett handed out a copy of one of four grading sheets used to compare what is covered by the bids. Chair Belskis opened the bids which were as follows

Ferrara Fire Apparatus	\$454,961
KME Fire Apparatus	\$449,984
Pierce Manufacturing	\$445,942
Yankee Fire and Rescue	\$429,579
4 Guys Inc.	\$413,812

The bids need to be compared as to what is offered for the price and compare discount offers.

b. Proposal of WEF Workshop with Planning Board discussed in Item 7.

c. TM Puia would like a discussion with the Board about Dixfield participating with Rumford and Mexico about merging or sharing Police services. The towns are all similar, but have different needs. His concern on cost sharing formulas included a spreadsheet comparing the towns’ populations and evaluations. TM Puia and Chair Belskis will continue to attend meetings and discussions. There will still be mutual aid no matter what the towns decide. Both Chief Pickett and Chair Belskis feel there is merit in having discussions with Peru. Mr. Gill said he felt it was to Chief Pickett's management of our department that it is more economical than the other towns.

d. Request withdrawn.

1. Other Business

The owners at 51 North St. had requested a tax abatement which was denied by Assessor Paul Binette. Mr. Binette’s letter was read and Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve his recommendation. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. Vote was 3-1 with Mr. Gill opposed and Mr. Daley absent.

1. Public Correspondence

Jay Bernard, Emergency Management Director sent a letter to the Board to notify them of the new NIMS classes. Attendance at a class on January 28 from 6-8PM will meet the Selectmen's requirements. The test can still be taken on line. Those who plan to attend the meeting in Mexico should notify TM Puia.

1. Board Questions/Comments.

Mr. Gill was the only Board member with a comment. He noted that it was his opinion that the Board should have a written Code of Ethics Policy.

1. FYI as noted on Agenda.

2. Next Meeting Monday, January 12, 2015 at 5:30

3. Adjournment

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc