

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, January 12, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Chief Pickett, Paul Pomerleau of Ted Berry Co Highway Director, Calvin Beaumier, and Leo Jolin.

Citizens present: Peter and Lori Holman, Aaron Jamison, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Royal and Vickie Swan and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens:

Press present: Matt Daigle Sun Journal, 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 #65
- b. to 4. b. add #64
- c. letter of retirement

3. Minutes

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the minutes of Dec 22, 2014 as presented and Mr. Daley seconded the motion. Mr. Whittemore, Mr. Gill and Mr. Belskis voted in favor, Mr. Daley abstained because he was absent from that meeting and Mr. Mitchell was absent.

4. Warrants and Payroll

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

5. Public Comments

Mr. McKay asked for information about the possible removal of Homestead Exemptions by the State and asked that the Town not support that action.

1. Department Head Reports

Director Beaumier gave his report on the work done in the past month. Of note, the skating rink is ready with ice, heat and lights. Waste oil has been collected from Mtn. Valley Sports and Irving. Lyon's Lane is not a public road but an approximately 500 foot private drive. There has been no one living there for the last two years, so there is no need of access. It has always been plowed by the town. Director asked the Selectmen to consider discontinuing snow removal on that street. Mr. Gill noted that it was a private road, and questioned where the shut off was and whether there was town sewer. This will

be an item on the next agenda.

There has been an issue at the town office parking area with overnight parkers which makes it difficult to get the area plowed in a timely manner. Director Beaumier asked the Board to consider a sidewalk plow that is currently available from HP Fairfield for \$17,000. It was traded in and has been well cared for. A new one would cost approximately \$100,000. By next winter, the town will have considerably more sidewalks than it does now and this would help to be able to clean them in a timely manner.

1. Old Business

a. Paul Pomerleau and Dave Beecham (Munic. Service Rep) were there to represent Ted Berry Company. They had been asked to be available for questions about “in-house” vs. contracted services for the Town sewer. Mr. Beecham noted the regular cleaning schedule and the ¼ of the sewer videotaping each year, the response time in case of maintenance and emergency. He also noted that hired services would cost much more than being under the contract. Dixfield has an aging infrastructure and will require more and more attention. Preventive Maintenance is key to the Ted Berry service.

The Sewer Budget was discussed and the fact that there is a revenue vs. costs shortfall. The Auditor has repeatedly brought this to selectmen's attention. The sewer rate will need to be addressed. TM Puia offered six scenarios to the selectmen for their information. There are 662 sewer users who will need to cover the costs. Mr. Gill said they must decide whether to raise the rate all at once or in increments following one of TM Puia's suggestions.

b. A copy of the suggested Recall Ordinance was handed to each selectman with some minor changes since the last version. A procedure for someone to remove their name from the list of signatures was added. Wording for the election ballots was changed. It was agreed not to require the election to have a certain number of voters. There was discussion of what percentage of the number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election would be required for signatures on the petition. The Board recommended 15%. The final draft will be available at the next meeting and will be voted on at the June referendum. There are four items listed for which a selectman may be recalled. One, the failure to appropriately carry out duties and responsibilities of the office. Two, engaging in conduct which brings the office into disrepute. Three, engaging in conduct which displays an unfitness to hold the office, or four, for the indictment or conviction of a felony under the laws of the State of Maine or a felony under the laws of the United States or entry of a plea of guilty to such an offense.

1. New Business

a. Theresa Hemingway was appointed to the position of Registrar of Voters by way of a motion by Mr. Daley and a second by Mr. Gill. All were in favor.

b. The MDOT has notified the town in writing about their plans to re-surface Rte 142 and the Canton Point Rd. in Dixfield in the summer of 2015. There will be no public hearing.

c. The schedule for Budget meetings was presented. Meetings will be Tuesdays starting at 6:00PM. The recommended date for Town Meeting is Thursday April 9 at 6:00PM at Dirigo High School. Back up dates are April 2 or 16. On Feb. 2, the RSU 10 Building

meeting will be held at 6:30PM at Dirigo. A draft for Town Meeting must be ready by March 17.

d. The selectmen and some of the audience discussed the scenarios given for the re-purposing of buildings in the RSU 10 area.

1. Other Business

None.

1. Public Correspondence

TM Puia read aloud the letter of resignation from Police Chief Richard A. Pickett as of Jan. 31, 2015 which will represent 16 years and 9 months of service to the Town. The reading was followed by applause and a standing ovation.

TM Puia reported that as yet, the Mexico and Rumford meetings about merging police services still have no clear direction. Currently, Dixfield's participation would have no benefit for Dixfield. Chair Belskis said that he feels their formula for participation will not work. TM Puia said that Mr. Whittemore will represent the Board on the hiring committee to hire a new chief and because of the time frame, there may need to be an interim.

1. Board Questions/Comments.

Mr. Gill reiterated his feeling that the Board should have a written Code of Ethics Policy. Mr. Daley requested that arrangements be made for extending the Moratorium. A public vote is not required.

Sue Holmes asked why they did not revert to the original Wind Ordinance and was told it was incomplete.

1. FYI as noted on Agenda.

2. Next Meeting Monday, January 26, 2015 at 5:30

3. Executive Seseion

At 7:30PM Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for Discussion of Confidential Records pursuant to 1 MRS § 405(6)(F).Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all present were in favor. Chair Belskis declared the board out of Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. No action was taken.

1. Adjournment

Mr. Daley made the motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Mr. Whittemore. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc