

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, January 26, 2015, 5:30 PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**AMENDED COPY PER MOTION**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Chief Richard Pickett, Fire Chief Scott Dennett, Fireman Robert Halacy, and Fireman Barry Prescott.

Citizens present: Peter and Lori Holman, Aaron Jamison, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Royal and Vickie Swan, Mrs. Mitchell, Freemont Tibbetts, Jared Luczynski and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens:

Press present: Matt Daigle Sun Journal, WVAC tv 7

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

Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Chairman Belskis opened the Public Hearing concerning extending the Moratorium for an additional 180 days. Dan Mckay voiced his opinion that the moratorium be extended. Chair Belskis clarified that if extended it would be valid until an Ordinance was approved or a maximum of 180 days. The Hearing was declared closed at 5:35pm

**2. Agenda Adjustments**

- a. to 4. change the date Jan 23 to Jan 15.
- b. to 5. a. add #69  
to 5. b. add #68  
to 5. c. change #27 to #1 of 2015
- c. table 8 d.

**4. Minutes**

Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the minutes of Jan. 12, 2015 and Jan. 15, 2015 as presented and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**5. Warrants and Payroll**

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the warrants and payroll as adjusted in the agenda

**6. Public Comments**

None.

**7. Department Head Reports**

Chief Richard Pickett presented his last Department Report to the Selectmen. He noted that car accidents were slightly up in Nov. and Dec. of 2014. There were 16 and many of

them were car/deer accidents. With the large storm predicted for Monday night and Tuesday the Department was posting conditions and urged the Town Office and the Library to be closed for the day on Tuesday. The Fifth Man grant will be suspended until the hiring of a new chief is achieved and a 5<sup>th</sup> person is back on board. TM Puiia recommended that the Lieutenant be appointed as Interim for 30 days which can be extended if necessary. There is potentially one “blue pin” (fully trained officer) who can fill a patrol slot until the new Chief position is settled. Chair Belskis asked if the Maine Chief's association could provide the person for the Interim position and was told yes, but you would have to pay. It was encouraged that the Lieutenant was already on the payroll and Mr. Whittemore noted that he was also familiar with the town and would be the one to fill the spot if the Chief were out for an illness. TM Puiia gave an invitation to the Open House being held in honor of the Chief's retirement from 1:00 to 3:00 Thursday in the Library. The Town Office will be closed from 12:00 to 1:30.

### **1. Old Business**

**a. Fire Chief Scott Dennett** was on hand to discuss the purchase of the new pumper truck. All of the bids were received and scored. He handed out the score sheet results. Two of the proposals failed because of a lack of components. Pierce was the next lowest price, but many of the required components were listed as options which when added in, made their bid the highest. Of the two remaining, KME had the highest score and lowest bid. The Department would like to take money from reserves to make up the difference in the voted on amount to borrow and the cost of the truck. Mr. Daley voiced a concern about traveling for repairs and was told they pick up and deliver. Mr. Belskis asked why a 1500 gallon tank and Chief Dennett said that was the lowest amount they would dare to go to because of the rural nature of Dixfield. Mr. Peter Holman asked what the matter with the old one was. Chief Dennett said it will take major repairs. It will be put out to bid and the sale amount would go back into capitol. The new truck will take at least a year to arrive here. The next truck needed will be a replacement of the ladder truck in eight to ten years. Mr. Whittemore was concerned about the length of the loan still having a balance when the new truck was needed. Chair Belskis inquired about the possibility of borrowing the money and paying the truck company up front to get a discount. TM Puiia said they could look into it but did not know about the time frame for receiving the loan. Mr. Gill said they should show approval by a motion at this meeting. Mr. Peter Holman asked if the town could use both pumpers and would they have room enough to store both. Chief Dennett said yes, the biggest concern being to have enough personnel available during a fire. Mr. Gill made a motion to allow the Fire Department to use money from capital reserves account for the balance needed for the new pumper truck. Seconded by Mr. Whittemore, all were in favor.

**b.** All members of the Board were present for the Recall Ordinance vote. Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the Recall Ordinance and put it before the Town to vote on. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**c.** WEF Ordinance. A complete copy of the current draft (including attorney and Board

recommendations was handed out and the Board reviewed the changes which included the new language on low frequency sound which was added by the Board. Mrs. Susan Holmes objected to the language of section C on infrasound. Mr. McKay asked if there would be a Hearing. Chair Belskis said they planned to put several hearing items on the same night. Mr. Daley responded to Mrs. Holmes question about sound and said that the infrasound language was put in by the Planning Board except for Part 2, the “clarification”. This started a long discussion about when and who added the item. Norine Clarke noted that Section C was added by the Selectmen on a motion by Mr. Whittemore just a short time ago and could be found in the minutes. Mr. Jared Luczynski spoke to the Board about the misinterpretation of the terminology in Section C. As written, it presents a conflict of information. The Board decided to Table the discussion until folks acceptable to all could be invited to explain the terminology.

d. tabled in Agenda Adjustments

### **9. New Business**

a. Vote on WEF moratorium. Mr. Daley made a motion to extend the moratorium for an additional 180 days per the legal wording of the item. Mr. Mitchell seconded and the vote was 4 to 1 with Mr. Gill voting no.

b. There has been a resignation from the Finance Committee. Mr. DeVries is moving to Brunswick, Maine. TM Puiia noted that the vacancy can be filled by appointment of the Board. There will be an ad in the paper informing citizens of the opening and asking for those interested to apply at the Town Office.

c. Notification will also be made that nominations are being accepted for Dixfield Citizen of the Year and Employee of the Year.

d. Nominations are also being accepted for a person to whom to dedicate the Town Report.

e. The Boston Post Cane is presented to the oldest citizen of Dixfield and that person needs to be identified. Names should be presented at the Town Of ice.

**10. Other Business** None.

### **11. Public Correspondence**

An Incident Analysis report for 2014 Oxford County Sheriff's Office was noted as received. A report from Bob Stratton an official of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife written to Mrs. Holmes was read and put in Selectmen's packets. It stated that the Dept. of IF and W have never and will never deny Windmills being built in Maine because it is not in their purview.

### **12. Board Questions/Comments.**

None of the Selectmen except Mr. Gill had any comments.

Mr. Gill reiterated his feeling that the Board should have a written Code of Ethics Policy. He noted that inaccurate information is being passed by some Board members, which he feels is an unethical practice.

#### **1. FYI as noted on Agenda.**

a. The RSU Lease for Garage and Repair Facilities at the Public Works Garage will be

discussed soon. Mr. Ricky Davis asked for permission to speak and said that it was his opinion that the lease ought to be terminated because we have some of our equipment being stored outside. TM Puiia noted that the RSU pays rent and one half of the heat, water, data equipment and paid for one half of the lift.

b. and c. as noted on agenda.

**14. Next Meeting Monday, February 9, 2015 at 5:30**

**15. Executive Session**

At 7:49 pm Mr. Daley made a motion to go in to executive Session for Discussion of Confidential Records pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(F). Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all were in favor. The chair declared the Board was out of executive session at 8:07 pm. No action was taken.

**16. Adjournment**

Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm, seconded by Mr. Whittemore and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary  
nhc/nhc