

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 9, 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, Highway Director Calvin Beaumier, Water Supt. Jim White, Acting Police Chief Jeff Howe, and Paul Pomerleau (Ted Berry)

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

Non- Citizens: Representative from KME Fire Equipment

Press present: Matt Daigle Sun Journal, WVAC tv 7

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

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

1. Agenda Adjustments

a. to 4. a add #73

to 4. b add #72

to 4. c add #2

b. add 6. b Public Works

c. add 9. a Reschedule Budget meeting

d. to 10. add Public Correspondence

e. to 12. add RSU 10 meeting dates

to 12. add Town Office closed Monday, Feb. 16 for the President's Day Holiday

- 1. Minutes:** Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the minutes of Jan. 26, 2015 as presented, there was no second. He rescinded his motion. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes pending the Town Manager's review of Section 11 concerning the correspondence from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to see if the remark "no matter what the "Friends of Holman Mountain" may have had in their information flier" was included in their correspondence and if it was not, it should be stricken from the minutes. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all were in favor.

4. Warrants and Payroll

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

5. Public Comments

None.

6. Department Head Reports

- a. Water Supt. White reported that they had been shoveling hydrants and had had a small water main break on Highland Ave. that had been repaired. Nineteen of the annual 60 meters have been changed. The new generator has arrived and works fine. It is portable and is temporarily being stored in Mexico.
- b. Highway Director Beaumier presented his written report which mostly has been snow removal. Mr. Gill asked if the end of Spring St. snow could be pushed back a little further for better visibility. Dir. Beaumier asked that the Selectmen note on the report under Items for Discussion that the Department has in place a system for clearing the sidewalks within a few hours of the end of a storm making it safer for all, and providing clear walkways for children walking to school. This system is a first for Dixfield.

7. Old Business

a. Supt. White presented a request to adopt Meter and Pipe Specifications for the Dixfield Water Department. There have been no standards set and some piping used has not been of lasting quality. Setting guidelines for the standard of piping used would avoid many repairs.

Mr. Gill made a motion to approve the material and pipe specifications as presented. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and all were in favor.

b. Mr. Dave Cobb was present to discuss the pumper truck proposed to be purchased from his company, KME. Chief Dennett has recommended this truck. TM Puiia reported that going through the Bond Bank for a rate between 2 and 2 1/2% was the best terms for the town. Mr. Cobb responded to questions about warranties and repairs. He stated that there is a bumper to bumper warranty good for one year, following that, many of the components have warranties for different amounts of time. There is a repair shop in Hopkinton, Mass. But some items can be repaired closer to Dixfield or on the spot if the problem is known in advance. For those items under warranty, there is no pick up or delivery charge. If a repair is going to take an extended time, the Town would be sold a "loaner" for \$1.00 so it would fall under the town's insurance. Mr. Daley made a motion to approve the vendor KME at the recommendation of the Fire Chief. Mr. Gill seconded and all were in favor. Three copies of the contract were signed and the deposit will be paid from reserves. Time is of the essence to avoid an upcoming price increase.

c. Wind Energy Facility Ordinance. In the Selectmen's packets were two reports. One was from the U S Department of Energy provided by Dan McKay. The second was called "An Engineer Speaks" submitted by Mr. Daley. Some time was spent reading them by the Board members. Mr. Whittemore said that he had been reading and decided he would like to rescind his previous motion when he had asked that Section C. on infrasound be added to the Ordinance. He reported that he was comfortable with the Planning Board's version and would like to remove Section C. No one could remember who had seconded the motion so that they could rescind their second. TM Puiia said that since Mr. Gill had voted against it, he could make a motion to rescind. Mr. Gill made the motion, Mr. Belskis seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the Planning Board version of the WEF Ordinance with all the legal changes and

the sound restrictions of 45 decibels in the day time and 35 at night. Hart seconded the motion and the vote was 4-1 with Mr. Gill voting no. Mrs. Holmes said that she had talked to Andy Novey that afternoon and that Patriots Renewable could not build wind towers with those decibel levels and that they would go away. The subject will be brought up at the next Planning Board Meeting on Feb. 19 at 5:30pm. Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Daley were upset that the folks in attendance still were not satisfied with reverting to the Planning Board's version, and moved to end the discussion Mr. McKay asked to have the current version put on the town website.

d. Sewer Budget: The sewer budget has been reduced due to an error concerning the interest of the large bond. This calendar year must have a hearing and raise the rates. Mr. Daley made a motion to go before the public at a hearing to accept the budget with a revenue increase. It was seconded by Mr. Whittemore, all were in favor.

8. New Business

a. There has been a request for a temporary service variance for the sewer at 22 Fairbanks Ave. This has been asked for previously for this property and been denied. Town policy states that a flat fee (minimum) must be paid and all other requests have been denied. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to deny the variance, Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and the vote was 4-1 with Mr. Gill opposed.

b. There was a request made by Steve Swan to give a new name to a summit in Dixfield. Mr. Swan had contacted the US Board of Geographic Names and there was none listed except "Paul's Bluff" which he interpreted as the name of the bluff only. He wanted to suggest that the summit be named for his father "Sonny" Swan. Mr. Daley asked who owned the land. It happened that the owner, Grayson Child was in the audience and said that this was the first that he had heard of this request and he said that it was always called "Paul's Bluff". A man named Will Paul had owned it at one time. Mr. Daley recommended that the item be tabled until Mr. Child has an opportunity to look into it.

c. Police Department Operations: Chair Belskis said that at the Police merger meetings he has gone to, he learned that the pay scale for reserve officers in Dixfield is far lower than the other towns. He questioned whether there should be a re-structuring of the pay scale to be able to get more reserves and pay less overtime. Acting Chief Jeff Howe was present to answer questions. There are "blue pin" and "green pin" officers on the reserve list and all are getting \$11-12 per hour. He felt that the fully trained "blue pins" should get more per hour than the less trained "green pins". Aaron Jamison asked if the "blue pins" should receive equal to a starting officers pay. Mrs. Holmes asked if there were benefits and was told not for reserves.

9. Other Business: The Feb. 3 Selectmen's Budget Meeting was postponed until Tues Feb. 17 at 6:00pm. Following meetings will use the previous schedule.

10. Public Correspondence: Three items were listed and copies given to Selectmen. One was a recent Letter to the Editor by Don Lutick, one a copy of the financial benefits that Mars Hill has received from having wind in their town and the other from Eustis listing the benefits they receive.

11. Board Questions and Comments: Chair Belskis asked if Mr. Gill had any remarks and he reported that he felt that the Board of Selectmen needed a Code of Ethics. Mr. Whittemore, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Belskis had no comments. Mr. Daley referenced

the Wind Ordinance. He stated that with the first Ordinance, the use of the Planning Board was completely eviscerated by the Board of Selectmen at that time. The second Ordinance from the Planning Board there was a public outcry with the amendments by the Board. After the defeat of the second version of the ordinance, there was a public outcry to go back to the Planning Board's version. Mr. Whittemore changed his motion to revert to the Planning Board version, and there is still a public outcry that it is not good enough. He said listening and going with the Planning Board is right.

12. FYI: Added to the FYI on the Agenda were that the Town Office will be closed Monday Feb. 16 and the dates for the RSU 10 meetings in Rumford (Mar. 10) and Buckfield (Mar. 24)

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Monday, Feb. 23 at 5:30pm at the Ludden Library.

14: Adjournment: Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn at 6:55pm, seconded by Mr. Whittemore, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc