

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Interim Police Chief Jeff Howe, Highway Dir. Calvin Beaumier, Leo Jolin.

Citizens present: Peter and Lori Holman, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Jeff Knight, Jarred Luczynski, Donald and Susan Lutick, Mike Palmer, Mrs. Mitchell, Royal and Vickie Swan, Eugene Skibitsky, Aaron Jamison, and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens:

Press present: WVAC tv 7

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Belskis opened the meeting at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Adjustments

a. to 4. a add #87

b. to 4. b add #86

c. add #4

d. to 9 add Boston Post Cane

e. Letter from Dixfield to DOT

f. to 10 add dbA tests from Susan Holmes

g. to 20 add communication from Tom Carroll via Andrea Child

3. Minutes: Mr. Daley made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

4. Warrants and Payroll

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

5. Public Comments: Dan McKay asked if the referendum vote could have one number to vote for but list the two recommendations of the Board and the Finance Committee. He was informed the ballot will have both numbers available for the voter to read. There was discussion of the legality of having two sets of voting (one at the town meeting and one at the referendum). Mr. McKay suggested that the Town Meeting Body be allowed to place advisory voted recommendations on the ballot. There was discussion about Straw Poll questions at the polls. TM Puiia asked that they email their questions to him.

b. Mr. Daley expressed that the sound reports that they were given were done by phones and not by an expert, and all were taken on the same day.

c. Peter Holman noted that the Wind Project would pay about the same amount of taxes that Irving pays.

d. Mike Palmer said that he had an opportunity to speak to some residents of Mars Hill and they said that their taxes initially went down for about 3 years and then went back up. He also noted that homes were not selling.

e. Sue Holmes reported that she had spoken to officials in the town of Mars Hill and they indicated that there have been no complaints and that homes are selling.

f. Hart mentioned that the taxes in Roxbury, Freedom and Woodstock had gone down initially but did go back up

6. Department Head Reports

a. Public Works: Lancaster St. Project bids were presented by Director Beaumier. EL Vining did not submit a bid as requested. A E Hodsdon had given the Town an estimate of what to expect for prices. There were bids from Spencers and Stevenson and one from Manzer. The High/Pine St. Reconstruction project bid opening has been moved from March 31 to April 3. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the bid from Manzer which was seconded by Mr. Gill. Four were in favor and one abstained. Mr. Mitchell had a relative among the bidders.

7. Old Business:

a. Police Dept. Budget. The money for the salary of the 5th officer for the last year of the grant had been put in the Executive Budget. Mr. Belskis had previously recommended \$368,981. Mr. Gill made that a motion and Mr. Whittemore seconded. Mr. Daley recused himself from voting on the Police Budget. The vote was 2-2 with Mr. Gill and Mr. Whittemore for and Mr. Belskis and Mr. Mitchell against. The vote failed. Mr. Mitchell moved the amount of \$328,003 and Mr. Belskis seconded. The vote was again 2-2 in the same split. Mr. Gill proposed \$360,000 and Mr. Whittemore seconded with the vote remaining the same 2-2. Mr. Mitchell moved the number \$342,598 and the vote remained 2-2.

c. Planning Board Vacancies. Mr. Daley recommended Mike Palmer and Mr. Mitchell seconded the nomination. The vote was 4-1 with Mr. Gill opposed. It was announced that Tom Childs had also resigned leaving a total of 3 openings. Mr. Whittemore nominated Jared Lucynski and Mr. Gill seconded the nomination. The vote was 5 for none against. Mr. Belskis nominated Lauren Hebert and Mr. Whittemore seconded. The vote was 4-0 with one abstention. Susan Holmes questioned what about the alternate, Mr. Ricky Davis, and the Board took no action. Mr. Davis voiced his distress over the oversight and resigned.

d. Finance Committee Vacancy. Mr. Whittemore recommended Sharon Gilsleider, Mr. Daley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

e. Mr. Gill asked that **the Board re-visit the Highway Budget** and said that the Board should not make a 10% cut without justifying the cuts. Mr. Daley made a motion to raise \$536,270 and Mr. Whittemore seconded. The vote was 4-1 with Mr. Mitchell opposed.

f. The Board revisited 7 b. Police Operations. There is a meeting scheduled for the day following this meeting with the Mexico Police department. Mr. Gill expressed his concern over not being notified about the meeting. All other members of the Board had been contacted. The interim Chief was not included either. Mr. Mitchell said that "Change has to be forced, the status quo doesn't work." Mr. Belskis moved to raise \$355,000 and Mr. Mitchell seconded. The vote was 4-0 with Mr. Daley abstaining.

8. New Business

a. Wind Ordinance. Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the Ordinance as amended by the Planning Board with the 35 night and 45 daytime sound levels. Mr. Gill asked for an amendment to the motion to 42 night and 55 day. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Belskis. The vote was 4 against and Mr. Gill in favor. The Board returned to Mr. Daley's motion and the vote was 4 in favor and Mr. Gill opposed.

b. Mr. Daley made a motion to place the recall ordinance on the June ballot and Mr. Mitchell seconded. Mrs. Holmes asked if it contained the 15% of voters of the last gubernatorial election must be on a petition and was told yes. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

c. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the AVCOG ballot as presented, Mr. Daley seconded the motion and all were in favor

d. Mr. Whittemore asked what are the qualifications for the appointment of a Building Inspector and was told that the person must be certified by the state. Mr. Mitchell said why did we have to have both a CEO and a Building Inspector and was told it was a state mandate and each position has different job descriptions. There was concern over whether this required more wages and Mr. Beaumier explained it was like the Town Manager having several different job titles but only one salary. Mr. Daley made a motion to approve Mr. Beaumier as the Building Inspector and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

e. Town Warrant: In reviewing the Warrant, the Board agreed to change the amount on the Public Works request and add the agreed upon number for the Police Budget. Mr. Belskis proposed that the Board begin putting away some money in reserves for a revaluation of the Town. It was last done in 2008 and cost approximately \$130,000. He suggested that an amount of \$20,000 be set aside each year till the revaluation would be done. Mr. Dennett of the Finance Committee said they had moved the \$25,086 for the loader to debt service and that amount could be left in the Reserves for the re-val. Mr. Gill made a motion to ask for \$247,000 in the Reserve Account with \$25,000 of that amount to be put in a re-val account. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and the vote was all in favor. Mr. Daley moved to accept the warrant with the changes made in this meeting and Mr. Whittemore seconded. The vote was 4-1 with Mr. Gill opposed. Mr. Whittemore asked that there be a Straw Poll question to explore withdrawal from RSU 10. Mr. Daley seconded and all were in favor.

9. Other Business: none

10. Public Correspondence:

a. Mr. Holman noted that change will increase the taxes and changing the wind vote could help with that.

b. Dixfield has sent a letter to DOT to put the town in touch with chances to purchase used equipment.

c. The Boston Post Cane will be awarded to Fred Weld who is 95 years old.

d. Tom Carroll sent an email to Andrea Child to ask to be put on the Agenda for the next regular meeting to speak on the proposed sound limits and the effects such limits may have on a proposed project. Mr. Grayson Child commented that the ordinance they are sending for a June vote is the same one that was defeated last November.

11. Public Comment and Board Questions/Comments

a. Mr. Gill wished to offer thanks to Tom Childs, Craig Coulthard, Richard Pickett and Ricky Davis for working on the wind ordinance and accepted their resignations with regret.

b. There were no other Board comments.

12. FYI: as noted on Agenda

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

14. Executive sessions: Mr. Daley made a motion for the Board to go in to executive session at 8:50 pm for a. and b. on the Agenda pursuant to 1 MRS§405(6)(A) for two Personnel Matters. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all were in favor. Item a. included Citizen Eugene Skibitsky in attendance.

- a. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. Mr. Daley made a motion to compensate Eugene and Leslie Skibitsky for damages incurred from the Bradley Street Pump Station failure. Seconded by Mr. Whittemore and all were in favor.
- b. The Chair declared the Board back in Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. with Town CEO Calvin Beaumier and Citizen John Volkernick, Jr. The Chair declared the Board out at 9:37 p.m. Mr. Daley Made the motion to assess John Volkernick Jr. a Shoreland Zoning Penalty of \$100.00 plus \$168.00 for his portion of a Forestry Study paid for by the Town. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all were in favor.

15. Adjournment: Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc