

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES - CORRECTED  
MONDAY, April 27, 2015, 5:30 PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Dave Beecham of Ted Berry.

Citizens present: Peter Holman, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Mrs. Mitchell, Royal Swan, 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 5:32 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Agenda Adjustments**

a. to 4. a add #98

b. to 4. b add #97

**3. Minutes:** Mr. Daley made a motion to table the minutes to the next meeting and Mr. Mitchell seconded. The vote was 3-1 with Mr. Gill against.

**4. Warrants and Payroll**

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

- 1. Old Business: Dave Beecham of Ted Berry Co.:** Hall Hill Pump Station Evaluation. In 2012, AE Hodsdon said funds were needed to make an evaluation to make any needed upgrades, \$10,000 was put aside of which approximately \$7500 to do the job. AE Hodsdon will review the flow data and evaluate the current condition. They will clean the wet well to be able to get inside to check. A report will be made of the mechanical and building components and would be able to assess a time frame for making repairs. Mr. Daley made a motion to allow funding not to exceed \$10,000 to do the work. Mr. Gill seconded and all were in favor.

**6. New Business:**

- a. Municipal Quitclaim Deed without Covenants for Map 2 Lot 5.

This item and item b are cleaning up addresses and map documentation on these deeds.

Mr. Daley made a motion to accept a corrected quitclaim deed without covenant Map 2

Lot 5. Mr. Gill seconded the motion. Mr. Mitchell asked to abstain

because the

landowner is a cousin of his wife. Vote 3 in favor, 1 abstention.

b. Municipal Quitclaim Deed without Covenant for Map 17 Lot 13A.

There is still a claim for 2014 taxes on this property. Mr. Daley made a motion to accept a Maine Short Form Quit Claim deed without covenant as in book 500 pg 185. Mr.

Mitchell seconded the motion and all present were in favor.

c. Planning Board Vacancy. Tim Kelly has resigned from the Planning Board. Mr. Gill

nominated Rick Davis Mr. Daley seconded and the vote was 4-0. Mr. Gill nominated

Jeff Knight who had applied earlier. Mr. Daley seconded the motion pending he is still willing to serve and that he is aware he is an alternate. Vote was 4-0.

**1. Other Business:** None

**2. Public Correspondence:** None

**3. Public Comment:**

a. Peter Holman asked if it was “right” to put the Ordinance out for vote knowing that if it was accepted that windpower would not be possible. In response to comments by the Board that some people are benefiting financially to back windpower Peter said yes he was getting a small amount of money which was going directly to his taxes, and the amount he receives is miniscule compared to what the town could receive. Mr. Daley said this will all be discussed at the hearing on May 7. Mr. Daley said there is no conflict of interest until or unless he signs some kind of agreement with the wind company in which case he would step back.

b. Mrs. Holmes asked if the Selectmen had copies of the sound map of Col. Holman now and they said yes they did.

She noted that as Mr. Carroll said, there would be 60 properties that would be affected and have to be dealt with at 35 decibels as compared to one property at the state limit of 42 decibels. Mr. Daley said that he wanted to see new maps which reflect the change from the original 13 towers to the current estimate of 6. The topic of Conflict of Interest was suggested by Mrs. Holmes who asked for a legal ruling whether it applied in this case. Chair Belskis remarked, “That goes back to me talking about the ethics committee last week. Because I think that if you start in on one there is a whole background to look back into how this has gone all along since this has been started which is why I brought it up. If we're going to look into one spot we should look back to them all and there are people associated with this from start to finish that have put things by their own bias forward and have not done things as they should have ethically. (They) have family members that may have gained somewhere along the line this is a whole big ball of wax.” Mrs. Holmes asked “Are you talking about this project in Dixfield?” and Chair Belskis replied “Yes, you are talking about this project right now.” Chair Belskis continued “Anybody who has been an employee of the town who's collected money or a check or whatever that has been involved from start to finish on this. What you are asking is one person to be held accountable to one standard but nobody else who's ever dealt with this.

That was my whole intent last week about talking about putting an ethics committee together. I have no problem looking into it at all, but as long as we go back through everything that has been done. That would be, you know, my suggestion about putting an ethics committee together. In other words, you're asking one person to be checked. I'm asking anybody who's taking money from the town on behalf of town employment or however, to be looked at too who's been involved with this project.” Mrs. Holmes remarked “You're the ones who have the vote and you're the ones that have promoted the Ordinance. If somebody works for the town, what does that have to do with making the Ordinance?” Chair Belskis answered “How did the Ordinance get here? We didn't put this Ordinance together this Board. It was put before the people.” Mrs. Holmes said “I don't understand this.” She was told by Mr. Belskis “Like I said, May 7 there will be discussion.

c. Mrs. Clarke spoke to the Board about her concern of the repeated reference that if you were for wind, you were receiving some monetary “reward”. She said that the only money that had come to the town was for legal fees and that is what it was used for. Not one of the people speaking for wind has received any money except for Mr. Holman which was through a legal agreement.

d. Chair Belskis asked if there were any more comments and Mr. Gill replied I have one, were your referring to me? Chair Belskis said “Not at all.” Mrs. Holmes interjected “It certainly looked like it.” Mr. Gill continued “Because I was accused of having a conflict of interest because I have two cousins I haven't seen for 10 years who live in New Hampshire, but own land in Carthage.” “He did it”, indicating Mr. Mitchell, “He put in in the paper. He wrote it under an article in the paper.” Mr. Mitchell replied “I don't recall that” to which Mr. Gill replied “I do.” and Mr. Mitchell said “I don't think so.” Mr. Gill said “I don't think living in Dixfield, having 2 cousins I haven't seen in 10 years makes me have a conflict of interest with windmills in this town. Mr. McKay mentioned it and Mr. Tibbetts, like I was gaining money.” Mr. Gill then addressed Chair Belskis and said “So, when you make vague things like that you haul in a lot of people.” Mr. McKay followed with an inappropriate remark and was stopped by the Chairman.

#### **1. Board Questions and Comments:**

Mr. Gill—passed

Mr. Mitchell—Mr. Mitchell stated that Tom Carroll said at a Planning Board meeting that he had no problem with and would be okay with the Woodstock Ordinance, which has a 35 decibel level, and he and Mr. Belskis were there. He offered to copy Mr. Tibbett's tape for Mrs. Holmes.

Mr. Daley—Mr. Daley noted he would save his comments for May 7

Mr. Belskis—Mr. Belskis said he would wait also.

- 1. FYI:** There will be a Special Town Meeting on April 30 for action on the RSU 10 Withdrawal and the Property Tax Levy Limit. Mr. Daley asked what the costs will be, there will be no numbers until the research was done. Mr. Gill said all of that must be negotiated. Mr. Belskis said information must be gathered by the Withdrawal Committee. Mr. Swan asked if all 4 of the original SAD 21 towns must stay together and Mr. Belskis said yes. There will be a year following successful negotiations to

make the transition.

The hearing on the Wind and Recall ordinances are on May 7 at 6:00 at the High School.

1. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Monday, May 11 at 5:30pm at the Ludden Library.
2. **Executive sessions:** An executive Session on a personnel matter was scheduled but prior to the motion, Mrs. Clarke asked to have it held in open meeting. It was agreed to postpone the session to the next Selectmen's meeting on May 11. Mrs. Clarke asked if the concerns was with the minutes and if so, had not all of the minutes prior to April 13, 2015 been accepted with changes to only two. They agreed and so it appears that the questions concern the minutes which had been tables. Mr. Gill requested that Mrs. Clarke be given information about what the session would be about prior to the meeting.
3. **Adjournment:** Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn at 6:35. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary  
nhc/nhc