

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, May 11, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Present: Board of Selectmen, Chair Belskis, Malcolm Gill, Hart Daley, and Norman Mitchell. Dana Whittemore was late and arrived at 6:10.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Calvin Beaumier, Jeff Howe, Leo Jolin.

Citizens present: Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Mrs. Mitchell, Royal Swan, Aaron Jamison, Jared Luczynski, Mr. and Mrs. Don Lutick, Walter Newman, Silver and Angela Varnum, and note taker Norine Clarke

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 #102

b. to 4. b add #101

3. Minutes: Mr. Daley made a motion to discuss the minutes under Agenda item 14 a. and Mr. Mitchell seconded. Mr. Gill objected. The vote was 3-1 with Mr. Gill against.

4. Warrants and Payroll

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

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Public Works: Highway Director apologized for not having a complete report but he could not access it from the computer. He announced that he would be resigning as of Friday, May 22, 2015 because he had accepted another job offer. He will remain active as the Code Enforcement Officer and will be available on Fridays.

The Lancaster Project is marked and "dig-safed". Pine and High St. has equipment arriving and fliers have been distributed to the residents.

Spring Cleaning is nearly complete.

Lawn edges damaged by plowing have been repaired.

The cemeteries are cleaned.

The Legion has put up new flags.

Weld St.: The DOT is going to do a 3/4inch overlay and Mr. Beaumier asked them about rebuilding the shoulders. They agreed. This should save the town about \$50,000 or more. The sidewalk on the west side of Weld St. is in disrepair and scheduled for replacement. It is about 1000 feet long from the Bangor Bank to the Wiles Funeral Home. This sidewalk was put in when the Town had the grant for the new sewer installation. Mr. Beaumier said that the Board needs to look at the sidewalk to decide to remove (in favor

of extra parking) or replace. The decision has to be made in conjunction with the DOT work. He gave estimates of \$42/foot for concrete and \$29.9/foot for asphalt. Mr. Mitchell asked about grading Severy Hill and was told it was on the schedule for right after spring clean-up.

Because the budget is not complete, Craig's truck has not had any work done on it. If a new one is to be purchased time must be allowed for its preparation.

Mr. Belskis asked about culverts and Mr. Beaumier said that several are planned with those which were purchased at a bulk-rate and paid for last year. They are here and ready. No money was budgeted for culverts this year because of this purchase.

Mr. Gill rose and shook Mr. Beaumier's hand and told him he was sorry to see him leave and appreciated all he had done for the town.

b. Police Department:

Chief Howe had not arrived yet so this was moved ahead on the agenda.

6. Old Business:

The appointments of Ricky Davis and Jeff Knight to the Planning Board had not been endorsed yet and so the Selectmen signed the appointment papers.

7. New Business:

a. The cemetery policy which was updated as of March 1, 2015 has passed its notification date and now needs to be endorsed. Selectmen signed the policy.

b. The selectmen agreed to sign an allonge (extension) for the General Obligation Note from the drinking water fund at the recommendation of lawyer Lee Bragg. The note is for \$827,271 @ 3% at the Municipal Bond Bank. This bond will have to be repaid out of the Dixfield Public Water Budget. The motion must be made exactly as worded by Mr. Bragg.

Mr. Daley read the motion to amend the \$827,271 General Obligation Note dated May 22, 2014, and awarded to Maine Municipal Bond Bank, Augusta, Maine, by changing the maturity date to May 22, 2016, as shown on the attached Allonge, which is hereby adopted as if fully stated herein, and further to authorize the Treasurer and Chair of the Select Board to execute said Allonge and all other documents necessary to complete said amendment. All other terms and conditions as stated in said General Obligation Note will remain the same. Chair Belskis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

At this point Chief Howe had arrived and the Board agreed to go back to Agenda item 5b. It was announced that Chief Howe had been appointed full time police chief and he expressed his thanks and appreciation for the opportunity. He said he had worked in the department in Dixfield since 1999 and felt that the program had made great steps. He said he would like to hear from the community about what they want from the department. "Us against them" in the community and in the Police Department does not work he said. He said there had been an overdraft in the budget due to the outfitting of a new cruiser. \$1000 of it will be returned to the town via an insurance claim. Chair Belskis asked about insurance covering those expenses and wondered if that was why they were short.

The Bureau of Highway Safety has awarded a “Seat Belt Grant”. The Chief encouraged all to use their seat belts. The Department has also received an “Impaired Driving Grant”. Accident rates have risen recently so they are going to try more enforcement. He reported that interviews will be underway soon for the position of Lieutenant. Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any in-house applicants and TM Puiia said they can not report that. The Chief said there was a good pool of applicants. When they are back at full staff, they will go back on to the Cops Grant.

Back to 7c.

c. Invitation to Kristin Collins to address WEF ordinance:

TM Puiia called Ms. Collins but she was not available. Mr. Mitchell asked to question her about the 2012 election being illegal. TM Puiia wanted to ask her about the “intent” of the Ordinance. Mr. Whittemore asked what it would cost to have her come here and TM Puiia said \$800-\$1000. Chair Belskis said that there was still money in the Wind Energy account which could cover the cost. May 26 (Tuesday) is the next Selectmen's meeting. TM Puiia said that if anyone wanted to submit a question to her, it should be at the Town Office by Friday of this week and he would submit them to her for written answers. Mr. Gill noted that Maine Municipal had recommended her originally.

d. Oddfellow's and Rebekah's scholarships:

Mr. Daley asked that the student whose application was missing a page be allowed to complete the forms. It was found that the page was available, and that Mr. Daley did not have a complete copy. Mr. Gill reported that last year the money was divided equally among the applicants so that all got something. This year there is \$2100 available to 16 applicants. Mr. Daley requested that all applicants be posted and that Peru students need to be included in the list of towns from which students are eligible. There was discussion whether the scholarship awards should be larger and given to fewer. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to divide the money equally among the applicants. Mr. Daley seconded the motion and the vote was 4-1 with Mr. Whittemore opposed.

e. Safe Routes sidewalk:

This project is now scheduled to begin in 2016. The 20% match which was originally \$83,000 will now be about \$140,000 and has been increasing due to rising costs. It has been delayed by lack of state funding, and in completing surveys and rights of way, and checking water, sewer and utilities. This project may have to be scaled back.

f. Review of MRS Title 30-A §2605 Conflicts of Interest:

Mr. Mitchell interpreted the information to be concerned with money. Mr. Daley said if he were to be offered a contract by a wind company he would have to declare it to the Board. Angela Varnum asked if the Board would do an ethics policy. A motion was made by Mr. Gill to have Mr. Puiia look into an ethics policy and Mr. Mitchell seconded it. Mr. Whittemore asked if it should be for all employees. Mr. Jamison suggested that the 35 decibel level in the new version of the Ordinance puts Mr. Daley in the position to have a conflict. It was also asked if it should include Boards and Committees. Mr. Gill asked to amend his motion to include Boards and Committees and Mr. Mitchell agreed to amend his second. The vote was unanimous.

8. Other Business: none.

9. Public Correspondence: as stated on Agenda

10. Public Comment:

- a. Ricky Davis asked if the \$800,000 loan was part of the money for the funding for the High St. project and was told yes.
- b. Mr. Jamison asked if the town had dropped its efforts to save money and was told no. Mr. Belskis said they must do the budget first, and that maybe they could drop a person from the road crew.
- c. Mr. McKay asked if in future budgets could the Selectmen offer two choices of amounts.
- d. Mr. Lutick asked how Mr. Mitchell can lead an anti wind group and be on the Board. Mr. Mitchell noted it had been in process since 2009 as a result of an illegal warrant.

11. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr.s Mitchell, Whittemore, Gill and Daley had no remarks. Mr. Belskis noted that he never used the words “monetary concerns” as was mentioned in the minutes. He said that in reference to a petition not being accepted by a former Board, that a legal opinion should not keep a Board from accepting a petition.

12. FYI: as stated on Agenda

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be held on a Tuesday because of the Monday Holiday. The meeting will be Tues. May 26 at 5:30 at the Ludden Library.

14. Executive Session:

a. Discussion on meeting minutes with Secretary tabled from April 27, 2015 open session per her request: (Secretary was unable to record this session.)

b. Pursuant to MTS 30-A §405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter with Town Manager: Mr. Daley made the motion and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Belskis declared the Board out at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Daley made a motion to approve a three year contract, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, with Mr. Puiia as our Town Manager. Seconded by Mr. Whittemore. All were in favor.

15. Adjournment: Mr. Daley made the motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., seconded by Mr. Whittemore. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted with exceptions,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc