

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

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

Absent: Dana Whittemore.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia.

Citizens present: Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Mrs. Mitchell, Royal Swan, Aaron Jamison, Peter Holman, Jeffrey Knight, and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens: Mary Morrison, Business Manager of RSU 10

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 #106
- b. to 4. b add #105
- c. postpone 7 d
- d. repair of Library front steps

3. Mary Dailey, Bus. Mgr. RSU 10: Mrs. Dailey handed copies of the Town Assessment information to the Selectmen, Town Manager and Secretary. Citizens will receive copies of page 1 in the mail. She answered questions from the Board concerning Dixfield assessment and showed where to find answers. The figures included the assessments from all other towns in RSU 10 except Carthage in some instances because they are in Franklin County. This structure stays the same only if Dixfield stays in RSU 10. Helpful information can be found on line by accessing ED 279.

4. Minutes: After the Board took some time looking them over Mr. Gill made a motion to accept the minutes of April 13, and 27 and May 11 with corrections. Chair Belskis seconded. All present were in favor.

5. Warrants and Payroll:

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

6. Old Business:

a. Update on Safe Routes to School. Because the local match is going up, TM Puiia contacted Mr. Laberge and he can come to the next meeting. The total commitment to the projects is now \$615,000. The Selectmen asked how that has affected the local share and Sec. Clarke referred the Board to the minutes of May 11, section 7 e. One of the

questions they will ask Mr. Laberge is whether the project could be scaled back because of rising costs. Mr. Swan asked who has been postponing the project and was told the State. He asked why they were not required to stick to their original request and was told that Federal funding may slow down which then delays the project. Mr. McKay said these are engineer estimates only and were not given to a contractor. Engineer estimates, he said, are usually low and references the Thaddeus White Bridge. He suggested that the project may have to be scaled back after the contractors have bid on the project.

b. TM Puiia read aloud the questions and answers sent to and received from Kristen Collins.

c. Corrective Deed. One of the deeds signed at an earlier meeting (Map 2 Lot 5) did not show all of the necessary information so the TM requested that the Board sign a corrected one. Mr. Holman asked for an explanation and was told that the deed had to include what was wrong with the previous one and the changes in the new one. The corrected deed was signed.

7. New Business:

a. Parks and Recreation Committee volunteers. TM Puiia looked for information on how members are chosen for the Parks and Rec. committee or a set of by-laws and was unable to find any references. There are some folks now volunteering but are not considered members. Members in the past had served for seven year terms. These new volunteers have filled out the required applications. Mr. Daley made a motion to allow the volunteers to continue until a legal ruling can be made whether they can be appointed or must be elected. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all Board members present agreed.

b. Town Report Dedication: The name proposed for the dedication was Richard Pickett. Mr. Daley made a motion to dedicate the Town Report to Richard Pickett. Mr. Gill seconded and all present were in favor.

c. Public Works Department Head Vacancy: TM Puiia said that he had researched the information used the last time a Department Head had been hired and recommended that the hiring committee should have at least two selectmen as members. Mr. Gill made a motion to table the discussion to the next meeting and Mr. Daley seconded. All present were in favor. Currently Randy Glover is the working foreman.

d. Sewer rate postponed.

8. Other Business:

a. A discussion was held whether or not the next meeting of the Board should be postponed to after the election on June 9 or held on June 8 as scheduled. Mr. Belskis objected to changing it because one selectman was absent and that Mr. Laberge was able to come to that meeting. Three of the present Selectmen agreed and Mr. Gill opposed.

b. The front steps of the Library are in need of repair. The steps are granite but the platform needs to be replaced and it is concrete. There are also wrought iron railings which may need to be replaced. There have been two bids but it is not clear about whether the rails are included if they need to be replaced. Mr. Belskis recused himself because he knows both of the contractors. The discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

9. Public Correspondence: TM Puiia announced that a letter had been received from the DOT that Pike has been awarded the paving contract for project #022010.00 which is partly in Dixfield. Mr. Belskis asked if it was the Weld St. project because he wondered

if the sensors could be repaired at the lights. This is not that project.

10. Public Comment:

Mr. Holman asked about TIFs and the possibility of a 100% TIF which shelters the money. Mr. Daley said that doing that pushes our share to other towns. He requested that Mike Rogers be invited to come back to interpret for the town. Mr. Belskis said the State is lowering the amounts of aid. Mr. Mitchell said if you put in water and sewer with TIF money then you have to maintain it and the money must be used for something that will bring in business. Mr. Gill said there is no business coming, the wind company has withdrawn. Two towns in the old SAD 21 district already have windmills. Mrs. Holmes asked if it is done prior to the business coming and was told that you had to establish the TIF before the business comes. TIF Districts are created for economic development purposes. A TIF or TIF District must be pre-approved through the State of Maine's Department of Economic Development (DECED). Such a process usually incurs legal fees for the Town. Mr. Child asked for a copy of the questions to the lawyer and was given one. Mr. McKay asked about the town budget. Can money be saved from the Police Department? The response was that there is a full department now and the other towns must vote on their choices first. He also asked if there was an opportunity to save money in the highway department and was told yes there was an option to reduce staff. For instance there could be a working foreman who reported to the Road Commissioner (Town Manager). He asked if there was a prohibitive area in the Wind Ordinance and was told that the changes to the comprehensive plan took that away. Mrs. Holmes noted that there is no zoning. Mr. Holman asked if there was a conservation easement and Mr. Daley said not until the landowner approaches the town for relief. Mr. Gill remarked that the Comprehensive Plan is a plan only, and that there is no zoning in Dixfield except for Shoreland Zoning. Mrs. Clarke approached the Board and said that while the lawyer did not say that it was illegal for Board Members to name call or denigrate citizens on Social Media, that it did not seem very professional behavior for Selectmen. Mr. Mitchell said he did not think it was fair to bring up things from the past and that he did not say those remarks while he was a selectman. Mr. Gill said he should take responsibility for it. Mr. Belskis watched a video of an old planning board meeting where two people stood behind their decisions and two people changed their mind. He felt that behavior took away from the professionalism. The Select Board agreed to take back the infrasound restrictions. On Oct. 14 they asked about the 35 decibels and it went back to the Planning Board. He felt that if the Wind Company had been up front, this would have been done and we wouldn't be getting bits and pieces 2 years later.

11. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Gill and Mr. Belskis had no remarks. Mr. Daley said he would like to urge people that it is illegal to remove or destroy elections signs. Mr. Gill added that it was a \$250.00 fine for removing them.

12. FYI: as stated on Agenda

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, June 8, at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library.

14. Executive Session:

Pursuant to MRS 30-A §405(6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations: Mr.

Daley made the motion and Mr. Mitchell seconded at 7:29. All present were in favor. Mr. Belskis declared the Board out of Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Daley made the motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Dixfield and the Teamsters Union Local 340 for the Police Patrol Unit. It was seconded by Mr. Gill and all were in favor.

15. Adjournment: Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc