

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, June 8, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Jim White, Chief Howe, Leo Jolin, and Randy Glover.

Citizens present: Grayson Child, Mrs. Mitchell, Royal Swan, Aaron Jamison, Peter and Lori Holman, Don and Susan Lutick, Walter Newman, Tim Martin, and note taker Norine Clarke. Also present, 2 women and 1 man unidentified.

Non- Citizens: none

Press present: WVAC tv 7 and Matt Daigle of the Lewiston Sun.

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. cancel #5, speaker unable to be present (TM Puiia handed out maps and copies of the town vote.)
- b. #8 b. Sewer rate postponed
- c. to 4 a. add #110
- d. to 4 b. add #109
- e. to # 6 add c. Public Works
- f. to # 13 add Town Office closed at noon June 30, 2015 to close Budget Year.

3. Minutes: Mr. Whittemore abstained because he was absent on May 26, 2015. Mr. Daley dictated to TM Puiia some additions to the discussion on TIFs to #10 Public comments, Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the minutes with additions and Mr. Gill seconded. Those voting were unanimously in favor.

4. Warrants and Payroll:

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

5. MDOT: Postponed to a later meeting.

6. Department Head Reports:

a. Water Department: Jim White

He reported that since he was last at a meeting in February there were 13 freeze-ups requiring thawing of the lines. The water mains have been flushed and a hydrant on the corner of Blayne and Brackett Streets has been replaced. It was hit by a pick-up truck that did not stop and has cost \$2500 to replace. A water audit has been done and there was a

loss of 28,000 gallons per day that could not be accounted for. Irving Mill was part of it but the remainder has yet to be tracked down. He met with Foreman Glover and the DOT project person about the section of Rt. 2 going out from the Dixfield Garage. There is a concrete culvert that will need to be moved and will affect next year's budget. The Weld St. overlay by the DOT will be done in the middle of August. In the part of the project on Coburn Ave. they discovered a valve which had never been turned on which added \$1,000 to the cost of the project. The High St/Pine St. project bid came in lower than expected and the question is whether to do the section from Rowe St to High St. They have decided to continue to in front of the Irving lot but not to include the last two houses, a distance of 170 feet, which would cost an additional \$33,000. He said those two houses have good water pressure and quality and have copper pipe. Howard St. was not originally part of the project but because there are problems and that there will be money left in the contingency fund, they would like to include it. In July there will need to be an assessment made about whether a rate increase must be considered.

Mr. Gill made a motion to allow Howard St. to be added into the project using the money left in the contingency account. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all were in favor. Mr. Gill asked how much more of the old system was left and Mr. White said that all the way from Coburn Ave. up to and including "the Development."

b. Police Dept.:

Chief Howe handed out the reports for March and April and noted that as expected, the number of reports is climbing. The Seat Belt program was successful and issues were less. He reported that they are closer to filling the position and were waiting for one more reference which arrived today, so the final interviews can begin. The legal fees which were assessed to the Department were much higher than planned and the current budget has suffered. He has not purchased any supplies and this will impact the new budget. He requested that \$300 to \$400 would get him through until the new budget year. Mr. Gill made a motion to give permission to allow TM Puiia and Chief Howe to adjust the budget to get the funds needed for supplies. It was seconded by Mr. Daley and the vote was all in favor.

Mr. Belskis said that Chief Howe had done a good job keeping overtime down during this period with one less officer. Chief Howe said that the current OUI detail is covered by a state grant. He had checked with Ret. Chief Pickett about the overage on the replacement car and there was a \$1000 gap after it was completely outfitted. The replacement car however, was one year newer and the old one had had 20,000 miles on it.

c. Public Works:

Randy Glover represented the Highway Dept. as Working Foreman. There is a Highway Congress scheduled for Thursday. He came to remind the Board of what Mr. Beaumier had reported about the need to replace the 1993 International referred to as "Craig's truck" which needs extensive repairs. The issue is the timing of the order. Under regular circumstances, it takes 3 months to get a chassis which would cost \$91,000 and then another 3 months to get it outfitted with the dump body and plow. They have learned that Morrison's has a truck which can be purchased for \$87,720 which is ready to go to the outfitter (Fairfield). The combined cost for the in-stock truck and the set-up fee (\$67,228) is \$154,948. They are using tractor paint to upgrade the trucks they have and extend the

life of the trucks and bodies. The 2009 has been getting painted every 2 years which costs about \$100-\$200 for paint. The 2013 has a stainless steel body but it is just a shell and is already rusty. It will be painted when the 2009 is finished. The 1993 is a “mess”. If the budget is approved on Tues. June 9, the TM will call Morrison's and ask about the possibility of reserving that truck.

7. Old Business:

a. Library Stairs. Bid:

TM Puia had the explanation of the cost of the wrought iron railings from the contractor J and T Masonry and the bid stood at \$6300. Mr. Daley made a motion to accept the bid from J and T Masonry and Mr. Gill seconded. The vote was 4 in favor and Mr. Belskis abstained.

b. Public Works Department Head Vacancy:

Mr. Whittemore asked about keeping the job as a working foreman and whether it would need to go through the Union. TM Puia said now was a good time to have that discussion. Mr. Whittemore suggested that the foreman and the Town Manager could be paid a little extra to cover the Dept. Head's duties. Mr. Belskis suggested that it be tabled until after the elections were over. Mr. Gill remarked that he did not want to overburden the TM position. Mr. Jolin described what it was like when he was the Working Foreman and said it went fairly well except that they were shorthanded at the time.

8. Other Business:

a. Special Amusement Permit for American Legion Post 100:

The Legion asked for a permit for Bingo. Chief Howe said as far as he knew there had never been a problem. Mr. Whittemore made the motion to approve the request and Mr. Daley seconded it. All were in favor.

b. Postponed.

9. Other Business: none

10. Public Correspondence: none

11. Public Comment:

a. Tim Martin of High St approached the Board about damage that had been done to the corner of his lot by snowplows tearing up the grass and had not been fixed yet. Mr. Whittemore said that he understood that because of the weather, the loam source has been “soupy”. TM Puia said it would be brought up to standards. Mr. Martin also questioned whether 25 High St. which is owned by the Town would be coming down and was told that was the plan.

b. Mr. Holman noted that all of the budgets need more money and questioned if there was a plan for new business to help cover the costs. He also asked how much it was going to cost to maintain a new school district. Mr. Belskis said that is what the four committees (One from each participating town) will be discussing.

12. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Gill, Mr. Belskis, and Mr. Daley had no remarks. Mr. Whittemore said that he would be at the polls to collect voter comments.

13. FYI: as stated on Agenda

14. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, June 22 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library.

15. Adjournment:

Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc