

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, August 10, 2015, 5:30 PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**Present:** Board of Selectmen, Chair Daley, Malcolm Gill, Norman Mitchell, Dana Whittemore, Eugene Skibitsky was absent.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Chief Howe, new police Lt. Benjamin Gaudet, Randy Glover, Water Supervisor James White, David Beecham from Ted Berry.

Citizens present: Mrs. Mitchell, Peter and Lori Holman, Don Lutick, Walter Newman, Margaret St Cyr, Sue Holmes, Rick Davis, Richard Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. David Phair, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Holman, Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Hebert, Dan McKay, Jeff Knight, Andrea Gurney, Kenneth Rafuse, Mr. and Mrs. Gilsleider, one unidentified man, one unidentified woman, and note taker Norine Clarke.

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

**1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**2. PUBLIC HEARING Wind Power Moratorium:** Mr. McKay spoke to the fact that he had been fighting against wind power in Dixfield for six years and he said that it now seems clear to him that the majority of people in town are in favor of wind power. He felt that the local wind ordinance should be dropped in favor of the State DEP regulations in order to remove another layer of government.

Mrs. Holmes asked to have the time provisions of the Moratorium be explained. She was told that the current moratorium expires August 15. If voted to renew it, it would expire in Feb. of 2016. Mr. Daley said that there were no local issues to bring voters to the polls this Nov. and felt that the vote should be held at the June elections when there would be more issues to bring local voters out. TM Puiia explained that the ordinance on the books currently would still need to have a vote to repeal it in favor of the DEP regulations. Mr. McKay said he felt that voting was costing the taxpayers money and it was "beating a dead horse".

Mr. Hebert said that he was new to the Planning Board but felt that a ton of work has been done already and the majority likes the new version except for the decibel levels. He recommended extending the moratorium. Mr. Whittemore asked if the wind company would be represented at the Planning Board and was told yes. He felt that an acceptable level could be set. Mrs. Holmes said the State set the 42 night and 55 day levels and encouraged that they be accepted. The State has tested and set those levels. Mr. Mitchell said that the State had never tested sound levels. Mrs. Hebert said that there was a huge division in town and that it was not acceptable to harm anyone. She said the Town will get no returns from the mills and asked people not to give up their opposition to them.

Mr. Gill noted that he would vote against the moratorium because the wind company is not pursuing the project.

### **3. Agenda Adjustments**

- a. to 5a add #14
- b. to b add #13
- c. to 6d add #3 Lancaster St. drainage

**4. Minutes:** Mr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the July 17 minutes and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0 because Mr. Daley had been absent from that meeting. There was discussion of the July 20 minutes under Section 7, Old Business. Mr. Whittemore said that there were complimentary statements about Bev Glover as a candidate for the Withdrawal Committee but none were recorded about Mr. Belskis. It had been noted that he was good with numbers and was recommended by committee members. Mr. Mitchell said that the section about Mr. Gill reporting that several people approached him about having Mrs. Glover instead of Mr. Belskis it was hearsay. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to correct the minutes and accept them as corrected. Mr. Whittemore seconded and the vote was 4-0 (Mr. Skibitsky being absent).

### **5. 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.

### **6. Department Head Reports:**

- a. Chief Howe of the Dixfield PD was pleased to introduce the new Lt. on the force, Benjamin Gaudet, and remarked on his excellent background. They are now able to begin the last year of the Cops Grant. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to appoint Benjamin S. Gaudet to the Dixfield Police Department. It was seconded by Mr. Gill and all present were in favor. The appointment papers were signed.
- b. David Beecham of Ted Berry Co. was to have given an evaluation of the pump station but that has been postponed. The Company has been evaluating pipes between Weld St and Third St. There are two critical spots and one not so critical. This is clay pipe and is not pressurized. The cure would be to do "in-place" repairs which would consist of an internal fiberglass wrap. The patches are inserted and molded to fit the pipe with no need to dig them up. The repairs will be done in lengths of a little more than 4 feet to span the 4 foot sections of pipes and the joints. These can be put off for a little while until the next budget is set and can be done in cold weather. Option A for the repairs would be to do the two worst breaks for \$7500 or Option B to repair all 3 for \$8500. The Pump Station report will come later.

c. **Water Report:** Supt. White reported that 58 of the 60 replacements of water meters for this budget term have been completed, and the hydrants on the schedule for repainting have been done. During the work on Kidder Ave. they found a very bad leak and it has accounted for much of their "lost" water. Irving's bill needed to be audited because of the changeover in the billing system. He has been in touch with the DOT about the Rt. 2 project and the main needs to be moved about 35 feet in one spot to allow for the new layout of the road. He said it was a simple change and they could do it, but the state will only accept an engineer's plan. He can guesstimate that it might be \$500 to \$1000 but he will get some estimates. The paving of Weld St by the state will require some

adjustments which will cost about \$400. He now has all the residents of Robbins Ave. checked for the piping work there. One house has asked to be terminated because they have moved. He will be able to share the use of the rented excavator with Mr. Glover. He estimates the job to cost \$12,290. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to allow Supt. White to do the work for at, or below \$12,290 and Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. All those present were in favor. There has been an issue with the water main on River Lane and it was discovered that there was a 2 inch galvanized pipe running there. The issue has been to find how many and which buildings are being served by that pipe. He presented a proposal of options for correcting the issue. There needs to be a boring done under the road on Aunt Hannah Lane. Swayze will do the boring across Rt. 142 for \$2000. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to have the work done and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

**d. Public Works:** Mr. Glover reported on three estimates for the removal of a town owned building on High St. 1. TW Lawn care gave a price of \$5100 but gave no description of what would be done. 2. R and R Logging gave a price of \$5500 but it did not include filling the end of the sewer pipe with concrete. Mr. Glover felt he would do it if he was asked. 3. Archie's Inc. gave a price of \$12,200. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to go with R And R Logging with the added item of plugging off the sewer line. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all present were in agreement.

Mr. Glover asked for approval to work on the Howard St Drainage. The money is already in the budget. Mr. Whittemore moved to approve a change order for drainage on Howard St. Mr. Gill seconded and all present were in favor.

The Lancaster drainage issue was added as an agenda adjustment. Mr. Glover said that the street is too steep to handle the amount of water flow and needs a catch basin. He is trying to schedule the use of an excavator. Questions were asked about the engineering for this project and Mr. Glover reported that the current town engineer did the work. Mr. Whittemore made a motion that \$5038.60 be used to repair the Lancaster St drainage, Mr. Mitchell seconded and all present were in favor..

**7. Old Business:** a. Town Manager Puiia read the new proposed Ethics Policy and Appendix and gave the Selectmen time to look it over before it will be brought up again.

b. The Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project was discussed again. The cost of the Town's share keeps rising and the Selectmen discussed options like limiting the size of the project which the State has done once by removing the Nash St section or the possibility of opting out of the project. TM Puiia will seek legal advice.

**8. Other Business:** a. Wind Power Ordinance Moratorium. Mr. Mitchell moved that the moratorium be extended 180 days. Mr. Whittemore seconded. The vote was 3 in favor, Mr. Gill opposed, and Mr. Skibitsky absent.

b. Kristen Collins, the lawyer for the RSU 10 Withdrawal committee has asked that each of the towns vote to formally hire her. A \$10,000 retainer will be broken into percentages by town and she will send invoices. Mr. Gill moved to appoint Kristen Collins. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all present were in favor. Mr. Whittemore said the withdrawal was a work in progress and there is a 23 step process. There should be a vote in June 2016 and if all passes, 2017 would be the first year of a new school unit.

c. A request has been received for a donation to cover the expenses of a group of 13

year old Babe Ruth league players to attend the National competitions. Their goal is \$26,500. Mr. Whittemore noted that Patriot Renewables has donated \$5000. Mr. Whittemore then made a motion that \$200 from the Recreation Budget (if necessary from the Wrestling portion of the budget) be donated. Mr. Daley seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0.

d. Margaret St. Cyr was present to represent the citizens of High St. concerning “speed tables”. Research into costs are being done and Mr. Pickett suggested an option would be to make High St. one way. She reported that the residents would not accept that.

e. An application for a liquor license for Maine shore Lobster Bakes to have a concert at Mountain View Campground. Mr. Gill made a motion to allow the license and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

**9. Other Business: none**

**10. Public Correspondence:** An invitation has been received from AVCOG for a Rally for Northern New England Passenger Rail on Sept 24.

**11. Public Comment:** Ben Hines thanked the Board for the new sidewalks on behalf of bikers and skateboarders.

Sue Holmes commented about the amount of work required to take and transpose the minutes for the meetings.

**12. Board Questions and Comments: none**

**12. FYI:** There is a Planning Board meeting Thursday Aug. 20.

**13. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday Aug. 24 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library.

**14. Executive Session:**

At 8:20 pm Mr. Daley made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(E) to discuss a legal matter. Mr. Gill seconded and all were in favor. Attorney Seth Carey was present. The Board was declared out at 8:39 pm. A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell for the Town of Dixfield to be an interested party to the lawsuit of Barbara and Bill Thorpe’s will. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whittemore. The vote was 3-0-1, with Mr. Gill abstaining.

At 8:42 pm Mr. Whittemore made a motion to enter into an Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(F) to discuss confidential records. The Board was declared out at 8:45 pm. Mr. Whittemore made the motion to allow the Town Manager to draft a letter to the applicants for Case numbers 2015-101 and 2015-102. It was seconded by Mr. Gill. The vote was 3-0-1, with Mr. Daley abstaining.

**15. Adjournment:** Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 pm, and seconded by Mr. Whittemore. The vote was 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary  
nhc/nhc

