

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 24, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Randy Glover, Water Supervisor James White, and Leo Jolin.

Citizens present: Mrs. Mitchell, Peter and Lori Holman, Don Lutick, Rick Davis, Jeff Knight, Aaron Jamison, Grayson Child and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non- Citizens: none

Press present: Matt Daigle of the Lewiston Sun and WVACTv.

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Agenda Adjustments

- a. to 4 a add #19
- b. to 4 b add #18
- c. to 8 add Sewer Rate Draft
- d. to 9 add resignation of CEO

3. Minutes: Mr. Whittemore made a motion to approve the August 10 minutes and Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0 because Mr. Skibitsky had been absent from that meeting, and Mr. Gill was absent from this meeting.

4. Warrants and Payroll:

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

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Water Supt. White reported on the River Lane water line repair. He noted that the moratorium on disturbing the hot top on Main St is up in Aug. of 2016. He gave the Selectmen copies of options for the work. He noted that if there was a foundation under the Holmes Parking Lot that it would not be a problem because they would not have to be near that area. There is a 6 inch ductile pipe that goes down Holmes Lane which also connects to 31 Main St. (Log Cabin Craftworks). Pavement after the repairs will be the biggest expense.

Because of the budget and other work being done, Mr. White recommended that a shut-off be installed and paving repaired over it. Most of the repair area can be accessed without disturbing pavement. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept 2.1 on the options list which is to do the shut-off and the paving, and Mr. Skibitsky seconded the motion. All present were in favor. Mr. Skibitsky questioned whether the payment for the

construction on Pine and High was included in the budget and was told it was. Bids were received for work on the Pump Station and Mr. White said he was comfortable with the Stevenson's bid. Mr. Whittemore made a motion that the work be done by Stevenson's with an amount not to exceed \$70,805. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all present were in favor.

The Robbins Ave projected started today (Aug 24). This was a project included in last year's budget but was unable to be done. Mr. Skibitsky asked that it be included in the upcoming budget as well for discussion. They will be using the excavator on the 25th and then the Public Works crew will use it on Lancaster St.

b. **Public Works:** Mr. Glover reported that the new Weld St. sidewalk is completed and read for the paving of Weld St. by DOT which is currently working its way down from Weld Lancaster St will be worked on tomorrow (Aug 25) and will have the excavator on Wed. They have made a berm on Jeff's Drive with the excess hot top. Manzer will pave as soon as the catch basin is in. The recently purchased Chipper is ready to register. Mr. Glover will check on the progress of the new dump truck. There have been issues with the new 1-ton but it is under warranty. The agreement has been received from the contractor who will demolish the High St. property that he will mark and plug the end of the sewer.

6. Old Business: a. Town Manager Puiia distributed the new proposed Ethics Policy and Appendix and gave the Selectmen time to look it over. Chair Daley said he felt comfortable bringing it up because Mr. Gill was present when it was first handed out. Mr. Skibitsky was not but is present at this meeting. Mr. Skibitsky questioned what were the consequences if the policy had any violations? All agreed that it had not been discussed but should be. Chair Daley recommended that they be accepted and then have an addendum placed with the policy. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to adopt the Ethics Policy as presented with the plan to meet again to discuss violations and consequences. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all present were in favor. Mr. Holman asked if this Policy covered all employees or just Selectmen. The answer given was that the Personnel Policy covers other Town employees and this was just for Selectmen.

b. The Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project was discussed again. The cost of the Town's share keeps rising and the Selectmen discussed opting out of the project. TM Puiia reported that the state is anxious to get out bids for the work to begin next spring. There have been 3 cost increases since the inception of the project and the project has been downsized by eliminating the Nash St. portion. Mr. Skibitsky suggested that the citizens be asked if they prefer to cancel the project or to take enough money from surplus to go ahead with it. It was suggested that the town could go ahead with the Nash St section on their own just as they had on lower Weld St. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to have TM Puiia set a date for a special town meeting as soon as possible to present options and costs, using surplus to meet our commitment of \$83,120. It was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. In discussion, Mr. Skibitsky suggested that the state be contacted and that Mr. Daley and TM Puiia set a date, and to consider adding Nash St as a separate item. He also suggested that an engineer be present and that the people be reminded that more sidewalks will mean more plowing. The motion was voted on and all

present were in favor.

c. Endorsement of Atty. For RSU 10 Withdrawal Committee: Mr. Mitchell moved that the Board endorse the agreement and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All present were in favor. Mr. Whittemore updated all present that all of the town committees have similar goals and that the public is always welcome at the meetings which will be held at Dirigo at 6:00pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays. The lawyer is going back through seven years of financials to be able to make predictions of costs.

7. New Business: a. Petition for Article in Warrant

A petition was presented by a group of citizens asking for the State Guidelines for sound levels from windmills be adopted by the Town of Dixfield. Discussion followed and Mr. Daley said that the Planning Board should be allowed to do their requested duty first and see if they can negotiate lesser numbers, maybe 40. It is insensitive to the affected areas not to try to negotiate. Mr. Daley said that the law is clear that the Selectmen have to accept the petition. Chairman of the Planning Board Rick Davis reported that he had spoken to Tom Carroll today and they will meet tomorrow (Aug 25). Mr. Carroll was unable to attend the meeting on Aug. 20. Mr. Davis said that he did not have a “good feeling” about negotiations and recommended that the Select Board take it out of the Planning Board's hands and go with the petition. He had been chastised by Planning Board members for inviting Mr. Carroll without the approval of the Planning Board. There is a workshop scheduled for Sept. 3 and a regular meeting Sept 17. In response to an earlier discussion about Mr. White having a building permit, Mr. Davis said if necessary, the Planning Board Chairman could sign one. Chair Daley said he was still waiting for a motion. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the petition and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All present were in favor. Mr. Skibitsky clarified that the petition asks to use the current Planning Board ordinance and change just the one section. The signers did not ask for the Planning Board to negotiate. Mr. Skibitsky also asked about the timing of bringing it to vote and the interpretation of the law as to how soon it has to be brought to a vote and asked for clarification from MMA. Mr. Jamison expressed his concerns about the intent of the Board to continue delaying decisions. Mr. Daley said it would go on until there was an ordinance which would protect the people. Mr. Holman said that Mr. Carroll already told them what the limits would have to be. Mr. Daley responded it will wait as long as it takes to get Mr. Carroll in the room so that the Board can make a legal, informed decision.

8. Other Business: A draft of a proposal for sewer rates was available to the selectmen. The debt service increase was proposed to go up \$4.00 for approximately 300 customers but the sewer debt is up 40%. Mr. Skibitsky asked if the auditor would update the 2013 proposal and TM Puiia said he is on vacation but hopes that he will be available for one of the Boards September meetings.

9. Public Comment: Norine Clarke requested that the Board consider a budget line for the next budget year which could be used for worthy requests for students like Girl's and Boy's State delegates and special requests similar to the National Babe Ruth Competitions. It could be dispensed at the Selectmen's discretion but should be considered for both academic and sports or other students needing funding. This would include taking Boy's and Girl's state from the Social Services section of the budget so that

the funding was not delayed until after the students had already gone. She also asked if the Outdoor Market portion of the Economic Development Budget which had been turned back to surplus could be reinstated as it is their working budget and their money to donate to charities.

10. Board Questions and Comments: Mr. Daley wanted to mention the High St.-Pine St. speeding issues and discuss with Chief Howe some of the options for one way traffic. Mr. Whittemore suggested the possibility of stop signs on the side streets and or cameras at the stop signs. In response to Mr. Holman's suggestion of cameras, Mr. Daley said that they were very expensive because they had to be state calibrated or were not legal. TM Puiia brought up the resignation letter from Calvin Beaumier which had been overlooked in previous sections. He said he would be done as of Sept. 4, 2015. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to accept the resignation and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

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

12. Executive Session:

At 7:45 pm Mr. Daley made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(C) to discuss Economic Development. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all present were in favor. Leon Bucher from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife was in attendance. The Board was declared out at 8:38 pm. No action was taken.

13. A motion was made by Mr. Whittemore to appoint Town Manager Puiia as the interim Code Enforcement Officer effective immediately in the event a new CEO is not yet in place following the resignation of Mr. Beaumier. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell and all present were in favor.

14. Adjournment: Mr. Skibitsky made a motion at 8:40 pm to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Whittemore and all present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc