

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
HEARING MINUTES  
MONDAY, September 28, 2015, 5:00 PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**Present:** Board of Selectmen, Malcolm Gill, Norman Mitchell, Dana Whittemore, and Eugene Skibitsky. Chair Daley arrived at 5:14

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia

Citizens present: Mrs. Mitchell, Dan McKay, Walter Newman, Rick Davis, and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non- Citizens: none

Press present: Matt Daigle of the Lewiston Sun

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

Vice Chairman Whittemore opened the meeting at 5:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Manager Carlo Puiia presented the Appendices for General Assistance for Towns. This is renewed annually and the State requires a hearing. The Selectmen are responsible for accepting the amended Appendices.

**QUESTIONS:**

Dan McKay asked about the amount in the Budget for this item. TM Puiia remarked that this item was based on an estimate of annual need. Fifty percent of the amount spent is reimbursed by the State. The cases helped are checked by the State and the applicant must prove residence in the Town. State processes must be followed. Theresa Hemingway is the Town's first contact person with the applicant and she can call DHHS for assistance with the application. Mr. McKay asked how many get turned down because they do not qualify and TM Puiia said maybe one a month.

Mr. Mitchell asked about Appendix C and that section is specific to rentals.

Hearing no more questions, Chair Daley closed the Hearing at 5:20.

Additional Town employees present: Randy Glover and Leo Jolin

Additional Citizens present: Grayson Child, Peter and Lori Holman, Aaron Jamison, Sue Holmes, and Scott Belskis.

**1. Chair Daley opened the Selectmen's meeting at 5:30**

## **2. Agenda Adjustments**

- a. to item 4a add #31
- b. to 4b add #30
- c. to item 8 add Outdoor Market
- d. ATV Ordinance copies were handed out to Selectmen and copies are in the Town Office along with maps. Mr. Gill also noted that a referendum had been held a while back.

**3. Minutes:** Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the September 14 minutes with Agenda Adjustments and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 because Mr. Gill had been absent from that meeting.

## **4. Warrants and Payroll:**

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to approve the warrants and payroll as in the agenda with adjustments. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all were in favor.

Chair Daley asked to move the Executive Session from its place in the Agenda to be addressed next .

Mr. Gill made a motion to go in to Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS§405 (6)(A) to discuss a Personnel Matter. It was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky and all were in favor. The Board exited to the Town Office. The Board returned at 5:55pm and Mr. Whittemore made a motion to file the complaint against the Planning Board with no action. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

## **5. Department Head Reports:**

a. **Public Works:** Mr. Glover reported that the Town took delivery of the new Snow Plow last week. He noted that there were 3 bids for the 1993 International. TM Puiia announced the bids to be Packard \$1750, Isaacson \$2500, and John Halacy \$3001. Mr. Glover said he felt the \$3001 bid was fair and they were not likely to get any higher bids if they tried again. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion that they accept John Halacy's bid for \$3001 and Mr. Gill seconded it. The vote was 5-0

b. **Police Dept.:** Chief handed out alternate bids for the new cruiser. Accepting a Base package and then adding equipment and labor to make it road ready adds up to more in the end than taking a model ready for lights and radios. Quirk has some in stock. Mr. Daley asked how much for graphics and Chief told him about \$700. The new car will be black.

## **6. Old Business:**

a. Ethics Policy Review: The draft of the violations section of the Ethics Policy was handed to selectmen (COPY ATTACHED) and read to the audience. Mr. Skibitsky said that he had 3 remarks. 1. This policy should extend to all appointments. 2. If an issue is serious enough to document wouldn't it become public? Mr. Daley said that the document is not public with any details but the disciplinary action would be public. Mr. Skibitsky asked if the complaint would be made public. And 3. If held in open session, do attendees have a right to speak? Both parties have to agree to a public meeting and both have to agree to have the public be part of the discussion. This item will be in next meeting's Agenda.

6 b. Wind Ordinance Update: TM Puiia was in contact with MMA. The Petition mandates what goes on the warrant. The

Planning Board is allowed to make a recommendation of ...ought to pass or....ought not to pass. The Document must stay as listed on the petition. The DEP has 26 pages in the state rules, some of which would not apply to Dixfield. TM Puiia asked for authorization to send the information to Kristen Collin office to make a draft to put before the citizens. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion that Ms. Collins be asked to make a draft for review using money from the Wind Power account. Mr. Gill seconded and the vote was 5-0 that it go to the attorney.

6 c. Mexico's Med Care request: The Selectmen of Mexico put out a letter last month asking for cooperation and shared funding from other Med-Care towns to hire a lawyer to force Med Care to publish their salary amounts.(COPY ATTACHED) Dixfield is in a 10 year agreement with Med Care (2008-2018) A letter concerning a Humane Society that was being forced to do the same thing said that they did not have to comply and this situation is comparable. Mr. Whittemore said that he has read the annual report from Med Care and that all salaries were lower than the previous year. He questioned why spend money to pursue what they already know? Mr. Whittemore made a motion to stick to a previous decision to stay out of the Mexico search. Mr. Skibitsky seconded and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Daley abstaining.

6.d. WMTS request to get funding from the County instead of directly from towns: TM Puiia presented the figures of what this would mean to Dixfield's contribution. Under the current numbers, Dixfield's share would work out to 2.14% of our County costs for a total of 246.10. For a direct donation, we would need to pay \$510. TM Puiia had prepared a draft of a letter to the Oxford County Commissioners. The Board agreed that they were comfortable with the letter and all signed a copy to be sent.

**7. Other Business:** a. Vote to Adopt the General Assistance yearly Appendices discussed at the earlier Hearing. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to accept the Appendices and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

b. Sign Appointment of Police Reserve Officer Matthew Desroches. The Town Manager makes the appointment and he has been sworn in but the signatures of the Board acknowledge the appointment.

c. Temporary Sewer Variance: A request has been received to abate sewer charges for 19 Main St. The property has been vacant since June of 2013. Questions were asked by Board Members and they decided to withhold a decision until they received the answers.

d. Maine Power Options Contract: This is the last year of this contract. Mr. Skibitsky recommended that there be a search for options.

e. Approval for closing Town Office on Columbus Day: The office staff has all agreed that they will take a vacation day or a personal day or an unpaid day if the Office is closed. Mr. Gill made a motion that they be allowed to close and it was seconded by Mr. Whittemore. All were in favor.

This will change the meeting date of the Selectmen to Tuesday Oct. 13.

**8. Other Business:** Norine Clarke made a request to revisit the issue of the Outdoor Market's account amount which had been put in the General Fund at the end of the year. The money is not tax money, but a holding fund for the money the group earns

from the event. Mr. Skibitsky said that it could easily be fixed and that he would work with Mrs. Varnum to correct the mistake.

**9. Public Correspondence:** a. A letter was read by TM Puiia from the Station Manager at WVAC TV with an in-advance apology if town meetings are not taped. There is a shortage of volunteers to run the cameras. Volunteers are welcome.

**10. Public Comment:** Sue Holmes announced that on Sat. there would be an Open House at the Saddleback Ridge Wind power site from 10-4 and she urged all Selectmen and Planning Board Members to go.

Scott Belskis asked whether Mike Rogers could provide spread sheets or update the old one to reflect what the valuation of the town would be with the \$36 million added. He would like one reflecting no TIF and one with a 50/50 TIF. He also requested sound experts, one representing the wind company and one independent.

He had questions about the Ethics Policy and requested the answers in writing. 1. Was it a violation of ethics as reported in the Lewiston paper concerning the qualifications of Mr. Belskis versus that of Mrs. Glover for representation on the RSU 10 Committee? 2. He would like an explanation of whether or not Mr. Skibitsky has a conflict of interest where the wind mills are concerned. When asked by Mr. Skibitsky under what category, Mr. Belskis replied “pecuniary”. When Mr. Skibitsky asked how, Mr. Belskis replied “taxes”.

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

**12. FYI:** Town Meeting Oct. 1, 2015 as on Agenda. The Town Office will be closed for Columbus Day Oct 12, 2015

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

**14. Executive Session:** The stated Executive Session was held earlier in the meeting.

**15. Adjournment:** Mr. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Whittemore with all in favor at 8:15

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary  
nhc/nhc