

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
HEARING MINUTES  
MONDAY, October 26, 2015 – 5:30 PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**Present:** Board of Selectmen, Hart Daley, Malcolm Gill, Norman Mitchell, Dana Whittemore, and Eugene Skibitsky.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Water Supt. White, Police Chief Howe, Matt Timberlake of Ted Berry Co., Randy Glover, and Leo Jolin

Citizens present: Mrs. Mitchell, Dan McKay, Walter Newman, Rick Davis, Grayson Child, Peter and Lori Holman, Aaron Jamison, Rev. Ken Hinckley, Susan Holmes, Silver and Angela Varnum, and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non- Citizens: none

Press present: Matt Daigle of the Lewiston Sun amd WVACTv

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

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

2. The presentation of the Boston Post Cane award was made by TM Puiia and Chairman Daley following a few remarks by each. Irene (Mrs. Fred) Weld is the current recipient. She has lived in Dixfield since 1942 when she married Fred who was the most recent past recipient. She was very gracious and was applauded and congratulated by all present.

**3. Agenda Adjustments**

- a. to item 6a add #40
- b. to 6b add #39

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to accept all warrants as noted on the Agenda and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor.

4. Chair Daley opened the Hearing for Applications for a Junkyard Automobile Graveyard Permit. Those applying were Claude Averill, Robert Blanchard, Sr., Shannon Drown, Clifford Hall, Morrison Motors, and Norman Mitchell. No public testimony regarding the applications was given. Chair Daley declared the hearing closed at 5:36.

5. **Minutes:** Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the September 28 minutes with Agenda Adjustments and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

6. Done above in 3.

7. **Department Head Reports:** Chair Daley asked that item c. be taken out of order to allow Chief Howe to attend his departmental meeting that same evening. All were in agreement.

c. The Chief gave an update on the traffic problems on High St. He said that only a few appear to be pushing the speed limits but stepping up patrols has helped. He contacted Norm haggan of DOT who said that they had never done a speed study on High St. so 15mph signs cannot be put up. They will not be able to do a study before spring but will try to help with alternatives. Rowe St. has a Stop sign and there is a question of

putting two more at that intersection. Mr. Skibitsky asked about a flashing sign and whether or not there would be grant money for that. Mr. Gill wondered if they could also be installed at the High School. He expects that it needs to go through DOT as well. Mr. Mitchell had suggested that “Speed enforced by radar” signs catch attention. Mrs. Holmes asked whether the Main St. traffic light was effective or necessary. Chief said that is necessary because of the multiple lanes. The subject of the movable signs that flash the driver' speed was also considered.

Chief Howe pressed the need for action on the cruiser bids because the current Crown Vic has 152,000 miles on it and has many issues that will have to be tended to if it is not replaced soon. His preference is a Utility vehicle with all-wheel drive. Rowe Auto does not have any in stock and it would require 10 weeks to acquire one. Quirk Auto has some in stock. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion seconded by Mr. Mitchell to go with the Quirk bid. All were in favor.

Chief also reported that he is still making inquiries about the ATV rules.

He announced that the Halloween Walk is on Sat. the 31<sup>st</sup> and that Weld St. will be shut down to traffic as far as Ellis St. He noted that there was not enough funding for the necessary candy and asked if those who could might make a donation. Mr. Whittemore said that he would like the recent checks made out to him that he had turned back to the Town to be used for that donation. Chief said thank you and that it was his intent to mention it to his staff at their meeting.

**b.** Next item taken was the Hall Hill Pump Station Evaluation Report from Matt Timberlake of Ted Berry Co. The Ted Berry Company has had contracts from 2007-2012 and 2012 – 2016. During this time they have made a full evaluation for the Hall Hill Pump Station. The final report came from AE Hodsdon in August, 2015. The pump takes 100% of the flow from Dixfield and has since 1980. The amount of flow is metered at Hall Hill. There is a wet well and a dry well and it is in good condition which is rare for a 35 year old pump. The pump was designed for one million gallons a day and only processes 100,000 gallons per day, so it has not been over worked. The report has the details and Ted Berry Co. agrees with most of the Hodsdon report. If the repairs are made it should make it capable of another 10-20 years of service giving the Town time to make a replacement plan. There was one extra note: the back-up generator should be moved up in priority. What about in the case of an emergency? Mr. Skibitsky said that they should budget for the short term issues and install the generator. It has an auto-start but only covers the Hall Hill station. The new generator that the Water Department owns could be used in an emergency.

**a.** Supt White of the Water Dept. He recommended that “jacks” that would adapt to the portable generator be installed at each of the other pump stations so the generator could quickly be put in use.

The budget for the Rt. 2 realignment is estimated at \$45,000 but has now been moved from a 2016 project to a 2017 start date. The completion of the pump station has been delayed and there is now pressure from the Fed. Govt. to get it completed. It had been bid at \$90,500 but because it is Fed. Money, the painters must get union pay so Stephenson's bid must go up. Supt. White needs a motion to proceed. Mr. Gill made a motion to allow Mr. White to go ahead with the contract but not to exceed \$95,000 and to give TM Puuia the authority to sign the contract. Mr. Skibitsky seconded the motion and the vote was

5-0.

**d. Public Works:** Mr. Glover reported that the winter sand has been put up and the plow gear is all ready. Porter Rd. has been paved and will do the shoulders next week. There is still a problem there but it will have to wait till spring. The sink hole on Holt Hill has been repaired. Lancaster St. is working well. The new paving where High and North Streets connect was graded wrong and the contractor will grind it and repave it.

**8. Old Business:**

**a.** TM Puiia read the response from Kristen Collins to the questions about the petition and the ordinance changes. Mr. Daley asked to have her follow up on her comments as to whether the Selectmen are bound to put it to a vote. Also ask her if the Planning Board can make recommendations. Mr. Whittemore asked why there could not be a voting choice e.g. vote for one, A or B. Mr. Skibitsky questioned why her opinion is different from that of MMA. He suggested that choices “muddy the waters”. Mr. Mitchell said that if there is an A or B choice there is no option for a NO vote. TM Puiia said that he would ask MMA about Kristen's opinion and ask Kristen about MMA's opinion. In reference to Mr. Whittemore's A or B vote could they vote NO to both? Mr. Holman said what the people voted down was the restrictive decibel numbers. Mrs. Clarke asked, since we have a town solicitor who is versed in town law, should we ask her opinion. A motion was made to contact Lawyer Kreckel and it passed 4-1 with Mr. Skibitsky objecting. Shortly after, Mr. Gill withdrew his vote making it 3 in favor, and 1 opposed, with Mr. Gill abstaining from the vote.

**b.** The State has contacted TM Puiia again with an alternative offer about the “Safe Rtes. to school sidewalk project”. The State would like to bid it out anyway because they expect the pricing to be favorable now. The bids would be opened in early Dec. The citizens voted against using more surplus funds towards the project at the Oct. 1 Special Town Meeting. The current plan would be either to pay Wright Pierce \$38,832 and receive the plans, or pay \$72,000 and have the sidewalks built. Mr. Daley listed 4 points. One, the Nash St. portion of the project is gone. Two, there was a large vote against the project because of maintenance. Three, there is no legal right. Four, after the vote, they changed their mind. Mr. Whittemore asked for an opportunity to check the contract and felt that tar curbs were an inferior product. Would it not be better just to pave the shoulders instead. It was agreed that there should be a chance to get a clearer price on winter maintenance. Mr. Skibitsky said he felt we could not do the project ourselves for that amount of money and we could not get an asset of that size for less money. He felt that the maintenance would add time costs, not budget increases. Mr. Mitchell said that he felt that paving the shoulders would be easier to maintain. Mrs. Holmes asked if it was safe to walk on the shoulders and would the sidewalk be considered an improvement. She also inquired if the option Town meeting night was different from this one? Rev. Hinckley said this would take no money out of surplus but use the money set aside and the reserve fund. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to honor the original contract and Mr. Gill seconded. Mr. Whittemore said there should be a public hearing. Mr. Varnum said that in fact, the students do not walk through the development as was said at the Town Meeting. A vote was taken and it was two in favor and 3 against. It was decided to get the bid and then meet with the public.

**c.** Maine Power Options Agreement. The Maine Power option was 6.89 cents. Other

companies required a delivery charge. TM Puiia recommended a one year extension. Mr. Skibitsky asked if this company served the water and sewer departments and was told no. He questioned what the difference would be if they were included. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to extend the Maine Power Options contract for one year. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0.

**d.** TM Puiia provided a draft of the Code of Ethics addendum which includes appointed Boards and Committees and employees. It was asked if it should read “elected or appointed” Board members. The status of the Fire Company was discussed and they felt that Chief Dennett should be asked to attend the next meeting to answer the questions.

**e.** Sewer Variance was discussed briefly and TM Puiia will proceed.

**9. New Business:**

**a.** There needs to be a Maintenance Agreement with the DOT for the 2016-17 year for the traffic light system at the corner of Weld and Main Streets.

**b.** Town Fuel Bid: Hometown Energy, Fabian, CN Brown and Dead River were contacted for propane prices and the best was \$1.2141. Dead River also provided the best price for heating oil at \$1.9877. These prices would be good through Oct. 2016. They have been providing service already. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to accept the Dead River prices and Mr. Gill seconded. All were in favor.

**c. Junkyard Permits:** Since he is on the list of permittees, Mr. Mitchell abstained from the discussion and vote. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to approve all applications for Junkyard Permits. Mr. Gill seconded and the vote was 4-0-1 with Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

**10. Other Business:** None.

**11. Public Correspondence:** **a.** TM Puiia reported that Mike Rogers had responded that he would be able to meet with the Board in the beginning of 2016. TM Puiia also reported that he had spoken to the Greenville office and they sent an ATV route map but to date they have no ordinance

**12. Public Comment:** None.

**13. Board Questions and Comments:** TM Puiia reported that Dirigo students had done yardwork around the Town Office and in the Village Green. He also said that a booklet with the new State rules for Park and Ride Lots is available in the Town Office.

**14. FYI:** Voting on Tues. Nov. 10, 2015

The Town Office is collecting non-perishable food items for the local food pantry.

**15. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, Nov. 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library. Auditor Ron Smith will be in attendance.

**16. Executive Session:** At 8:42 Mr. Daley made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter it was seconded by Mr. Whittemore, all were in favor. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 9:03 p.m. No action was taken; however, it was the consensus of the Board members that TM Puiia should send Mr. Belskis a letter in regards to his request at the September 26, 2015 meeting.

**17. Adjournment:** At 9:04 p.m., Mr. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Whittemore seconded, and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary  
nhc/nhc