

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, March 28, 2016 – 5:30PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, PW Foreman Randy Glover, Paul Peterson, and Police Chief Howe.

Citizens present: Aaron Jamison, Dan McKay, Mrs. N. Mitchell, Donald Lutick, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Holman, Susan Holmes, Grayson Child, Royal Swan, Jeff Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Litwin, and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non-Citizens: Auditor Ron Smith, Tom Carroll, Patriots Renewables.

Press present: WVAC tv.

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

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

- 1. Public Hearing:** Mr. Donald Litwin was present to present a list of bands and 5 applications for Catered Functions by Qualified Catering Organizations for lobster bakes through the summer months. The Campground had hosted events last summer and the Police Chief noted that things went well. There are good communications with the Campground and all are aware of the issues of ID's , responsibilities etc. Mr. Skibitsky asked if there had been alcohol last year and the answer was yes but there were no problems. Mr. Litwin said that all alcohol is controlled by the caterer. None will be brought in and none will be outdoors. The hearing was closed at 5:40PM.

**2. Agenda Adjustments:**

a. to 5. b add #86

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Gill made a motion to accept Regular Meeting minutes of Mar. 14, Mr. Skibitsky seconded. The vote was 5-0.

Mr. Gill made a motion to accept the minutes of the Mar. 7 2016 Budget meeting and Mr. Skibitsky seconded. The vote was 5-0.

**1. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:**

Mr. Whittemore moved to accept the warrants and payrolls as amended. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all 5 were in favor.

**1. Old Business:**

**a.** Ron Smith of RHR Smith Auditors was present to discuss the sewer rate proposal. He said that a rate proposal had been made in 2008-09 and the arithmetic in the proposal just did not work. In 2012 there was a Public Hearing to propose a 25% increase to add \$30

to 35 thousand to the budget. At that time they only agreed to a 8-10% increase with a plan to revisit the item in a year which did not happen. As of now, there is still a need for \$30-35 thousand to make the sewer budget viable. For 2016-17 there would have to be a 16-17% increase just to break even. That would still leave no funding for a reserve account and the Sewer would still owe the Town \$60-70 thousand. His suggestion is to keep an increase at 25% for 18 months. It would be responsible for adding \$50. per year to the users. The loan agreements that the Sewer Dept. has require that a minimum percentage be placed in reserve. Mr. Smith was asked to make a comparison of sewer rates in other towns of similar conditions. There should be Public Hearing in May with an effective date of July 1, 2016. There was a question about whether the money needed should be borrowed at a low rate of interest. Mr. Skibitsky asked about the Sewer Dept. borrowing from the Town at no interest. Mr. Whittemore asked if some of the surplus could be used. Mr. Smith will come back to another meeting.

**b. Wind Energy Facility Ordinance for June 14, 2016 Vote:** The Selectmen returned to a tabled item to re-vote on what the referendum for the Wind Ordinance should cover. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to put the Kristen Collins Draft up for vote on June 14. Mr. Gill seconded. Mr. Gill and Mr. Skibitsky voted yes and the remaining 3 voted no. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to use the Ordinance voted on last year with changes only to the decibel levels to 42 night and 55 day. Mr. Whittemore seconded and 3 voted yes (Mr. Whittemore, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Daley and the other two voted no. Mr. Skibitsky asked what about the dbc language and Mr. Mitchell said that the word “of” in the petition negated (for him) that being added. Chair Daley refused any discussion until Public Comment.

c. 2016 EMO Plan: The document was circulated for signatures.

**1. New Business:**

**a. 2016 Town Budgets Vote:** TM Puiia compared the Finance Committee recommendations to the Selectmen's and there was only one item that did not match the Selectmen. The Finance Committee felt that there should be fund started for replacing the “wheeler” truck in Article 23. There needs to be an item discussed at Town Meeting about putting a culvert on Science Hill. The Town has an easement but does not own the property. The culvert needs to be installed to avoid further destruction of the road down hill from it. It will need to be about 30feet by 15 inches and take approximately a half day to install. There is also a question about the Giles Rd. in East Dixfield and whether anyone is living in the one house on the road. They would like to discontinue plowing. They will check on the ownership of the house. Following information from Mrs. Clarke about the Animal Advocates request for \$300 that the money would not come to the aid of Dixfield cat care but remain in Canton. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to make the Animal Advocate request \$0 and add \$300 to Article 16 as a line item expense for the Animal Control Officer to turn over to those who are caring for Dixfield's cats. Mr. Gill seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**b. Applications for Catered Functions at Mountain View Campground:** Mr. Skibitsky made a motion that the applications be approved and Mr. Gill seconded. The vote was 5-0

**c. Spring Clean-up:** A suggested list of items for pick up was available to the

Selectmen. The list was discussed and limited so that it could be more manageable. Leaves should be in piles. Small branches should be bundled with string or twine so they can be put through the chipper. Branches 6" or smaller should be placed with the large end toward the street. Each dwelling may put out 4 general use size tires and a maximum of two appliances with doors removed. Mr. Glover will report back to the board with estimated results from the Clean-up.

**d. MDOT request to transport overweight vehicles in Dixfield:** Following a brief discussion, Mr. Skibitsky made a motion seconded by Mr. Whittemore to allow the state to transport their construction equipment.

**e. MDOT notice of installation of a "rumble strip":** No action was needed.

**f. Resignation letter as member of NORSWB from William DeVries:** TM Puiia noted that Mr. DeVries had done an outstanding job on this committee and was proud of the amount of re-cycling that is occurring there. He was proud of his service to the Board and hoped that good work would continue. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the resignation and Mr. Skibitsky seconded. The vote was 5-0

**g. Appointment of Appeals Board Members:** Charlotte Collins and Steve Donahue have filled out applications to serve on a Dixfield Board of Appeals. The Board size is usually five so other citizens are encouraged to indicate interest. Mr. Mitchell moved to appoint Charlotte Collins and Mr. Whittemore seconded. The vote was 4-0 with Mr. Gill abstaining. Mr. Gill moved that Steve Donahue be appointed to the Appeals Board and Mr. Skibitsky seconded. The vote was 4-1 with Mr. Daley voting against the appointment.

**1. Other Business:** none

**2. Public Correspondence:**

a. A letter was received from Craig Zurhorst of Western Maine Transportation noting that they had received support from Oxford County. He offered to come and speak to the Selectmen if they wish.

b. The Selectmen received the schedule for the flushing of hydrants.

**1. Public Comment:** This portion of the minutes was quite heated and in the interest of not misquoting, the topics and conversations will be listed but not quoted. If further information is desired, a DVD of the meeting will be on file in the town office or those interested can contact WVAC tv or go to youtube.com river valley tv network March 28, 2016.

Mrs. Holmes and Mr. Whittemore spoke of the Petition and the signers and how the signers interpreted the petition.

Mrs. Holmes and Mr. Daley spoke of what the complaint process for issues with the wind mills if they were to be built would be if the complaints were legitimate, and who would be responsible to settle them.

Mr. Mitchell said that Dixfield has an Ordinance so the Town would always be responsible.

Mrs. Holmes questioned what if the vote in June does not pass, and should there be another petition. Mr. Daley spoke of a redundancy of petitions.

Mr. Holman and Mr. Daley spoke of the proximity of the wind mills and about Mr. Holman's land. Mr. Daley referred to Mr. Carroll about his dealings with the citizens

which Mr. Carroll denied.

Mr. Holman asked about the ballot wording that no matter how you vote, the result still means no.

Mrs. Holmes read a letter she wrote discussing the rental of their building by Patriots Renewables and about Mr. Holman's fight to keep his land. (SEE COPY ATTACHED)

**1. Board Questions and Comments:**

Mr. Whittemore mentioned Mike Rogers being able to come and cited the closing paper mills being a distraction. He wondered if there would be time for a public hearing. He asked for a copy of the Sewer Contract. He also encouraged folks to take out papers for Selectmen as there are two openings.

Mr. Gill asked Mr. Whittemore for an update on the RSU Withdrawal Committee. Mr. Whittemore said that two Wednesdays ago they reviewed the counter offer and the biggest difference is tuition. Last Wednesday they checked and sent back information to their attorney. They are still on track for a November vote, and he is encouraged. In the first year there will be some up-front costs. He encouraged people to go to the hearings and ask questions. None of the rest of the Board had comments.

**1. FYI: As noted on agenda.**

**2. Next Meeting:** Monday, April 11, 2016 at 5:30 PM downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

**3. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS§405 (6)(E) to discuss a legal matter:**

At 8:15p.m. Mr. Daley made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 8:26 p.m. No action was taken.

**1. Adjournment:** Mr. Gill made the motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary