

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, April 25, 2016 – 5:30pm
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Present: Board of Selectmen, Hart Daley, Malcolm Gill, Eugene Skibitsky. Dana Whittemore arrived at 6:37 pm and Norman Mitchell was absent.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, PW Foreman Randy Glover, Leo Jolin, CEO Michael Moore.

Citizens present: Aaron Jamison, Dan McKay, Peter Holman, Royal Swan, Walter Newman, Rev. Hinckley, Rep. Richard Pickett and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non-Citizens: Mrs. Glover

Press present: Lew. Sun, Matt Daigle and 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 on Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

TM Puiia explained to those in attendance that in Articles 1-9, there was only one item requesting money be raised by taxation. Article 8 is Debt Service and is essentially a non-negotiable item. These are the loan amounts that the Town has made a commitment to pay. The amount is lower this year as the East Dixfield Fire Truck has been paid off. Mr. McKay asked about Article 7 and asked for a copy of last year's budget. He inquired about the amount for homestead abatements being changed. Currently it is \$11,000 because the town is at 110% evaluation. The decision has not come from the legislature yet as to the final amount. He also inquired about Article 27 (Wind Ordinance) and asked what will prevent a turbine project? Mr. Daley said that they have been told that the language in the Ordinance that says 50dbc will keep them from building. If the vote is NO, it will be back again to decide the next steps. Mr. McKay asked if there had been any large investments in the Town since last Town Meeting. TM Puiia said there was not much difference and if there were questions for the assessor, he might be here on Thurs. Mr. McKay said that the school is looking at a 4 1/2% increase in a \$36 million budget, and the local schools are all in the lowest percentile for standardized tests. He then asked about reserve funds and asked if the department heads will be at the Town Meeting to explain. He was told they would all be there except for the Librarian. Mr. Jamison asked whether Article 27 (Wind Energy Facility Ordinance) could be changed at the Town Meeting and was told no. Mr. Holman asked if it could be explained at the Town Meeting that, in his opinion, no matter how you vote, it will be a NO result and that the Selectmen knew that when they put it out. Mr. Holman will get up at the meeting to explain. Mr. McKay asked about the several items voted in the past to be funded until rescinded and how could those be changed if the Selectmen did not put it in the next

warrant. Mrs. Clarke suggested that one way was to prepare a petition to ask for that. Mr. McKay wondered if they would have to get the large amount of signatures or would 35-40 be enough for the Selectmen to get the idea? Rev. Hinckley asked about Article 21 and why two pantries were listed when Dixfield only has one. It was explained that Peru was also being asked and the total amount was to cover the deliveries made by the Good Shepherd Food Source. Mr. McKay voiced concerns about the way Social Services would be handled. Mr. Jamison asked why not decide the items in Article 21 at Town Meeting. TM Puiia answered that the Town's citizens expressed their preference to have requests voted by referendum. The Select Board and the Finance Committee chose the numbers to be voted on. Mr. McKay questioned "carry forwards" and how they work. TM Puiia explained that any unspent amounts left in the budgets at the end of the year were turned back to surplus unless there was an outstanding bill. At 6:10 pm Chair Daley declared the Hearing closed.

1. Agenda Adjustments:

- a. to 5a add #95
- b. to 5b add #94

1. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gill moved that the minutes for April 11, 2016 be accepted as presented, Mr. Skibitsky seconded the motion and all three present were in favor.

1. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

Mr. Skibitsky moved to accept the warrants and payrolls as amended. Mr. Gill seconded and all present were in favor.

1. Department Head Reports:

a. Mr. Glover reported that Clean Up was going well and should be finished this week. The new chipper has saved a lot of time and money by cutting down on bulk and truck trips. Two loads of chips represents about 10-12 loads of brush. Mr. Skibitsky asked if town's people could go to the Mountain View Campground and pick up the chips for landscaping and Mr. Glover said yes, but they were not uniformly finely chopped. The gas tanks have been removed from the Public Works garage lot, and Dixfield's CEO has looked at the foundation remaining to see if it could be used as a base for a storage building. Two sheds were destroyed in the past (one by fire, and one by wind) and the insurance money is still available to be used. A storage facility would keep equipment out of the weather in off seasons. It would be cold storage and would only require lighting. Mr. Glover will pursue information only if the Board is interested in doing the project due to his time. Chair Daley said he would prefer to discuss it when all the Selectmen were present. The foundation is 28' x 28' and the CEO has approved the use. It will be put on the next Agenda. Rep. Pickett commended the great job being done by the Public Works. Mr. Jamison asked how much land would be taken by the RT 2 project and Mr. Glover said most of it would be from the far end of the lot. Mr. Gill lives nearby and commented on the appearance of the yard and the orderliness of the equipment. Mr. Skibitsky noted that there was no longer a school on Blayne St. and that Mr. Glover might have a need for the sign post.

1. Old Business:

- a. Sewer Contract" TM Puiia said that there were supposed to be three members on the

Sewer Committee but currently there are only 2, Mr. Daley and Mr. Whittemore. It was decided that after the elections they would revisit the topic. There also needs to be a new Town Sewer Ordinance, and a meeting needs to be scheduled with Mexico. Ted Berry Co. and Paul Pomerleau have talked to the contractor for the new Peru Bridge and there is a manhole at the Peru Sewer connection.

1. New Business:

- a. The legislation for the Oxford County Jail died in the Legislature. No action is needed by the Board but it is important to be aware. Rep. Pickett noted that Scott Cole was very helpful and the jails all got money so that they could operate. It will be in the next year's session to work out a program that is fair to all.
- b. TM Puiia notified the Board that the town has received a refund of \$3,698 from Workmen's Comp. No action is needed. Mr. Skibitsky said that in the past, refunds had been placed in a safety account pool. This also makes the town eligible for some grants from MMA for safety equipment. Mr. Glover said the paper work came last Wed.
- c. CMP will be placing a single pole on Severy Hill. There are no poles in that area now. It will be in the town's right-of-way. Mr. Gill made a motion to allow a location permit for the pole and Mr. Skibitsky seconded. The vote was 3-0 with Mr. Whittemore abstaining because he was not present for the discussion.

1. Other Business: none

2. Public Correspondence: The Hope Association is sponsoring a raffle

3. Public Comment: Mr. McKay noted that many sewer stations around the state are planning upgrades and wondered what was happening locally. At the moment, there are no plans. Mr. Gill mentioned that he had recently read that the only things that should be flushed are body wastes and toilet paper, especially not medications. Mr. Daley reported that this upcoming Saturday is a collection day for unused or unneeded medication at many locations from 10-2 Please peel off labels or cover the name with black marker.

4. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr. Daley asked Mr. Whittemore who had won the baseball game and was told that Dirigo had beaten Mountain Valley 6-4. Mr. Whittemore also reported that the Withdrawal Committee Agreement has been put together and they have June and July to continue work. None of the rest of the Board members had any remarks.

1. FYI: As noted on agenda.

2. Next Meeting: Monday, May 9, 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 6:45 pm Mr. Daley made a motion to go into executive session.

Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor by those present. The Chair declared the board out of executive session at 7:10 pm.

1. Adjournment: Motion made by Mr. Gill to adjourn at 7:11 pm, and seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary