

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016 – 5:30PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Board of Selectmen present: Hart Daley, Eugene Skibitsky, Norman Mitchell, Aaron Jamison and Norine Clarke.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, PW Foreman Randy Glover, CEO Michael Moore, Fire Chief Scott Dennett, and Water Supt. James White.

Citizens present: Dan McKay, Peter Holman, Walter Newman, Mrs. Mitchell, Grayson Child, Silver Varnum, Scott Belskis.

Press present: WVAC tv and Matt Daigle Sun Journal

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Daley opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Election of Board of Selectmen Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Mr. Skibitsky nominated Norine Clarke for Chairman of the Board, seconded by Mr. Jamison. Hearing no other nominations, a vote was taken. Mr. Skibitsky and Mr. Jamison voted in favor, Mr. Daley and Mr. Mitchell voted against, and Ms. Clarke abstained. The tie vote failed 2-2-1.

Mr. Skibitsky requested Ms. Clarke vote as to avoid more tie situations. He again made a nomination for Norine Clarke to be the Chairman of the Board, seconded by Mr. Jamison. Mr. Skibitsky, Mr. Jamison, and Ms. Clarke voted in favor, Mr. Daley and Mr. Mitchell voted against. Ms. Clarke is elected Chair by a vote of 3-2.

Mr. Skibitsky nominated Mr. Jamison to be the Vice-Chairman of the Board, seconded by Ms. Clarke. Hearing no other nominations, a vote was taken. Mr. Skibitsky and Ms. Clarke voted in favor, Mr. Daley, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Jamison voted against. The vote failed 3-2.

Mr. Jamison nominated Mr. Daley to be the Vice-Chairman; however, he respectfully declined.

Mr. Daley nominated Mr. Skibitsky to be the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Jamison. Mr. Daley, Ms. Clarke and Mr. Jamison voted in favor, Mr. Mitchell voted against, and Mr. Skibitsky abstained. Mr. Skibitsky is elected Vice-Chair by a vote of 3-1-1.

3. Review of Code of Ethics Policy and Public Comment Policy: TM Puiia explained these two documents are policies approved by the prior Board, and remain in place: however, as these are policies and this is a new Board with new members, amendments can be made if they have any recommendations or concerns with its current content. No action was taken.

4. Agenda Adjustments: TM Puia provided the following agenda adjustments. Under item 6.a. Accounts Payable Warrants add warrant number 112, under item 6.b. Payroll Warrants add warrant number 113, and under item 6.c. Water/Sewer Warrants add warrant number 14.

5. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 13, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Daley to approve, seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. Vote to approve was unanimous, 5-0.

6. Approval of Warrants and Payrolls: A motion was made by Mr. Daley to approve the warrants per the Agenda Adjustments in item 4. Vote to approve was unanimous, 5-0.

7. Department Heads Report:

a. Water Department: Jim White informed the Board that he would like to move forward with replacing the communications technology for the plant and reservoir. Time Warner has been less reliable, and October is the deadline for agreements with them and Fairpoint. \$3,500 was budgeted, with \$3,100 remaining. EIS/Robbins would do the installations. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to allow the Water Department to install cell phone and modems to the Plant and Reservoir with EIS/Robbins at a cost not to exceed \$3,100. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

He also reported on the Curb Box record updates. There are a total of 597 curb boxes in Dixfield which they have located and recorded in the computer 589. The Rowe, Pine and High Streets construction project had 65 changes.

He also reported of a water leak on Lancaster Street, as well as the \$1,700 spent to replace the old plastic line for Aunt Hannah Lane with a new copper line.

He also reported that the Town would no longer be pumping water during the day, so we can get a better rate from CMP for off peak hours. He believes it could amount to an annual savings of up to \$8,000.

b. Public Works Department: Randy Glover reported that the bleachers from Marble Park have been completely refurbished. He also stated that all road painting of intersections, crosswalks and parking spaces have been completed. The crew has begun re-graveling Science Hill following the installation of the culvert that was approved at this year's town meeting.

The Board members were provided information on a lease-purchase agreement for excavators from Beauregard Equipment of Scarborough, Chadwick-BaRoss of Westbrook, and Milton Cat of Scarborough. Beauregard's price for a Case excavator was \$153,300, or five years at \$32,800 per year for 5 years for a total of \$164,000. That includes a 5 year service-maintenance plan. Chadwick-BaRoss quoted a Volvo excavator at \$185,500 with a 5 year service-maintenance plan. Milton Cat quoted a Caterpillar excavator at \$159,900. No service-maintenance plan was offered.

The town does not currently own an excavator. We own a backhoe that is 15 years old and is a back-up for the loader. The backhoe is generally used for cleaning out culverts, and some utility work. Mr. Mitchell believes we could save money by not paying a contractor to do the work, plus it would give the

Town more flexibility. Mr. Skibitsky would like to know what the warranties on all the machines are, and the service plan cost.

Mr. Glover also reported of some tree removal that required contracting out.

9. New Business

a. Determine Dates and Times for Meetings: A motion was made by Mr. Skibitsky to hold the Selectmen's meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month, except for the months of July and August, when there will be one meeting only on the second Monday of the month. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

b. Vote to maintain RSU 10 Withdrawal Committee Member Dana Whittemore: There was the belief that Mr. Whittemore reconsidered, so by consensus, the item was tabled until TM Puiia can discuss the matter with Mr. Whittemore.

c. Appointment of Reserve Police Officer Ronald B. Wood: Mr. Daley believed the appointment should wait until the Chief can attend the meeting with the officer, if possible, to answer questions regarding the individual's background and service record. By consensus, the item was tabled until the next meeting.

d. Appoint Signers of Payroll/Accounts Payable Warrants (Disbursement Policy): TM Puiia explained this is an annual policy that allows a warrant to be authorized for disbursement with only two selectmen signatures on it. This allows payments on accounts payable and payroll warrants that are prepared on off weeks from meetings to be remitted without having to call for a meeting of three or more selectmen. A motion was made by Mr. Skibitsky, seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

e. Board of Selectmen Appointments: TM Puiia presented a list of annual appointments made by the Board of Selectmen that included: Carlo J. Puiia for Town Manager, Road Commissioner, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Welfare Administrator; Michael B. Moore, Code Enforcement Officer; Royal Swan, NORSWB Representative; Cathy Dorion, River Valley Growth Council Member; Albert Bressette, Diane Carlton, Norine Clarke, Rita Girardin, Deborah Morang, Louise Richard, Heidi Thibeault, and Nancy Volkernick for the Economic Development Committee; and Albert Bressette, Diane Carlton, Norine Clarke, Rita Girardin, Deborah Morang, Louise Richard, and Nancy Volkernick for the Outdoor Market Committee. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to accept the list, and it was seconded by Mr. Daley. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

f. Town Manager Appointments: TM presented a list of annual appointments made by the Town Manager that included: Theresa Hemingway for Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer, Registrar of Voters, and Welfare Administrator; Barbara J. Rajaniemi for Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector, and Deputy Treasurer; Angela M. Varnum for Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Registrar of Voters; Jeffrey A. Howe for Police Chief; Benjamin S. Gaudet for Police Lieutenant; Eric M. Bernier, Anne Simmons-Edmunds, and Dustin M. Broughton for

Police Officer; Dean A. Benson, Rusty Daley, Matthew Desroches, David M. Hodgson, and Lawrence T. Winson for Reserve Police Officer; Scott R. Dennett for Fire Chief; Jay Bernard for Emergency Management Director; Michael B. Moore for E911 Addressing Officer and Building Inspector; David Errington for Plumbing Inspector; David Saphier for Health Officer; and Anne Simmons-Edmunds for Animal Control Officer. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

g. Appointment of Road Committee Members: TM Puiia explained that there are two seats filled by Selectmen on the Roads Committee. Last year, Mr. Skibitsky and Malcolm Gill served on the committee. Mr. Daley made a motion for Mr. Skibitsky, and it was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Jamison made a motion for Mr. Mitchell, and it was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

h. Appointment of Sewer Committee Members: TM Puiia explained that there are two seats filled by Selectmen on the Sewer Committee. Last year, Mr. Daley and Dana Whittemore, Jr. served on the committee. A motion was made by Mr. Skibitsky for Mr. Daley, and it was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. A motion was made by Mr. Skibitsky for Mr. Jamison, and it was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

i. Approval of Year End Carryforwards and Reserve Accounts: TM Puiia submitted the following as a list of accounts requested to be carryforward to the 2017 fiscal year: Executive Department – Building Repairs of \$800.00; Public Works Department – Gravel of \$3,500.00; Ludden Library – Building Repairs of \$3,000.00; Boards and Committees – Economic Development Council of \$500.00; and Insurances – Vehicle Liability for \$1,000.00. After review of the accounts, Mr. Skibitsky noted that the Insurance account could not be requested as a carryforward as the account had been depleted. A motion was made by Mr. Daley to approve the Carryforwards, except the Insurance request, for a total amount of \$7,800.00. It was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

j. Municipal Quitclaim Deed Without Covenants to the Oxford Federal Credit Union for 84 Main Street: TM Puiia explained the process and the discharge of the liens that satisfied the debt to the Town. A motion was made by Mr. Jamison to approve as written, and it was seconded by Mr. Daley. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

k. Wind Energy Facility Ordinance: TM Puiia explained that the recent vote on the WEF Ordinance was defeated at the June referendum election. The current ordinance on the Town's books contains zoning language which is unenforceable and needs to be changed. Mr. Daley believes that the "Highest Sound Level" has been defeated by the voters, and the "Lowest Sound Level" has been defeated by the voters. He supports many of the provisions the Planning Board has included in their recommendations for the ordinance, such as setbacks, decommissioning, etc. Mr. Skibitsky stated that he believes that the dBC sound measurement was not going to allow a project to be built. Ms. Clarke asked if we rescind the current ordinance, could we go with DEP's rules and regulations. Mr. Daley believes the DEP's standards are too liberal, and would not be protective enough. Mr. Skibitsky believes it is best if the State governs a wind energy project instead of burdening the Town. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Town has voted down the State levels and the developer pays costs in advance if the Town governs a wind energy project. Mr. Daley would like to remove the low frequency sound standard (dBC's) from the most recent draft as he

believes it has better protections than the DEP's sound standards. A motion was made by Mr. Daley to hold a WEF Ordinance Selectmen's Workshop on Monday, July 25th at 5:30 pm, if needed. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was unanimous, 5-0. Mr. Jamison expressed his concern over citizens being confused on what a "Yes" vote means and what a "No" vote means.

10. Other Business: none

11. Public Correspondence: Thank you letter from Maine Public Broadcasting Network – TM Puiia read into the record a thank you letter for the Town's support of MPBN through a Social Services budget item.

12. Public Comment: Representative Dick Pickett thanked Board members Malcolm Gill and Dana Whittemore, Jr. for their service to the Town. He also thanked the Board for dedicating the Town report in his name. Dan McKay congratulated the Board members, wished them well, and complimented them on maintaining a "Public Comment" section for the meetings. He would like to see some sort of sign out front of the Town Office to announce public events and meetings, even though it was not supported at the polls for an electronic sign. Peter Holman wants to eliminate the current WEF Ordinance and go with the State's DEP Rules because of the responsibilities the Town would have to enforce if it has its own ordinance.

13. Board Questions/Comments: Mr. Mitchell noted the 61 ballots with no vote on the WEF Ordinance. He would like to review the ballot. Mr. Daley commented on a newspaper editorial from a Planning Board member who claimed that if the Irving Mill were to come to Town today, he and former Selectman Dana Whittemore, Jr. would be opposed to it; however, Mr. Daley stated neither of them would be opposed to them, but both would fight for the citizens' concerns and safety whom are living adjacent to the mill. Mr. Skibitsky publicly thanked Dana Whittemore, Jr. for serving as a Selectman and for his service to the Town of Dixfield.

14. FYI: per agenda

15. Next Meeting: per agenda

16. Adjournment: Mr. Skibitsky made a motion at 7:35 pm to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Daley. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlo J. Puiia