

Town of Dixfield

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 14th, 2017

5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

Special Meeting

Board of Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor

Town Manager: Carlo Puiia

Board of Selectmen: Norine Clarke, Aaron Jamison, Eugene Skibitsky

Absent: Hart Daley, Norman Mitchell

Town Employees: Chief Jeffrey Howe

Town Citizens: Susan Holmes, Donald Lutick, Peter Holman, Grayson Child

Press: None

1. Call to Order: Mrs. Clarke

2. Public Hearing: The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing to receive public comment prior to their vote to consider approving a Liquor License Application for Surry Seafood LLC to serve beer and wine on the premises located at 60 Weld Street.

Mrs. Clarke: A renewal of the license. It is about to run out. Mrs. Holmes asks if its yearly. T.M. Mr. Puiia states it's annually. There were no comments opposing the approval of the license.

3. Approval of a Liquor License for Surry Seafood located at 60 Weld Street

Mr. Jamison makes a motion to approve of the renewal of the Liquor License. Mr. Skibitsky seconds. (3-0) Unanimous.

4. Appointment of Police Officer Gerald F. Maccione IV

Chief introduces new Police Officer for the town - Full time position (one of the few). Polygraph and Psych evaluation; clean. He is originally from Connecticut. He held a job as a juvenile and behavior correction officer. He graduated through college in conservation law at Unity College. Previous employers sad to see him leave but would be more than happy to give him his job back.

Mrs. Clarke: Questioned if he is a Blue Pin or a Green Pin?

Chief: Phase one and two are complete for the Green Pin. He is ready to advance to uniform. In January, Mr. Maccione will be attending full time at the academy. It's a 6 month program. He will be certified if completed, as a Blue Pin.

Mr. Skibitsky makes a motion to accept the Appoint of Police Officer Gerald F. Maccione IV. Mr. Jamison seconds. (3-0) Unanimous.

5. Set Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2018

T.M. Mr. Puiia: In packet there are proposals for the tax rate. County tax, municipal budget and the local education budget, which passed on August 8th. Minimum tax rate to meet the needs of the town: 22.025. We were currently at 20.1. The Maximum tax rate to meet the needs of the town: 23.126. The overlay - We started at 22.2, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 22.6. Stopped there because the overlay came to about \$99,000. Last year, the overlay had been \$49,000. The year before was \$52,000. A couple of years we were extremely low which doesn't help with surplus. The overlays that generated from the first scenario which was 22.2 gave us an overlay of \$30,120 (low). Scenario number two, 22.3 gave an overly of approx. \$47,350. Scenario number three, 23.4 gives and overlay of \$64,500. 22.5 generates an overlay of \$81,809. Scenario 5, generates around \$100,000. We are valued at 110%. An increase of \$61.05. If you're a \$50,000 home owner, your taxes will go down. \$48.99. \$75,000 home owner, increase of 59.00. \$100,000 home owner, increase of \$61.00. \$125,000 home owner, increase of \$116.00 \$150,000 home owner, increase of \$171.00. \$175,000 home owner, increase of \$226.00 \$200,000 home owner, increase of 281.00. Looking at a 2.1 mil rate increase with the 22.3. Mr. Skibitsky comments that it didn't affect the town as bad as everyone thought it would. T.M. Mr. Puiia states that this homestead exemption is only for this year. We don't know what next year will bring.

Audience member: Does homeowner have to apply to it? Average home valued at? T.M. Mr. Puiia: Yes, the exemption form is sent in mail from the town to fill out. Once it is filled out, it is automatic every year. The average home is valued at approximately \$100,000. Mrs. Holmes asks

if the homestead exemption applied to any home. T.M. Mr. Puiia: Doesn't matter what the age of the house but you can have only one in the State of Maine.

Discussion on Growth Council Building in Rumford:

Mr. T.M. Puiia: They give help to people starting up a business. Scott Blaisdell of Surry Seafood, from the audience, says they wouldn't be where they are without their help. They need to let more people know they exist. Mr. Jamison said that when he had gone in for help in the past, they didn't help him. "They couldn't head me in the right direction but they helped Scott and others and that's good. We should push having more businesses in town." Mr. Skibitsky comments on there being a misconception of the Select Board making school budget decisions.

Mr. Skibitsky makes a motion to set the Tax Rate to approximately 22.3. Mr. Jamison seconds. (3-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Grayson Child asks if there is anything the town can do to attract businesses to this town. Mrs. Clarke thinks it would have to take a committed group of citizens.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Jamison makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Skibitsky seconds. (3-0) Unanimous.