

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, February 22, 2016 – 5:30 PM  
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, PW Foreman Randy Glover, Water Superintendent Jim White and Fire Chief Scott Dennett.

Citizens present: Dan McKay, Rick Davis, Peter Holman, Aaron Jamison, Don Lutick, Sue Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Gilsleider, and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non- Citizens: Charles Green, Roland Patenaude

Press present: Matthew Daigle, Sun Journal, WVACTv

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

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

**2. PUBLIC HEARING:** Chair Daley opened the Public Hearing for public comment prior to their vote concerning approval of a Bureau of Alcoholic Beverage Bottle Club Registration Application for the Dixfield American Legion: Sons of American Legion. Mr. Patenaude told those present that this would be handled the same way the New Year's Eve party was only for regular functions. They will not be serving or selling liquor. It will be for BYOB only. Mr. Daley asked how the amount of liquor brought in will be controlled, and was told that two security people will be at the door and when you leave, there will be no re-entry. If there is an issue, they will make sure that there is a designated driver. This permit is to avoid having to apply every time they want to have a function at the Hall. They plan to let the Police Department know in advance of each of these occasions. Mr. Whittemore noted that there have been no problems around these functions before. TM Puiia recommended that a set of rules be drawn up and posted and Mr. Gill agreed.

**3. Agenda Adjustments**

a. to item 5a add #77

b. to 5b add #76

c. Mr. Whittemore requested that item 7. c be moved up so that the applicants would not have to wait through the meeting and it was agreed to put it in the Agenda following item #5

**4. Minutes:** Mr. Gill made a motion to accept the Minutes of Jan. 28, 2016 and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0 with two selectmen absent.

**5. Warrants:** Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the Warrants as adjusted and Mr. Gill seconded. All present were in favor.

**Item 7** was moved up on the Agenda. Mr. Daley asked for a motion to approve

the application for a one year permit for the Dixfield American Legion Bottle Club Registration. Mr. Gill made the motion, Mr. Whittemore seconded and all present were in favor.

## **6. Department Head Reports:**

a. Supt. White reported that Rangeley has declined the offer of the “test bench” and he will look for another taker. The upgrades to the water building are done and he invited the Selectmen to visit. He handed out reports. One is an overtime log sheet started in 2011 and progress was noted. The second was a water loss audit workshop where 10-15 is good and the department is at 4. The third was a comparison of billed for water versus pumped water where 85-90% is good, they are at 88%. The older meters are mostly gone and that will improve that figure even more. The final item was about the need to discuss a rate increase. Input is needed from the auditor who will be back next month. Supt. White's concern is the \$50,000 expense coming up for the Rt. 2 project.

## **7. New Business:**

a. TM Puiia gave an overview of the history of the “5<sup>th</sup> man” situation in the Police Dept. and noted that because of delays in meeting the specifications of the grant, the town is obligated until July 12, 2016 which is 12 days into the next fiscal year. He has proposed that the budget include 6-8 weeks of a 5<sup>th</sup> man to cover vacations. There is also the question of 24-7 coverage with only 4 men. Chief Howe presented reports which include the 2015 totals. More discussion of the 5 man vs. 4 man force followed with the note that in earlier years, criminal mischief increased when there were periods of time not covered except by call-outs. Because the nearest officers to call out are in Byron and Livermore Falls, which leaves Chief Howe on duty for all call out hours 24-7. The extra officer was a huge help because it frees up the Chief for Administrative duties. Agency Assists were discussed and Mr. Whittemore said it may be a disturbance but there is a sense of pride in being the ones called. He noted also that it would be returned in kind. Mr. Daley said that currently the Town is not pursuing a grant. The Chief feels that budget-wise, callouts are cheaper though maybe not as effective. Mr. Holman asked if they could mix schedules. Mr. McKay asked if this was in the Union contract and was told no but they must be notified if there is a change. Mr. Jamison questioned whether they were still looking into joining with Mexico. Mrs. Clarke said that the public should be given the choice of a smaller budget or having the 5<sup>th</sup> man. Mr. Gill asked for a breakdown by towns of the assists.

b. The Annual Report of the Oxford County Sheriffs from Wayne Gallant was discussed and there were 20 calls to aid Dixfield listed.

c. done above

d. Spirit of American Award request was presented and after discussion of meeting deadlines unless a candidate was presented at this meeting there would not be time. Sue Holmes suggested Brenda Jarvis and Caroline Smith be nominated for their service to the town.

e. Sewer Variances. This will be addressed with the new Sewer Ordinance to be addressed soon. The sewer and debt fee must be paid whether the sewer is used or not

and there is no way to shut off the sewer service.

**8. Other Business:**

Fire Chief Dennett reported that the new truck is in process but no date is given for delivery yet. He came to discuss the disposition of the current engine. There are two brokers who list used fire equipment for sale. There is no fee for the use of the listing unless they sell the truck and then it is 10% or \$500. Mr. Daley made a motion to have the Town Manager enter into an agreement with the fees listed above. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all present agreed.

**9. Public Correspondence:**

- a. TM Puia read a letter of congratulations he sent on behalf of the Town of Dixfield to the Town of Weld on their Bicentennial.
- b. Notice was received from Community Concepts Finance Corp. of their offer to streamline loans of up to \$10,000.
- c. A check for \$50. was accepted by the Town from a resident of Peaks Island to be donated to Dixfield's cats.
- d. A letter from Donald Lutick was read aloud concerning the intent of the WEF Ordinance Petition.

**10. Public Comment:**

Mr. Holman presented a letter concerning the petition.

Sue Holmes presented a letter of explanation to the selectmen of what the petitioners wanted which was given to the Board several weeks ago.

Mr. McKay questioned all items appearing in the Town Warrant which include “until rescinded by”.

Mrs. Clarke noted that those items were put in there to remove extra time spent at town meetings when they were “givens”. She also noted her support for those speaking for the petitioners.

**11. Board Questions and Comments:**

Mr. Whittemore—none

Mr. Gill said that he would not have voted yes when the Selectmen voted to accept the changes if he did not think it removed the dbc's.

Mr. Daley noted that the decibel levels were the only changes noted (dba's not dbc's).

**12. FYI as on Agenda**

**13 Next Meeting as on Agenda**

**14: Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Whittemore, second by Mr. Gill, all present were in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary

nhc/nhc