

Town of Dixfield - Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2017 - 5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

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

Town Employees: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Public Works Director Randy Glover, Leo Jolin, and Chief Jeffrey Howe

Town Citizens or Guests: Susan Holmes, Dan McKay, Terri Mitchell, Rick Davis, Royal Swan and Richard Pickett

Media: Bruce Farrin, Rumford Falls Times, Ben Hines, WVAC –TV7

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Agenda Adjustments:

Under 3. No minutes

4.b. add warrant #75

4.c. add warrant #4

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2017

The minutes were adjusted off this agenda. They will be approved on the March 13th agenda.

4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a. Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 64, 66, 70, 72, 74

b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 65, 67, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75

c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 2, 3, 4

Mr. Skibitsky made the motion to approve the warrants with the Agenda Adjustments. It was seconded by Mr. Daley. The vote was 5 to 0.

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Police Department Update

Chief Howe provided the Annual Law Total Incident Report for the Dixfield Police Department. Mr. Jamison questioned the “No Codes” and the “Assist Calls”. The Chief explained various reasons for “No Codes” may be as simple as not putting in “Auto Accident” and how assist calls are calculated. He reported that the call volume is almost the same as last year. He wants to take the data and better analyze the different calls. Mr. Mitchell wondered about the department’s conviction rate and would like the possible results and those pending. There was also the mention of concern for the lack of reserves. The Chief concluded with a report on an incident that occurred at Dirigo High School with a juvenile carrying a weapon.

b. Public Works Update

Randy Glover reported that despite the many storms this winter, budget-wise we are in pretty good shape. Our salt and sand supplies are holding up fine. Although the overtime line has been exceeded, we have submitted paperwork for reimbursement from MEMA for the recent blizzard conditions that have been declared eligible for emergency funds. He also reported on Lancaster Street and that the improvements made have corrected the heaving problems they were experiencing. Mr. Daley commended the crew for the good job they do keeping our roads cleaned.

State of Maine Representative Richard Pickett presented Randy Glover with a legislative sentiment for his being named the Dixfield Employee of the Year.

c. Town Manager

The Town Manager reported that it was his decision alone to close the police department recently. It had been explained to him that some citizens were of the belief that there was a conspiracy of sorts involving members of the Board of Selectmen. He reported that this was “absolutely” not the case. He commented on the Chief’s letter to the editor concerning the matter stating it was the Chief’s perspective and there are always two sides to the story.

6. Old Business:

a. Sewer Use Ordinance e-mail update from Ted Berry Company

The Town Manager provided the Board with an e-mail from the Ted Berry Company outlining President Matt Timberlake’s suggestions for proceeding on working on a new Sewer Use Ordinance. No action was taken; however, a Monday, April 17th workshop has been scheduled for 5:30 pm in the Ludden Memorial Library.

b. Planning Board Workshop Schedule

The Board reviewed the schedule for workshops the Planning Board has set to discuss the Wind Energy Ordinance. Members of the Board were encouraged to attend and provide the Planning Board with their opinions.

7. New Business:

a. Med-Care Ambulance Inter-Local Agreement Extension

The Board was informed that the ten year inter-local agreement would be expiring on June 7th, 2018. Towns may want to consider asking the question of extending the agreement this year at the polls if they are voting after that date. Mr. Skibitsky would like to review the agreement that would be good through 2028. He also wants to address the population swings since the agreement was drafted, and how that affects the determination of representatives on the Med-Care Board. Mr. Mitchell would like to discuss the mutual aid with Northstar Ambulance Service.

b. AVCOG Official Ballot for 2017 Officers

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to support Dave Duguay as president for AVCOG’s Executive Committee. It was seconded by Mrs. Clarke. The vote was 4 to 1, with Mr. Jamison opposing. As the other candidates were unknown, no other nominations were made.

c. 2016 Oxford County Sheriff’s Office Law Total Incident Report

The Board reviewed the report provided by the Sheriff’s Office. No action was taken.

d. Oxford County 2017 Budget

The Board reviewed the assessments for the Oxford County towns. Dixfield’s assessment increased from \$118,916 to \$122,228, which is approximately 2.1% of the total budget. No action was taken.

e. Appointment of Appeals Board Members

Mr. Daley made a motion to appoint Scott Belskis to the Appeals Board as a regular member. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote failed 2 to 3, with Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Skibitsky and Mr. Jamison opposing. Mr. Jamison made a motion to appoint Tom LeClerc as a regular member. It was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. The Vote was 3-0-2, with Mr. Daley and Mr. Mitchell abstained. Mr. Daley made a motion to appoint Scott Belksis to the Alternate Position for the Appeals Board. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was 4-0-1, with Mr. Skibitsky abstained.

f. Revised Municipal Budget Schedule for Fiscal Year 2018

The new schedule was reviewed by the Board. No action was taken.

g. Select Board Members for Negotiations of Labor Agreements

Mr. Jamison and Mr. Mitchell volunteered to represent the Board for the upcoming negotiations for the collective bargaining agreements.

h. Comprehensive Plan Discussion

The Board members received a copy of the Comprehensive Plan. It was completed in 2007, and should be updated. The Planning Board will work on this following the work needed to be completed for the Wind Energy Ordinance. No action was taken.

8. Other Business:

9. Public Correspondence: Town of Mexico Letter to RSU 10 Superintendent concerning shared services with the new RSU 56

The Board was provided with the letter. There were no comments.

10. Public Comment:

Susan Holmes questioned the cost for the Sheriff's Office while the Police Department was closed. It was explained there were no costs or fees from the Sheriff's Office for the law enforcement services provided during that time.

11. Board Questions/Comments:

No comments were provided.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

13. Executive Session: pursuant to MRS §405(6)(D) to discuss Labor Negotiations

Mr. Daley made a motion to go in to Executive Session at 7:15 pm. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 5 to 0. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive session at 8:01 pm. No action was taken.

14. Adjournment:

Mr. Jamison made the motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm. It was seconded by Mr. Daley. The vote was 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlo Puia