

Town of Dixfield - Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 13, 2017 - 5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

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

Absent: Hart Daley

Town Employees: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Jim White, Water Department

Town Citizens or Guests: Susan Holmes, Terri Mitchell, Rick Davis, Royal Swan, Dana Whittemore, Jr., Ken Rafuse, Peter Holman, Pastor Ken Hinckley, Jason Berube, and Don Lutick

Media: Bruce Farrin, Rumford Falls Times, Mike Nelson, WVAC –TV7

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

2. Agenda Adjustments: Warrants were adjusted as follows: under 4.a. add number 80, under 4.b. add number 79, and under 4.c add number 5.

3. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Jamison made a motion to approve the minutes from January 23, 2017 and February 27, 2017. It was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. The vote was 4 to 0.

4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

- a. Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 76, 78, *80**
- b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 77, *79**
- c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: *5**

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to approve the warrants with the adjustments as read. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.

5. Department Head Reports:

- a. Water Department:** Mr. White reported on a water main break on Park Avenue. It was a bad break as it was over nine feet deep in the ground, but they got it repaired. He also reported on the fire hydrants being all cleaned of snow after the recent storm. He also informed the Board that the Mexico Water District would be purchasing a new truck, and the old vehicle, a 2014, could be purchased by the Dixfield Water Department, and Dixfield's old truck, a 2011, could be used in the trade plus \$7,000 from the Town. This had been done before in the past.

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to approve purchasing the 2014 truck from the Mexico Water District for the 2011 Truck and the price of \$7,000. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was 3 to 1, with Mr. Jamison opposed.

Mr. White also brought up the need to replace the PH meter at the Water Plant. It will cost approximately \$1,770 plus freight. The meter lasts for approximately 20 years. There will be another \$400 spent installing the meter. A motion was made by Mr. Skibitsky to authorize Mr. White to make the purchase and install a new PH meter as discussed. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business:

- a. **2017 Oxford County Assessment** – No action was taken as the County’s document required the signatures of the Town’s Selectmen only.
- b. **Request to use Public Works Truck for River Valley Super Bowl Parade** – The Town Manager explained that a local parade had been organized to honor the New England Patriots Super Bowl victory. Town employee Randy Glover has volunteered to drive. A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell to approve the use of a Dixfield truck in the parade. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.
- c. **Discussion on Town Meetings** – The Town Manager explained how budgets that were defeated at a referendum vote were handled last year with a warrant article: adopting the prior year’s budget, a special town meeting to set a new budget, or by another referendum vote. A discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of an open town meeting followed. Mr. Mitchell favors a Town Meeting on a Saturday morning so citizens have a chance to have their say. Mr. Jamison likes an open town meeting as well. Mr. Skibitsky believes, until the Board hears otherwise, a referendum vote is what citizens say they want. Mrs. Clarke supports a town meeting as she feels referendums can cause uncertainty, unlike when you leave a town meeting you know what is going on.
- d. **Dixfield Area Broadband Internet Community Meeting** – Community Concepts would be providing a Broadband Internet informational meeting at Dirigo High School. They would like a letter of support for a planning grant. Mr. Skibitsky would not support if it does not include or commit to the elderly and the disabled.

8. Other Business: None

9. Public Correspondence: None

10. Public Comment: None

11. Board Questions/Comments: None

12. FYI: Budget Meeting with the Finance Committee Monday, March 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ludden Memorial Library

: Roads Committee Meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room – The meeting was postponed due to impending storm.

13. Next Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

14. Executive Session: pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6)(D) to discuss Labor Negotiations – A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Mr. Skibitsky at 6:38 p.m.. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. No action was taken.

15. Adjournment: Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlo Puiia