

Town of Dixfield

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 24th, 2016

5:30 pm - Ludden Memorial Library

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

Town Employees: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Public Works Director Randy Glover, Public Works Leo Jolin, Police Chief Jeffrey Howe, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Moore, Mexico Water District's Jim White and note taker Sylvia Fowler.

Citizens: Dan McKay, Rick Davis, Dana Whittemore, Jr., Terri Mitchell, Walter Newman, Peter Holman, Lori Holman, Susan Holmes, Richard Pickett, Silver Varnum, Angela Varnum, and Grayson Child

Media: WVAC-TV7

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Clarke opened with the pledge of allegiance.

2. Agenda Adjustments: 4a add - #37, 4b add - #36

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2016

Mr. Jamison motioned and Mr. Mitchell seconded it. Vote was 5-0.

: Regular Meeting Minutes - September 26th, 2016

Mr. Mitchell motioned it, Mr. Jamison seconded it Vote was 3-0-2, with Mr. Daley and Mr. Skibitsky abstaining as they were absent.

4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a. Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 31, 33, 34

Added 37

b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 30, 32, 35

Added 36

c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 22, 23, 24, 25

Mr. Skibitsky motioned and Mr. Jamison seconded it. Vote was 5-0.

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Fire Department

Chief Dennett: Safety concerns.

1st concern: Increasing trucks in front of fire station, tractor trailers left in front, no parking, turning, etc. in front of station.

2nd concern: Parking on Park Avenue too close to the intersection. He believes it should be at least a car's length at both ends. He is requesting permission from the board to purchase a sign or something to address the issue. Mr. Skibitsky motioned and Mr. Daley seconded. Vote was 5-0

Mr. Skibitsky: Get recommendations

Audience - Mrs. Holmes: Announcements at the games on staying/parking off or away from that intersection.

Chief Dennett: Received apparatus

Audience - Mr. Holman: Any consideration to adding on to the fire station for the police?

Chief Dennett: Thinks there is potential, thinks town should consider

Mrs. Clarke: Let's have the Chiefs talk it out to see what's feasible.

b. Police Department

Chief Howe presented Spillman Reports to the selectmen. There is good news and bad news. The bad news is Ben Gaudet completed his time for them. Needed to separate unfortunately, as it was a difficult decision. The good news is some applicants have expressed their interest in the position.

T.M. Puiia: expresses a concern on the scheduling, raises safety concerns.

Chief Howe: He addressed the amount of hours some of the officers are getting.

Mr. Daley: Reserves are getting overtime, why aren't you, the Chief, picking up those extra hours. He was surprised about the amount of money earned by the reserves.

Chief Howe: He believes the wages are budgeted.

Mr. Jamison: A lot of hours bring you down, and working that many hours wears a person down.

Chief Howe: We watch out for our own men. We look out and help each other too.

Mr. Skibitsky: Can you work extra hours?

Chief Howe: Yes, but they have 1st pick. If it's hurting them , I'll definitely take up more hours.

Mr. Skibitsky: Contract or Federal law limited on hours?

Chief Howe: No, no limit.

Mr. Daley: Pick up more hours to control the budget.

Audience - Mr. Whittemore: The public works department's agreement has a stipulation where you can send guys home or have the ability to?

Mr. Glover: In the Public Works agreement, after working 16 hours, you can ask or be asked to go home, and sometimes we have to. He has pulled 24 hours before.

Chief Howe: Understands the Board's concerns and will take care of it. Other note: publicity on the Halloween walk, maybe people do not know when to contribute candy or money.

c. Public Works Department

Mr. Glover: Lists projects over the summer. Paved and shoulders done on Norton Rd. Old culverts and rusted, have been changed. It's been paved and it came out good. Shoulder isn't done yet. Roads: Coolidge, Porter, Lancaster, Common, Old Canton, Merrill, Valley, and Severy Hill. Plastic culverts last up to 15 years. We've done quite a good job this summer.

Mr. Jamison: How much was the chipper used?

Mr. Glover: Used it on a number of jobs, but not the Old Canton Pt Road as it was all bamboo. Lots of projects accomplished this summer. Sewer proposal, Randy and T.M. Puiia are working on it. I've worked for years, always did the sewer. Don't have a problem looking it over but... 4 employees. Currently, Public Works have to move the man holes, not Ted Berry Company.

Mr. Daley: Are there more "individual" jobs?

T.M. Puiia: They all have something on their contracts.

Mr. Glover: Have to have a respond person.

Mr. Skibitsky: 4 weeks ago the alarm went off and there was no response. Clog in the street, we don't have the equipment. Ted Berry sticks to what they do and vice versa. Ted Berry improved.

T. M. Puiia: Advocating to the town to make the upgrade, wasn't just Ted Berry

Mr. Mitchell: Ted Berry employees vs. Randy

T.M. Puiia: It would cost the Town around \$40,000 if we combined the labor for the grounds person shoveling walk ways and sidewalks, etc.

Mr. Skibitsky: A flapper valve can only hold so much. Need a spare person for public works? That's fine but don't integrate it with sewer. No need to give more jobs then what Public Works can already have or can handle.

Mrs. Clarke: Have a good handle on your job now, do what you need to do until spring with the crew you have already.

Mr. Daley: Doesn't feel it necessary to hire and extra person.

Mr. Glover: There are hidden things in the contract. Just wants to help benefit the town. The crew is small and works hard.

6. Old Business

a. Sewer Contract with Ted Berry for O&M.

T.M. Puiia: Ted Berry reps couldn't make it out tonight. They will be there for the November 14th meeting. All non-maintenance and operational invoices, those not included in the contract, should be reviewed.

b. Water and Sewer Contracts with Mexico Water District

c. Sewer Line Contract with the Mexico Sewer District

3 contracts have to be addressed. Contracts discussed. Jim White wasn't planning on being here tonight.

T.M. Puiia: Arrange a meeting with Jim's board for a separate meeting.

Mr. Skibitsky: Insurance \$ amount to on add-ons?

Jim: 16,000. 3% increase each year.

Maybe a meeting with T.M. Puiia, Mrs. Clarke and Mr. Skibitsky only instead of whole board can be arranged.

d. Fireworks Ordinance

- June 27th (original), Sept. 12th (petition from Scott)

Letter from the Planning Board was read expressing their concerns about their duties – in the form of a letter to the editor.

Concern: Fireworks ordinance presented several months ago.

- Presented fireworks ordinance: T.M. Puiia. Sept. 6th (special). Sept. 12th, but only three members were present. Oct. 10th, no one showed. Now the 24th and haven't made an agreement yet - land use ordinance. Cleared up the comment that it was the Board in 2012 that was "dysfunctional". The planning board now is not dysfunctional. The decision on ordinance made based off of vote in November.

Mr. Skibitsky: Can the planning board delegate it to a committee?

Mrs. Clarke: Yes we have done other ordinances

Audience - Mr. Whittemore: Default to state standards.

Chief Howe: Make a decision based off what the selectmen and the people have said. Do we make an ordinance based on a few or as a whole?

Mrs. Clarke: Is someone violates the ordinance, we have to take them to court

Audience - Mrs. Holmes: and ordinance equals a middle man.

Mr. Skibitsky: Table it indefinitely, AJ seconded it. Vote was 5-0.

7. New Business

a. Appointment to the Economic Development Committee

Mr. Skibitsky motioned Greg Gagne be appointed to the Economic Development Committee and Mr. Jamison seconded. Vote was 5-0.

b. Appointment to the Appeals Board

Motion made by Mr. Skibitsky to table the appointment of Tom LeClerc to the Appeals Board and seconded by Mr. Jamison. Vote was 5-0.

c. Proposed Schedule for Town Meeting and Budgeting

Tuesday, June 13th. With referendum voting, a public hearing must be held within 14 days. We can alternate regular meetings and budget meetings on Monday nights.

d. Proposed 2017 State Valuation from the Maine Revenue Services

Wait for the vote, relevant numbers. Mike Rogers, letter on wind energy impact

e. Schedule Maine Revenue Services to provide update for WEF Impact

Available after November 14th – study on wind energy impact, Mike Rogers

8. Other Business - none

9. Public Correspondence: Donation letter to the Dixfield Halloween Walk from the Family of Bettina Martin.

- In honor of their Mother's birthday, a check for \$300 enclosed. Thank you letter. Will be a walk starting around 5:30pm.

10. Public Comment:

Mrs. Holmes: Letter on planning board. Letter is on Facebook and it has information that is vastly inaccurate.

T.M. Puiia: Write a letter to the board

Mr. Holman: Are other businesses going to have to go through restrictions like wind energy? Held the same standard as wind?

Mr. Daley: Depends on the business

Mr. McKay: Hope the vote in November is voted on behalf of the people. He is voting No to protect the citizens.

Mr. Skibitsky: He saw in the obituaries that long term Public Works employee Dickie Frost passed away and expressed his condolences to the family.

11. Board Questions/Comments: N/A

12. FYI: Voting will be Tuesday, November 8th from 8 am to 8 pm at the Dixfield Swasey - Torrey American Legion Post 100 at 8 River Lane or by Absentee Ballot from the Town Office until Thursday, November 3rd.

13. Next Meeting: Monday, November 14th and 28th, 2016 at 5:30 pm downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

14. Adjournment: Motion was made by Mr. Daley to adjourn at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Vote was 5-0.

Submitted,

Silvia K. Fowler, Note Taker