

Town of Dixfield

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 28th, 2016

5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

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

Absent: Eugene Skibitsky

Town Employees: Town Manager Carlo Puiia. Public Works Director Randy Glover, Police Chief Jeffrey Howe, Note taker Sylvia Fowler

Town Citizens or Guests: Donald Lutick, Dana Whittemore, Jr., Dan Mckay, Susan Holmes, Grayson Child, Peter Holman, Richard Pickett, Terri Mitchell, Rick Davis, and Carol Glover

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

1. Call to Order: Mrs. Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Agenda Adjustments: 3.a. Add Accounts Payable Warrant #48, 3.b. add Payroll Warrant #47, and under 4.b. add a Special Town Item
3. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:
 - a. Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 46, 48
 - b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 45, 47
 - c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s 28

Motioned by Mr. Daley to approve as adjusted, and it was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.

4. Department Head Reports:
 - a. Police Department: There will be a delay because Chief Howe received a call for service and will be back.
 - b. Special Town Item

Randy Glover was presented with the Employee of the Year Award. The nomination was made by Vickie Carrier. Speaking on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager said “When an employee makes outstanding contributions to the Town and its citizens, then we are more than pleased to express our respect and appreciation for their exceptional service. It is our sincerest hope this humble gesture on our part clearly demonstrates to Randy that his work ethic and genuine concern for the Town of Dixfield is acknowledged, and that we sincerely believe he deserves this recognition and honor.” Mrs. Clarke presented Mr. Glover with a plaque for the recognition. He received a round of applause from the audience.

5. Old Business:

a. Junkyard Permit - Shannon Drown: Drown Road

T.M. Puiia: Mr. Drown’s permit was not approved earlier, as his application was unavailable for the other meeting due to a medical condition; however, his permit was a renewal and was listed for the public hearing. No concerns or comments were expressed opposing it at that time. His application was presented separately for that reason.

Motion made by Mr. Daley to approve the junkyard Permit for Mr. Drown. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.

b. Sewer Line Contract with the Mexico Sewer District

T.M. Puiia: The 7 yr. contract expires on March 23, 2017. It details a separate and a shared branch to the plant with the Mexico sewer District. T.M. Puiia didn't know whether anyone had comments. The first couple of miles is 100% the responsibility of the Town of Dixfield with the remainder is 50/50 with the Town of Mexico. Doesn't want this contract to fall through the cracks stating March is the busiest budget season. A full board is needed and suggests to go over the packet Matt passed out last meeting. The Sewer Ordinance quote is a one-time cost so there is budgeted \$7,500 for next year.

Mr. Jamison: Is there a list of people on that section we are responsible for.

T.M. Puiia will provide one at the next meeting.

Mr. McKay: Are we responsible for a catastrophe? Are we insured or would we have to take the responsibility?

T.M. Puiia: We're insured for what we are liable.

Mr. McKay: Why couldn't the planning board get the ordinance instead of Ted Berry?

Mrs. Clarke: They would have to start from scratch.

Mr. Jamison: Can we get some ordinances from other towns to compare?

Mrs. Clarke: Matt, from Ted Berry Co., will be providing them at the next meeting.

T.M. Puiia: Matt was asked to provide a quote. The ordinance is from 1978, it's time to renew.

Mr. Daley: Agrees with Mr. Jamison. Get common language from other towns and compare them in order to write Matt's draft. Mr. Daley adds that he would rather have T.M. Puiia write it to lessen the cost. He was surprised at the cost too.

Mr. Mitchell: We're always looking at big cities. We need to look at towns that are the size as Dixfield. May think we're "big" but we're not.

c. Sewer Line Contract with Ted Berry - Operating and Maintenance with Sewer Ordinance Quote

T. M. Puiia: Ted Berry could not be here tonight. Will be here next meeting on December 12th.

d. Wind Energy Ordinance for the Town of Dixfield

Mr. Daley: He favors sending the ordinance back to the Planning Board. He recommends that they continue to work on it.

Mrs. Clarke: Suggests we wait until December 12th before any votes until we have a full board. No one objected to her suggestion.

4. a: Chief Howe: Packet given out contained one month of calls for service report from July. Claims it was a typical summer. There was a burglary stretch and one remains unsolved. The other news is an interview taking place on the 8th of December. Mentioned someone he knew showed an interest in possibly applying for lieutenant position. Confident the position will be filled. Also recruiting and talking to other departments. Good potential for the department's future. Looked at numbers. Currently 4% under budget but in the long run the wage line will end well. Also received 3 separate grants. 1st: Medical kits - fully funded. 2nd: application for a new computer - fully funded. 3rd: Funding overtime cost - advantage shooter training (mac-tac) active shooter - fully funded.

Mr. Jamison: Asks about the plan on the extra hours for the spares.

Chief Howe: Working standard hours. There person we will be interviewing in a couple weeks should help tremendously if all works out. Hoping to fill both positions within the next month.

Mr. Jamison: Why do the spares have overtime?

Chief Howe: A lot of the spares work full time in other departments. Sometimes there are only a few to choose from.

Citizen: Do you have enough reserves or would it save more money if you picked up hours?

Chief Howe: We could use more reserves if they were available. The roster of our department holds 10 officers. Out of the 10, there are 6 reserves. We would rather have experienced officers.

T.M. Puiia: Thinks it is a concern, and can't be as optimistic. He has concerns from those leaving or who left other departments – why does the worker want to leave their other department?

Mr. Jamison: Can we start putting numbers together from the other departments? The Dixfield department needs a better place.

Chief Howe: Thinks we should take on one project at a time. He doesn't want have too quick of a reaction. Claims to be here for the people, from the smallest to the biggest complaint or crime. Has had other job offers elsewhere, but loves this town.

T.M. Puiia: Are the spares receiving the same hours as the union workers?

Chief Howe: No, Spares receive 36 - 42 hours. Union workers receive 8 hours overtime.

Mrs. Holmes: The priority is Dixfield needing a full staff.

T.M. Puiia: Competent, need to get the service needed in this town. The board is not confident because the department lost two people.

Mrs. Holmes: Asks if all the towns are struggling

T.M. Puiia: Yes. There is a problem and it needs to be addressed and discussed.

Mr. Whittemore: Would like to have dollar figure consideration for 18 hour coverage versus 24 hour coverage.

Mr. Pickett: Rephrases what Chief Howe has been saying and then asks or suggests two comments/questions 1. People want 24 hr. coverage and 2. Be patient and ride it out, selectmen and T.M. Puiia.

T.M. Puiia: Doesn't want 4 men to hire anyone just to fill the position. Need reliable, confident, trained men.

Mr. Mitchell: Votes 24 hour coverage. Thinks it's up to the government on how the coverage is provided.

Mr. McKay: Time span of the 4 votes? Suggests the selectmen put on another vote and a public hearing prior to.

Mr. Holman: People come and go. Is salary the reason? What are the reasons we can't hold on to any men?

Chief Howe: Lists reasons. Top reason, men wanted to make more money. Other reasons were medical and law enforcement situations. He would rather take time to pick the right candidate. Maybe if the police facility was better, it would help the matter.

T.M. Puiia: Is the town ready to fund the police department. In order for a better facility we need a department full of competent staff as well.

Mr. Daley: The trouble with spares is there performances will be affected.

Chief Howe: Why not start a fund for the facility?

Mr. Pickett: States we need coverage for the full 24 hr. period.

Mrs. Holmes: Putting a time frame for the workers/attendance

Mr. Daley: \$30,000 is what the town pays per candidate to attend the Academy. \$6,000 decrease as each year goes by. So in five years the \$30,000 would be paid off.

Mrs. Clarke: Asks Chief Howe to explain the difference between a blue pin and a green pin.

Chief Howe: Green: Reserve status only. Preliminary training doesn't have the extent of a blue pin. Lots of supervision involved. Not allowed to do an investigation without assistance. Blue: Gone through intense training, fully qualified to take on any investigation on their own, full time, more opportunity in the field.

6: New Business:

a. Planning Board Report on Review of Ordinances:

Mr. Davis: Never had a public comment policy. Thinks it would be a good idea and would like to add it to their ordinance.

Mr. Daley: Thinks we should have a public comment for the Planning Board.

Mrs. Clarke: Didn't understand 4 from the bottom - tells Rick it needs to be written clearer.

T.M. Puiia: Should annually sign a Public Comment Policy, like the Board of Selectmen does.

Mr. Davis: Believes the timber harvest policy has problems with it and that a person could sue the town. Example: Non-licensed forester.

Mr. Child: Need a notification with just about anything.

Mr. Davis: Repeat the ordinance - the Shoreland Zoning fee schedule should be added and yes, changes need to be made. Believes the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance overrules the Timber Harvest Ordinance.

7. Other Business: N/A

8. Public Correspondence: A letter from the RSU 10 to the Police Department was shared describing their appreciation for assisting with the Dirigo High School canine search.

9. Public Comment:

Mr. McKay: Repeats again Wind Ordinance should be given to the Planning Board. Claims 2010 and 2012 are the same ordinances.

Mr. Holman: Is it going to be fair? You have 3 against wind. Believes it should stay with Selectmen, not go to the Planning Board.

Mrs. Holmes: Was at last planning board meeting and was confused on a couple of things. The select board changed the words when there was a petition that was made; did the selectmen change the wording?

Mrs. Clarke: That is two different things.

T.M. Puiia: After the June vote, that petition was defeated. I wrote it according to the discussion of the Board.

Mrs. Clarke: We have a disconnect, and we're working on it.

Mr. McKay: Planning Board has some skin in this game.

Mrs. Clarke: We all have skin in this game. Let's not talk about this anymore regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. McKay: The Ordinance needs help.

Mr. Holman: Agrees with Mrs. Clarke. The Comprehensive Plan's suggested list is private property and the town can't control them.

Mr. Mitchell: Disagrees and tells Mrs. Clarke to read more thoroughly.

10. Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Daley: Dog drug certified by February. Dog is in training now. Name of Dog is Samson.

Mr. Jamison: Get some numbers for the place department,

Mrs. Clarke: All should take part of the discussion, done openly, not just by reports.

Mr. Mitchell: Comprehensive plan: Planning board should really look at it. There is a conflict. Scenic is not the problem.

Mrs. Holmes: Asks the difference between comprehensive planning and zoning.

Mrs. Clarke: Comprehensive planning: plan for the town. Zoning: Specifies (law)

Mr. Daley: Dixfield was sewed in the past and was successful.

11. FYI: Nomination papers for the new district's School Board are available in the Town Office

T.M. Puiia explained there are 5 positions need to be filled: One - three year seat, two - two year seats, and two - one year seats.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, December 12th, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library.

13. Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Jamison. The vote was 4 to 0.