

Town of Dixfield

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 22, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

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

Town Employees: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Randy Glover, Chief Jeffrey Howe, Jim White, CEO Mike Moore

Town Citizens: Donald Lutick, Susan Holmes, Peter Holman, Dan McKay, Terri Mitchell, Mark Bolduc, Kim Bolduc, Rick Davis, Royal Swan

Press: WVAC - Ben Hines, Rumford Falls Times Bruce Farrin

Guests: Don Crane, Carol Glover

1. Call to Order: Mrs. Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked those present to recite Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Adjustments: 4.a. add 102, 4.b. add 101, 4.c. add 11, 5. add the Water Department, 9. Wind Farm Handout from Norman Mitchell

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2017

Mr. Skibitsky motioned. Mr. Jamison seconded. (4-1). Mr. Daley abstained.

4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a. Accounts Payable Warrants #'s: 100, 102

b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 98, 99, 101

c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 11

Mr. Skibitsky motioned. Mr. Jamison seconded. (5-0) Unanimous.

5. Department Head Reports:

Jim White: River Lane project is estimated between \$9,200 - \$9,500. Item for the wells, estimated amounts to check well - \$600 to test, \$3,000 to replace, \$600 + \$1,500 to clean/redevelop.

\$600 is the set price.

Motion made by Mr. Daley to approve the diagnostic well testing and repair as test deems necessary up to an amount of \$15,600. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. (5-0) Unanimous.

a. Public Works

Randy: Finished clean up. Getting ready for Memorial Day. Hard to mow lawns due to rain. After the holiday, we'll be excavating Merrill Rd. Leo and Randy are heading to a workshop on the 7th of June. Safety works for the crosswalks and sidewalks. We've asked for a Crossing Signal to be put up by the high school. Solar panel - it's free, senses vehicles. Would like to slow down the traffic near the school. Want people to be aware of the crosswalks. We've also talked about redoing and or fixing some of the sidewalks in town. We want to get an estimate from Marty Morgan to prepare the sidewalk from Colburn Ave. to Ellis's Variety. There is no sidewalk there. It's not handicap accessible. Currently, a couple thousand dollars shy in the sidewalk account. T.M. Mr. Puiia: \$19,000 in the reserve account. If board approves, there will be enough money left to do the project. Randy: Don't want to wait too long after July. Mr. McKay: What is the rush? Randy: Upgrade, no rush. Safety factors. Mr. Skibitsky: Concerned about the snowmobiles. Misunderstood exact location. Randy: Sidewalk curb. Mr. Mitchell: Any estimates on continuing the sidewalk up Weld St.? Feels is more of a concern. Mr. Daley: Interested for convenience of sidewalk on the curb of Colburn Ave. to Ellis's. Randy: Safety issue and better bang for the buck.

Motioned made by Mr. Skibitsky: funding for town referendum. Mr. Jamison seconded. (5-0) Unanimous. Mr. Skibitsky: If you can get a lower bid, you won't have to wait.

6. Old Business:

a. Endorse Certificates of Appointments

T.M. Mr. Puiia: Mr. Lutick and Mrs. Holmes (alternate) are the new Planning Board members. Mr. Belskis and Tom LeClerc for the Appeals Board. Linda DeRoehn as the Deputy Town Clerk

7. New Business:

a. ATV Municipal Grant-In-Aid

T.M. Mr. Puiia: Mr. Crane is authorized to act in Town of Dixfield in representing the River Valley riders. Project: Grant in Aide program. Would like to apply to this grant in order to improve the trails. Mr. Crane: Trying to build and rebuild trails. Repair bridges. Ditching. Attempting to build a trail into Weld. T.M. Mr. Puiia: The project description for 2017 has a total

of \$32, 614. Mr. Daley: Are we under any obligation or you, Mr. Crane obligated? Liable? Insurance for the workers? All private land? Mr. Crane: We have insurance for rides and events. T.M. Mr. Puiia: There is always liability but we have an insurance policy. We would be okay. Town can be defended. Mr. Crane: Have to have the plan sent in to the state by May 30th. Mr. Mckay: Soil erosion, who's responsible? Mr. Crane: We are. Works close to Bryan *** (?) Milligan who works in that. T.M. Mr. Puiia: Putting your faith into the River Valley Riders Club. Mr. Daley: Work plan submitted or working on it? Mr. Crane: Just need to send in a couple other documents. Mrs. Holmes: Will the trails be wide enough for the side by sides? Mr. Crane: Yes, will be wider. Land owners sometimes ask no wider then 60 inches.

Motion made my Mr. Jamison, agreeing to proposal in continuing the process of improving the trails. Mr. Skibitsky seconded. (5-0) Unanimous.

b. Odd Fellows and Rebekah's Scholarship

T.M. Mr. Puiia: 8 applicants from the Senior Class of 2017. \$1,327 to distribute to scholarships. \$165.88 to each applicant. Mr. Daley: How quickly needed? T.M. Mr. Puiia: Needed before graduation.

Mr. Daley makes a motion to grant \$165.88 to each of the 8 applicants. Mr. Skibitsky seconded. (5-0) Unanimous.

c. June 26th Selectmen's Meeting rescheduled

Board of Selectmen agreed to reschedule for June 19th. Mr. Daley may be absent that meeting do to vacation/family time. Next meetings following will be July 10th and August 14th.

d. Maine Revenue Services Preliminary 2018 State Valuation

T.M. Mr. Puiia: Dixfield's evaluation - exceeding combined ratio at 108% value. Need to have the town reevaluated. On this year's ballot, we are asking the town to fund the reserve account for the reevaluation. Depends on the citizens passing the reserve request. The budget stays the same. If your values go down, your mill rate go up. Your tax bill usually stays the same. Have an estimated cost of the reevaluation, based on the size of the town. Mr. Mitchell: made an observation that 3 of the 25 properties on the list have been sold for more than their asses value. The need of a reevaluation is obvious. Mr. Skibitsky: Should be prepared if mill rate goes up.

e. Planning Board Recommendation

Mr. Davis: At the last Planning Board meeting a discussion on recreational marijuana. By a unanimous decision, we would like to put forward a moratorium to protect the town until an ordinance is put into play. It's a touchy subject and will take a lot of work. Feels that we should get started on it now. Mr. Daley: Can get a template from other towns for moratorium. Mrs. Clarke: Putting a moratorium into place allows time for the town. Mr. Daley: Reason for a moratorium would to protect the town from that business coming in before specific rules or regulations. Mrs. Clarke: As long as we have a moratorium, we as a town can be working on an

ordinance. T.M. Mr. Puiia: The 180 day moratorium has to be passed by the town citizens. If we wanted to renew it after the 180 days, we would have a public hearing and the Board of Selectmen can extend it depending on vote. 1st, a special town meeting has to take place in whether the town is in favor of a moratorium or not.

Agreed to Table vote to further discuss and pick a date for the town on whether we have a moratorium for the marijuana recreational business(es).

f. Planning Board By Laws Discussion

Mrs. Clarke: Personally feels the bylaws are misinterpreted. The bylaws need to be looked at and clarified as far as having an alternate. When a Board has an alternate, the alternate has a right to attend the meeting and helps (he/she) be aware of what's going on. If at any time, a member is missing from the Board, the alternate has a right to fill in for that missing member. Doesn't interpret it as being a quorum. Feels it's an automatic for the alternate to step in to fill the absent member's place in voting and discussion. If the Chairman already appointed that person to participate in the absent member's place than they are able to vote. The Chairman "shall" appoint. Mr. Skibitsky: Wondering what the Lawyer had to say. T.M. Mr. Puiia: The attorney agrees the language is very vague but they pointed out that the first sentence clearly states, "shall" designate. The Board of Selectmen are the elected officials, not the Planning Board Members. Mr. Daley: Doesn't find it confusing. Section 5.b. Chairman appoints alternate to fill absent member's position. Mr. McKay: Keeps arguing on a 4 member board vs. the alternate being able to vote in place of absent member. Mr. Skibitsky: Requests the Town Manager rewords the language to rid the confusion. Wants it clarified. Motion made Mr. Skibitsky for clean up the wording by Town Manager in order to further discuss and vote at another meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jamison. (5-0) Unanimous

g. Citizen of the Year

Mrs. Holmes nominated Barbara Chow for Citizen of the Year. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion. Mr. Jamison seconded. Barbara Chow announced as Citizen of the Year.

8. Other Business: None

9. Public Correspondence: Dixfield American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony Information

American Legion will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will begin at Riverside Cemetery then go to Greenwood Cemetery and stop on the Mexico/Peru bridge for a brief ceremony and will wind up going back to the American Legion for coffee, chocolate milk and donuts.

Mr. Mitchell: Provided a handout on windfarm noise. "Facts to Read".

10. Public Comment:

T.M. Mr. Puiia: A number of people in the last few weeks have spoken to me concerning the RSU 56 budget impacts. Received the proposed budget for the RSU 56. Dixfield's assessment -

Dixfield will pay 45.39% of cost of school district. Makes citizens aware that last year's assessment for the school was \$1.782 mil. This year with the proposed budget and additional Adult-Ed is \$2.34 mil. which is an increase of about \$558,000. Last year's mill rate was about \$161,500 for ever mil. Doesn't know what this year's evaluation will be. News isn't good when you're looking at \$3.5 mil.

Mr. Bolduc: Sad that the increases affect not only the tax payers but the cuts on the school. As of now the budget has \$2.2 mil. worth of cuts. Due to withdrawals and finds it very unfortunate. Had voted no and had been very vocal at the withdrawal meetings. Clear the facts weren't presented. Feels that For the kids, we could try going back to the RSU 10 which may seem impossible at this point but has hope. Concerned about the kid's futures. Kids will hurt and tax payers will be on a fixed income. Suggests to consolidate. Wish more people would attend/be involved in the school board meetings. Not many people show up. This change in RSU will impact our town greatly. Mr. Daley: Asks for information on impact. Mr. Bolduc: Brought all the information. \$2.2 mil. 2 pages of cuts. Something needs to be done. Mrs. Holmes: Mr. Ross said we can't move back... we have to move forward. Mr. Bolduc: Find it hard to believe that there is no way at some point in time to eventually go back. Mentioned something about a two year term. This is a real concern. Mrs. Holmes: Encourages going to others to get a committee together. A group of voices being hears is better than one. Mr. Bolduc: Understood, reason for being here tonight. The budget increased over 28% from last year. Mrs. Holmes: Doesn't make sense that we need to pay \$800,000 to pay workers of last year. Referred to it as summer salaries. This first year we'll be hit hard but believes in two years it'll begin to stabilize. Sees both sides. Mr. Bolduc: Advises people to go to the school board meeting tomorrow. Will see how desperate they are. Mr. Jamison: Not even concerned about the town. Concerned about the kids. Mr. Bolduc: No one will want to bring their kids here. Want the kids to have more opportunity; AP classes and extracurricular activities.

Mr. Holman: This emphasizes the need for revenue. Any help we can get...

11. Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Skibitsky: Congrats to Barbara Chow.

Mr. Jamison: School Budget: Concerned about the education for the kids. Extremely disappointed to be apart from this school district

Mrs. Clarke: People need to remember that when it's raining and or cloudy out, to turn on headlights.

12. FYI: RSU 56 Budget Information Meeting on May 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. - Dirigo High School

: RSU 56 District Budget Vote Meeting on May 31, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. - Dirigo High School

: New Town Website - dixfield.org launched today, Monday, May 22nd

: Annual Town Meeting June 1st at 6 p.m. in the Dirigo High School Community Room

13. Next Meeting: Monday, June 19th, 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

Mr. Jamison motioned at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Skibitsky seconded. (5-0) Unanimous. Chair declared the Board out at 7:55 p.m. No action was taken.

15. Executive Session: pursuant to MRS 405 (6) (E) to discuss Legal Matters

Mr. Skibitsky motioned at 7:56 p.m. Mr. Jamison seconded. (5-0) Unanimous. Chair declared the Board out at 8:04 p.m. No action was taken.

16. Executive Session: pursuant to MRS 405 (6) (F) to discuss Confidential Records

Mr. Daley motioned at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Skibitsky seconded. (5-0) Unanimous. Chair declared the Board out at 8:18 p.m. No action was taken.

17. Adjournment: Motion made by Mr. Skibitsky to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Jamison. Vote was 5 to 0.