

Town of Dixfield

Selectmen Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12th, 2018

5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

Town Manager: Carlo Puiia

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

Town Employees: Ricky Davis, Scott Dennett, Chief Jeff Howe, Sargent Ron Wood, Richard Pickett, Jim White, Randy Glover, Leo Jolin

Town Citizens: Donald Lutick, Peter Holman, Susan Holmes, Dan McKay, Terri Mitchell, Walter Newman, Ricky Davis, Ken Hinkley

Press: Ben Hines, WVAC and Bruce Farrin, Sun Media

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

2. Agenda Adjustments: T.M. Mr. Puiia: Under approval of warrants and payroll, added numbers are 70 to 4a, 69 to 4b and 3 to 4c.

3 Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes - September 25th, 2017

Mr. Jamison made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 25th, 2017. Mr. Mitchell seconded. Mr. Mitchell asks that a correction be made. Under 5b, it is conviction rates, not eviction rates. Mr. Skibitsky was absent that day. Vote (3-0-1).

4. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a. Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 61, 62, 63, 66, 67

Added: #70

b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 60, 64, 65, 68

Added: #69

c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 1, 2

Added: # 3

5. Department Head Reports:

Added item: Fire Department

a. Water Department

Jim goes over a packet of water reports/updates. The first page is an information sheet consisting of the pumping totals. We pumped between 41-42 million gallons for the year 2017. Page 2 is the water audit worksheet. Gallons that we pump, billed, the adjustments that were made and water loss. The town looks good for the amount of water loss. We're right where we supposed to be. Under 15 % is good. The 3rd page is what we billed versus what we pump. Pure raw, numbers. We try to keep it above the 80% line and is pleased with 83%.

The 4th page is the overtime sheet. Last year we had 20 net call-in hours. This year we're up to 54 because of three water breaks. Mrs. Clarke asks if the pump in the well has been fixed. Jim claims that the pump is "fine and dandy and if there are any questions, anyone is free to call. The last page is a rough draft, a log of what we do throughout the year. Jim also states that they plan to replace all meters within 6 years. Meters are good for 20 years. Elected to replace overloads... there is no price as of yet. The rate increase is a sore subject. However, it needs to be looked at/need to consider doing it. Without any problems it would be a \$3,000 cost. Mrs. Clarke asks when the start date would be. Jim says he would like to see it start on July 1st to tie in with the town budget process.

Added item: Fire Department - Fire Chief, Mr. Dennett announces that a resident suffered from a fire last Thursday, the 8th. We had assistance from local towns for water. He thanks Officer Anne Simmons-Edmunds for her quick thinking and also praises the Public Works department for their help. Overall, Mr. Dennett thanks all the departments in the Town of Dixfield.

b. Police Department

Chief Jeff Howe introduces Mr. Ron Wood as the new Sargent for Dixfield. He did some part time work with us before. Mr. Wood introduces himself. He is from Cape Elizabeth. Graduated Cape Elizabeth High School. Went off to the army, did lots of traveling. Left the military to try aviation. Loaded aircrafts for about a year. He got his license and flew for Continental Express for 18 months. He ended up with an eye issue which meant he couldn't fly anymore. Went into real estate which didn't last long and decided to become a reserve police officer in Rangeley. Never really had an interest to become a police officer but fell in love with it and went to the academy. He likes the town. It's a nice community and hopes that he's a good addition to the town.

Mr. Howe gives the monthly report. June - November 2017. The next meeting will have the year totals. Mrs. Clarke would like the month report to be made clearer. Hard to follow. Need to have the month somewhere on the page. Mr. Howe says he can work on a different format.

Mrs. Clarke talks about the jail effects of renovations.

Mr. Howe on a different subject speaks about part time employees receiving holiday pay. Suggests time and a half. Could consider looking at the town policy. It offers incentive to the reserve officers.

#### c. Public Works

Mr. Randy Glover announces that the winter was rough with the ice. That said, they're in good shape and hope to get some good weather soon. All employees were well during the season - no flu or sickness. Talks about the extended warranty on the bucket loader. It's a \$2,000 expense - 500/year. Thinks it would be a good investment. Mr. Mitchell agrees to the proposal. Mr. Skibitsky makes a motion to extent the warranty for 48 months. Mr. Mitchell seconds. (4-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Jamison suggests the snow to be blown in a different direction. If it's put on the lawn of people's properties, it makes a mess once the snow melts. Mr. Glover says that they do the best they can. Mrs. Holmes gives her approval to what Public Works is already doing.

#### 6. Old Business:

a. Citizen Letters - Discussion: Town of Dixfield possibly acquiring 33 Nash St.

Mrs. Clarke suggests a community discussion before voting. Mr. Skibitsky agrees to have a town hearing. Mr. Mitchell is opposed. He is not interested in keeping that building. The school owns it, not the town. It is the school's responsibility, not ours. Mr. Mitchell makes a motion for a town hearing on 33 Nash St. Mr. Jamison seconds. Mr. Skibitsky asks if it be possible to table it for another day so that all 5 selectmen can be here to discuss and make a vote based on the decision.

b. Canton Mountain Wind Project Community Betterment Funds

Mrs. Clarke asks if there is a problem having or using the money? Mr. Skibitsky asks if there is a revenue account. T.M. Mr. Puiia says there is no issue using the money and that we have a special revenue account.

c. Property Revaluation Progress Report: John E. O'Donnell & Assoc.

T.M. Mr. Puiia says that they're right on schedule. Second visits are over. 25% of homes had inside visits. This revaluation will replace the one from 2008. Generally, everyone's values will remain the same. 50% done. Notices in June so there is time to discuss your value(s) with the assessor.

#### d. State Marijuana Moratorium Update

May not operate without a state license. Mr. Pickett said he had voted against moratorium. The bills needs to be passed first. There is a difference between medical and recreational. An ordinance needs to be prepared. Framework. Mrs. Holmes states that nationwide it is illegal. Mr. Jamison feels there is no need of an ordinance. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Skibitsky agree... alcohol is legal at a certain age, so should marijuana.

#### 7. New Business:

##### a. Nomination of Dixfield Police Department Sargent

Mr. Skibitsky makes a motion to approve Mr. Ron Wood as Sargent of Dixfield Police Department. Seconded by Mr. Jamison. (4-0) Unanimous

##### b. 2018 Oxford County Tax Assessment

There is a significant increase this year of 19.5%. The jail cost is the biggest impact.

##### c. Oxford County Sherriff's Office 2017 Report

- Incidents similar in format.

##### d. Governor Lepage's Executive Order: Maine Wind Advisory Commission

Maine has not been voted on yet. Mr. Pickett explained Mr. Lepage's bill blocking further wind development in the state of Maine.

##### e. Town Manager Search discussion

\$45,000 - \$55,000 expected starting range. One year contract (6 month probation)

#### 8. Old Business:

Amended 2018 Budget Schedule- Mr. Skibitsky makes a motion to amend the 2018 Budget Schedule. Mr. Mitchell seconds. (4-0) Unanimous.

9. Public Correspondence: Dan Mckay commented on the unfairness of foreclosing on the elderly and refers to the Governor's proposal.

10. Public Comment: N/A

11. Board Questions/Comments: N/A

12. FYI: Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 with the Mexico Sewer District meeting at 5:30 pm in the Mexico Town Office Conference Room

13. Next Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

14. Adjournment: Mr. Skibitsky mad a motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Seconded by Mr. Jamison. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Lutick