

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen

Monday, October 21st, 2019

5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

Selectmen:

All Present: Norine Clarke, Ricky Davis, Montell Kennedy, Peter Holmon, Norman Mitchell

Town Manager:

Dustin Starbuck

Town Citizens:

Don Lutick, Susan Holmes, Brett Whittemore, Austin Bernard, Richard Pickett, Angela Varnum

Town Employees: Police officer Wood, police officer Ann Simmons and former police officer, Dustin Broughton

Press: WVAC

1 Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

## 2 Public Hearing: Junkyard License

Mr. Davis made the motion to approve the junkyard license. Mr. Holmon seconded. (4-1) Mr. Norman Mitchell abstained.

## 3 Agenda Adjustments:

None

## 4 Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes - September 9, 2019

Mr. Starbuck claimed there were no minutes to approve.

## 5 Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 27, 29, 32

b Payroll Warrant #'s: 28, 30, 31

Added: 33

c Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 20, 21

Mr. Kennedy makes a motion to approve the warrants and payroll as adjusted. Mr. Mitchell seconds. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

## 6 Department Head Reports:

Public Works Department:

- Mr. Randy Glover is not present

## 7 Old Business:

a McGouldrick Park

The gates are up. The board on the hockey rink are currently being repaired along with staining and painting. Mr. Davis states he would appreciate help. A citizen from the audience suggests to go to the high school and ask if any students need to fulfill their community service. Mr. Whittemore also suggests to reach out to Region 9.

#### b School Warrant

Mr. Starbuck passes out the school warrant to the select board for now the fourth time.

#### c Mexico Water Contract

Selectboard signs mexico water contract.

#### 8 New Business:

##### a Peter Wright - Rumford Hospital

Mr. Wright has been the President of the Rumford Hospital since March, 2019. He gives a report on how the hospital is doing: Rumford Hospital is in good shape. They are redesigning several programs. The Central Maine controversy is doing much better. 118 recruited across the system with over 80 nurses hired. Mr. Wright has had 18 years of experience working with small hospitals. Before he came to Maine, he lived in Clarmont NH.

Rumford Hospital is the 17th critical hospital in the country. He loves the small community and states the staff are wonderful to work with. The hospital is currently ahead for the fiscal year. Mr. Wright states that the #1 issue is the facility. To be more precise, Mr. Wright's office was built in 1920. He is also not comfortable with the emergency department - they only have 6 beds and strongly feels they should have at least 10. Rumford hospital is 30%-40% less expensive compared to other hospitals with high quality. Mr. Wright feels the hospital has a bright future. On November 4th, the hospital will have it's first state of the hospital address located at Mtn. Valley High School. Mr. Wright wants their facility to be able to provide everything and to avoid people from having to travel to other and or long distances. Providing walk-ins is also an idea. There is a lots of growth coming.

##### b Brittany Errington - Tobacco Policy

Mrs. Holmes asks if it can be put on the Dixfield website.

#### c Brett Whittemore/Austin Bernard - 207 Farms

Mr. Brett Whittemore, Mr. Austin Bernard and Mr. Owen Libby are proposing adult use for both in and out of states at their business in Dixfield. Also, at the age of 21, one does not need to have a condition to get a medical card. Mr. Bernard states that with age 21, it would be more strict. Mr. Whittemore states there would be no increase in the smell. Mrs. Clark's concern is if it would be back way to smoking socially. Mr. Libby assures their intention is not having a social club. Mr. Mitchell asks if we have to vote to opt in or not. T.M. Mr. Starbuck stays it would have to be put on the ballot again. Mr. Bernard also mentions that by doing this, it would increase the tax revenue for the town. Mr. Whittemore hopes the all of this will happen by the June of 2020, depending on the next ballot. Mr. Richard Pickett states it should be treated like a business. Nothing has been set in stone yet but having medical and recreational marijuana in the same building is an issue for some. Police Chief makes a general comment stating that you can't stop it from happening and that they're in a good spot and therefore they should get themselves ahead of it. Mr. Libby finishes by saying they would like to see their town grow again and bring people into the area.

#### d LED Street Lights - Contract with CMP

T.M. Mr. Starbuck asks for authorization.

15 year contract with CMP (\$6,000/year)

Mr. Kennedy makes a motion to go ahead in authorizing the contract with CMP. Mr. Mitchell seconded. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

#### E Electronic Sign donation

T.M. Mr. Starbuck states Towels is getting rid of their electronic sign and is willing to donate it to the town. It is only one sided. We have looked to put it between the library and fire department at eye level. The town will maintain it. Discussion about electronic sign will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### f Vaughn water/sewer abatement

T.M. Mr. Starbuck explains Vaughn's water/sewer abatement request due to a leak. Water bill \$266 and \$271 for sewer which comes out to \$537. We would pay 50%. The board can establish a policy where if you want an abatement, to come to the board. Mr. Mitchell makes a motion to go ahead with the abatement - 50% of the one that's within the 30 days. Mr. Holmon seconded. (3-2)

#### g Complaint of Dustin Broughton

Moved to \*executive session

9 Other Business:

None

10 Public Correspondence: - Medicare --- Fee Increase - Informational meeting Oct 23rd @ 7pm

They are in dyer need. They need to replace a vehicle. They are charging up to \$45 per towns person whereas it was \$24 last year. They are raising wages to their employees.

11 Public Comment:

None

12 Board Questions/Comments:

None

13 Next Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

14 Executive Session:

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Davis seconded. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

Item g under New Business - Complaint from Dustin Broughton. Former police officer Mr. Broughton chose not to participate because he stated he wants to wait until he meets with his lawyer, looking for legal advice. Officer wood stated he did not renew Mr. Broughton because he didn't use him. However, he never took him off the payroll, did not state and or write and was told him he was not used and what to do if he wanted to be. Mr. Wood also claims he was disciplined by the town manager appropriately. T.M. Mr. Starbuck states Mr. Wood admitted to him of his inappropriate language and not to do it again

and we expect better. He was given an oral reprimand and goes into his file but is removed after a moment of time. There was no disciplinary action on Mr. Broughton. After four executive sessions, new police chief asked to do further investigation with officer wood. T.M. Mr. Starbuck was exonerated.

15 Adjournment: