

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen

Monday, April 8, 2019

5:30 pm

Ludden Memorial Library

Selectmen:

Present: Norine Clarke, Montell Kennedy, Peter Holman, Aaron Jamison

Absent: Norman Mitchell

Town Manager: Dustin Starbuck

Audience/Town Employees: Donald Lutick, Royal Swan, Ricky Davis, Sargent Wood and Officer Anne Edmunds

Press: None

1 Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

2 Agenda Adjustments:

Selectmen Board Meeting Minutes - 3/11/2019

Mr. Jamison makes a motion to approve the minutes of 3/11/2019. Mr. Kennedy seconds. (4-0-1) Mr. Mitchell absent.

3 Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 85, 87

b Payroll Warrant #'s: 86

Added: # 88

c Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 7

-Mr. Kennedy makes a motion to approve Warrants and Payroll as adjusted. Mr. Holmon seconds. (3-1-1) Mr. Jamison opposes. Mr. Mitchell absent.

4 Department Head Reports:

a Public Works

None

b Police

-Sargent Wood requests to change the cruisers to the 1/2 ton, 4-door crew cab ram trucks. The vehicle life is longer, has a stronger body, bigger engine and they are bigger and safer. The price is just over \$26,000. He also mentions the issues the day time cruiser has - the power steering is electric. The original bill was \$3,000 but with negotiation, brought it down to \$1,400.

-T.M. Mr. Starbuck comments the trucks have a better suspension system as well. Suggests that when the second cruiser comes back, one vehicle should be a week day cruiser and the other a weekend cruiser - that way both vehicles are being used.

-Sargent Wood also states the crown vic as a nonstarter. It is not safe enough to put on the road. Mr. Wood believes in terms of time frame, we are on borrowed time... the sooner, the better.

-T.M. Mr. Starbuck agrees to Mr. Wood's statement and proposal. He states there is \$37,000 in the bank currently, to afford a new police cruiser/truck.

-Mr. Jamison states he is against having a truck that stands out - wants the police cars to blend in with the other cars on the road.

-Sargent Wood disagrees - He believes they should stand out for the sake of visibility. Does not want to blend in. It's about voluntary compliance. He states that if a car slows down when they see us, there is no need to pull them over. On the other hand, if they don't slow down, then we take the necessary steps forward.

-Mr. Jamison makes a motion to go ahead and get numbers (prices) for a truck, including other necessities (outfitted) Mr. Holmon seconds. (4-0-1) Mr. Mitchell absent.

-T.M. Mr. Starbuck suggests to look at other, local places to outfit the truck as a possibility.

5 Old Business

a Warrant Article - Extending NORSWB for 20 years.

-T.M. Mr. Starbuck shares additional information on the warrant article for extending NORSWB for another 20 years. Called and asked the lawyer for our town, Jennifer Kreckel about factual issues. At this point, the contract is non negotiable. The contract does not have to be set for 20 years however. As for pricing, it is a non-profit negotiation. The structure is based on population. Dixfield has stayed consistent for years. Concludes by stating it's "take it or leave it" proposal.

-Mrs. Clarke mentions that the facility is open 5 days a week compared to other dump areas that open only once or twice a week.

-Mr. Kennedy makes a motion to approve the warrant article, extending the NORSWB for another 20 years. Mrs. Clarke seconded. (3-1-1) Mr. Jamison opposes. Mr. Mitchell absent.

6 New Business

a Finalize Town Warrant

-Town Warrant finalized with Mr. Jamison's motions and Mr. Kennedy's seconds. (4-0-1) Mr. Mitchell absent. Votes were unanimous.

b Police Department - Possible Cost Savings

-Mr. Jamison suggests the police departments could combine; Rumford, Mexico and or Wilton.

-Mrs. Clarke states that was a suggestion a few years ago but for different reasons on all ends, it couldn't work.

-Mr. Jamison says he would like to give permission to Mr. Starbuck to look into it again. He also suggests to go from 4 officers to 3.

-Sargent Wood explains the 3-4 ratio, mentioning the human factor. As humans, we need to get proper rest to perform our duties well. With 4 officers, it allows us more wiggle room when it comes to our schedules.

-Mr. Jamison asks what the department does about overtime.

-Sargent Wood says he and officer and Anne do the overtime as well as using their reserve officers from time to time.

-Mr. Jaimson thinks the town needs to re-evaluate what the department is worth. There has to be other options. He does not see the point in having a police department in Dixfield.

-Sargent Wood and Mrs. Clarke chime in, explaining that without the police department, more crimes could happen, people would get a way with more and may be too late to help out in a serious situation. Sargent Wood describes an incident where officer Maccione gave CPR to an infant - saving a child's life. That's what we are here for, to be here for our town, our people.

-Mr. Jamison says something needs to go.

-Mr. Jamison makes a motion for Mr. Starbuck to reach out and contact other towns. Mr. Holmon seconds. (4-0-1) Mr. Mitchell absent

7 Other Business: None

8 Public Comment: None

9 Public Correspondence: None

10 Board Questions/Comments: None

11 Next Meeting:

a April 22, 2019 at 5:30pm downstairs in the Ludden Memorial Library

12 Executive Session: None

13 Adjournment:

-Mr. Jamison made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kennedy seconded. (4-0-1) Mr. Mitchell absent. Vote Unanimous.

