

Town of Dixfield
Selectmen Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2020
Dixfield Fire Station
5:30 pm

1. Pledge of Allegiance:
2. Public Hearing:
 - a. The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing to receive public comment on the General Assistance ordinance.
 - i. T.M. Mr. Starbuck states if the board does not approve it, then they need to come up with their own.
 - ii. The state reimburses up to 50%.
 - iii. 5,000-7,000 is spent each year.
 - b. The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing to receive public comment and provide information regarding police protection in Dixfield.
 - i. T.M. Mr. Starbuck states there are three options for the town of Dixfield.
 - Try to establish the Dixfield police department again.
 - Sheriff Department coverage. 3 or 4 deputies.
 - No police department and no assigned oxford officers
 - ii. Mr. Richard Pickett asked the question of how we got into this predicament. He stated that when he was the chief years back, there were cop grants and the town never got to this point of not supporting the police department.
 - iii. T.M. Mr. Starbuck stated the budget for the police department was voted down to \$125,000 for three years. He goes into detail about the three options for the town. Mr. Pickett asked for the town manager to breakdown the cost of rebuilding the police department for the next police hearing in October.
 - Conversation over the police and the options were discussed. A few citizens shared their opinions and concerns. One citizen made a request to the town manager to get numbers of calls from other towns. The Sheriff also expressed his concerns and believes the town of Dixfield does in fact need police coverage whether it be the Deputies or the town rebuild their department again. He also stated that if the town went ahead with coverage from the Sheriff's department there would be no extra charges or increases – they have been solid for the last 10 years. For three deputies it would cost a total of \$278, 052. For four years the total cost would be

\$370, 732. All assets are the Sheriff department's responsibility. The only cost would be for either the 3 or 4 deputy officers. Mrs. Ann Simmons, former officer of Dixfield police department spoke about receiving or lack of, a raise. She stated that the last two years, she received no raise. She also said that if you want officers who know you, have a relationship with you, genuinely cares about the town and its citizens, you (the town) need to pay us. If you want good service, we need to be paid - Lowering the budget is not helping us or the town, we need your support.

- Final statements: What is best for the town of Dixfield? What are you (the town) willing to pay for? We need to lay everything out on the table – see/analyze all our options.

3. Agenda Adjustments:

- None

4. Approval of Minutes: August 17, 2020

- Mr. Davis makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kennedy seconds. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

5. Approval of Warrants and Payroll:

a. Accounts Payable Warrant #'s: 19, 21, 23

-Added #24

b. Payroll Warrant #'s: 16, 17, 18, 20, 22

c. Water/Sewer Warrant #'s: 16, 17

-Added #18

- Mr. Kennedy makes a motion to approve Warrants and Payroll numbers. Mr. Davis seconds. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

6. Department Head Reports:

a. Public Works Department:

- i. Mr. Randy Glover states Coolidge will be completed this week. The team has worked hard. The chipper works well – big savings for the town instead of renting it. They will be getting the winter sand ready and then the trucks.
- ii. Mrs. Clarke shares a message from a citizen – the potholes near the cemetery have been done well, they are very grateful.
- iii. Mr. Holman asked about the replacing of the Christmas tree. Mr. Glover states they have a tree, they are just waiting to get it. May not get it in before the snow.

7. Old Business:

- None

8. New Business:

a. Rover Rd. – Requested by Rovers

- Mr. Mark Steeves brings the issue of Rover Road to the board on whether the road is considered a private or public road. A very long discussion or in better terms, a debate between the citizens of Rover Rd. broke out, lasting for over an hour. A citizen brought out that T.M. Mr. Starbuck stated in a private meeting between he and the citizen a week prior to the selectboard meeting that the road is in fact private. After a long discussion, finally, Mrs. Clarke made a suggestion to gather six people/citizens of Rover Road to get together and discuss the matter.
- Mr. Kennedy states the board cannot determine tonight- it's a lot of information to go through. We can go to lawyers to find out more but not tonight.
- After a little more discussion, Mrs. Clarke decides to dismiss the crowd due to no resolution and it getting out of hand.

b. McGouldrick Park – Requested by Peter Holman

- Mr. Davis makes a motion to give Peter Holman authorization on what to do about the trees, present to the town manager and go from there. Mr. Mitchell seconds. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

c. Smith Quitclaim deed

- Approved by the selectmen's signatures.

d. Steeves abatement ****

e. Robbins abatement ****

f. Rock Supplemental Assessment

- Mr. Kennedy made a motion to allow the assessors office to sign on assessment issues. Mr. Davis seconded. (5-0) Vote Unanimous.

9. Other Business:

-Halloween Walk – the Board agrees to cancel the Halloween walk due to covid-19.

10. Public Correspondence:

- None

11. Public Comment:

- None

12. Board Questions/Comments:

- Mr. Kennedy asks if Rover Road is private or not. T.M. Mr. Starbuck states that in 1958 it is shown as discontinued and therefore is considered a private road. Mr. Kennedy believes the matter needs legal advice. T.M. Mr. Starbuck will send a notice to every taxpayer.
- Mr. Mitchell said he was disappointed because he thought the big crowd tonight was for the police department.

13. Next Meeting:

Select Board – September 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Location: Fire Department

14. Executive Session: N/A

15. Adjournment: Mr. Davis makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kennedy seconds. (5-0)
Vote Unanimous.