

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Selectmen's Meeting**

**Monday, July 28, 2014**  
**5:30PM, Ludden Memorial Library**

**Board Members Present:** Malcolm Gill, Dana Whittemore, Scott Belskis, and Norman Mitchell. Hart Daley came in at 5:39.

**Administration Present:** Town Manager, Carlo Puiia

**Town Employees Present:** Police Chief Richard Pickett, Water Supt. Jim White, Leo Jolin

**Citizens Present:** Aaron Jamison, Walter Newman, Mrs. Norman Mitchell, Rick Davis, Ken Ellis, Steve Ellis, Bob Riley, Dan McKay, Mr. Gilsleider and Norine Clarke, recorder of minutes.

**Non-residents Present:** Mark Thompson

**Media:** Matt Daigle, Sun Journal

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Agenda Adjustments:** 4 A. should have number 11 added and 4 C should have number 16 added.
3. **Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2014**
  - a. Hearing no objections or corrections, Mr. Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. All were in favor.
4. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll**

Hearing no objections, Mr. Whittemore moved to accept the Warrants as presented. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all were in favor.
5. **Department Head and Incident Reports**
  - a. Water Supt. Jim White reported that
    1. 1/3 of the hydrants have been painted
    2. 62 meters have been changed making 62 complete and leaving 8 more for this year.
    3. TM Puiia took the Water Plant tour
    4. Two water line leaks were reported. One was on the landowner's side of the line and the other has a shutoff across the road from

the landowner which will require extra work. Next year he would like to replace the pipe going under the road.

5. He is working on getting ready for the road projects and did the walk about with Eng. Hodsdon.
6. Billing is going well. Three were terminated but two came in quickly and one is not resolved.
7. The oil tank program is now complete except for presenting the bill to the DEP. Eight were replaced, two outdoors and six indoors.
8. TM Puiia added that he had met with the Billing Office in Mexico and it is working well. There will be a meeting of the Dixfield Office Staff to discuss the Billing Office's concerns in the near future. Currently, there is an improvement on accounts being more current since the billing was turned over to the Mexico staff. There is still a significant amount of non-performing accounts the Board will need to take action on. TM Puiia will bring back a recommendation.
9. Supt. White added that there needs to be work done on the Sewer Rate schedule to bring that into compliance.

**b. Chief Pickett noted that:**

1. Two monthly reports were in the Selectmen's packets.
2. James Turner is moving back to Florida and donated a pair of moose characters. Chief gave them to the Children's Room at the Library.
3. He included in their packet a hand drawn Thank You from a little boy who was temporarily miss-located and was returned home by the officers.
4. The Department will have a booth at the Dixfield Outdoor Market and will do safety checks on car seats and offer trigger locks. A bike auction will also be held.
5. There was an update on one of the Incident reports. On July 14, a dump truck lost part of a load of gravel on the pavement near the DOT garage. When the officer arrived to deal with the call, a trailer truck came around the corner and it threw a rock into the officer's windshield, breaking it. The truck was stopped further up the highway and their insurance will cover the replacement. There were no questions for Chief Pickett.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Special Town Meeting to vote on enacting a Wind Energy Facility Moratorium**

Lawyer Kristen Collins provided language for the proposed Wind Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance to be on the Warrant for the August 21 Special Town Meeting. The meeting will be held following the hearing and the vote will be by written ballot. Mr. Daley made a motion to

approve the warrant and it was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The vote was four in favor and Mr. Gill opposed. The Warrants were signed.

**b. Consider establishing a Town committee to raise funds for electronic message center.**

TM Puiia reported that NeoKraft, a sign company, had written an estimate to prepare for about \$15-20,000. The Selectmen felt that less expensive alternatives could be found. Citizen Beverly Glover and Aaron Jamison have expressed interest in being on the committee. Selectmen Whittemore and Belskis are also interested. One more member will be needed.

**c. Rescind vote to post Engine Brake restriction signs**

TM Puiia recommended that even though there had been information that this was not enforceable, the original vote should be rescinded by the persons who made the motion and the second. Mr. Gill rescinded his motion and Mr. Whittemore rescinded his second. All were in favor. Chief Pickett noted that several truckers have been stopped and have been cooperative. Most of the noise is due to exhaust systems.

**7. New Business**

**a. Appointment to Planning Board—Ricky A. Davis**

Mr. Davis had expressed interest in taking the Alternate spot on the Planning Board which was vacated by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Daley made a motion to appoint him to the position. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. Mr. Gill asked if the spot had been advertised and was told no. There was a vote to accept and the Appointment papers were signed.

**b. MMA Ballot for election of VP and Executive Committee Members**

Mr. Gill made a motion to vote for the proposed list of candidates and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in favor and the ballot was signed.

**c. Draft Copy of Planning Board recommendations for WEF Ordinance**

The copies were included in the Selectmen's packets and TM Puiia recommended that they read them and at the next Selectmen's meeting set a date for a joint meeting with the Planning Board. Chief Pickett, as a member of the Planning Board said that they were ready to meet any time. Mr. Daley noted that he believed had already found an error. The DEP daytime sound level numbers may be incorrect. TM Puiia asked that the page numbers be moved from lower left to lower right. Copies will be made available to interested citizens and TM Puiia will see if it can be put on the Town's website.

**8. Other Business: None**

**9. Public Comment/Correspondence**

**a.** TM Puiia noted that the MMA response to the General Assistance rules has been received.

**b.** Bob Riley from MT Pockets wanted to register a complaint about a Town Employee and announced there was a petition under way to remove the

employee. Mr. Daley asked if they had anything in writing and was told no. TM Puiia asked that the complainants respect the process and turn the complaints in to the employee's immediate superior. A proposed draft of the complaint process was handed to Bob Riley. Mr. Ken Ellis said that they had followed the process before and that nothing happened. That complaint was issued to a previous town manager. TM Puiia had met with Bob Riley and understood that his had been resolved. Bob replied that it had been but the offense has been continuing.

- c. Mark Thompson, a resident of Peru, who is active in the Boosters Club, was present to request that up to \$10,000 from the Ione Harlow fund be given to the Boosters to cover the costs of installing a scoreboard at the football field. The scoreboard, valued at \$12,000 has been donated to the school by Irving Forest Products. The old scoreboard will be installed at the field hockey field. There will need to be electrical work, some concrete and some steel beams. There will need to be a 5 week lead time to order the steel. They also will need a building permit. TM Puiia said that since this item was not on the agenda, a vote will have to be delayed until the next Selectmen's Meeting on Aug. 11 which will give him time to research how much money is left in the Ione Harlow Community Fund.

#### **10. Board Questions and Comments**

- a. Chairman Belskis polled the Board for comments and questions.  
Mr. Daley—none  
Mr. Gill—Mr. Gill noted that the hiring of Jennifer Kreckel as the Town Attorney was a conflict of interest since she is Mr. Belskis' personal lawyer and he suggested that Mr. Belskis switch attorneys. Mr. Belskis noted that the issue she is working on should be resolved soon and she would no longer be his attorney.
- b. Mr. Whittemore asked that since the complaint issue bridged two town managers could TM Puiia check on the status of the complaint and whether it was on file. He replied that he could but he could not give information to the Board. The employee can see the file, but the Select Board would be the ultimate appeals board and therefore should not have prior knowledge of the information. Mr. Whittemore said that he felt that the complainant should have been notified of the resolution. Mr. Newman said that the same employee was working on a project that he felt was going to bring a water problem back to his property.
- c. Mr. Mitchell—none
- d. Mr. Belskis—none

#### **11. FYI**

Voting for two Budget Items will be held at the American Legion from 9am to 8pm on August 12, 2014.

Police Dept. study and Auditor's report will be presented the August 11, 2014 meeting.

**12. Next Meeting**

The next Selectmen's meeting will be held Aug. 11, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Memorial Library

**13. Adjournment**

At 6:48pm, Mr. Whittemore made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Daley and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke recorder of minutes  
nhc/