

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Selectmen's Meeting**

**Monday, August 25, 2014
5:30PM, Ludden Library**

Board Members Present: Scott Belskis, Dana Whittemore, Malcolm Gill, Norman Mitchell, and Hart Daley.

Administration Present: Town Manager, Carlo Puiia

Town Employees Present: Public Works Director Calvin Beaumier, Water Supt. Jim White, Fire Chief Scott Dennett, Leo Jolin

Citizens Present: Aaron Jamison, Walter Newman, Terri Mitchell, Bob Riley, Dan McKay, one unidentified, and Norine Clarke, recorder of minutes.

Non-residents Present: none

Media: Matt Daigle, Sun Journal, Kelsey Bevins, WVAC Channel 7

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Agenda Adjustments:** Warrant numbers Accounts Payable #'s 16,18,19, Payroll Warrant #'s 17, 20, and Water/Sewer Warrants# 17 were added to the Agenda.
3. **Approval of Minutes of Aug. 11, 2014 (regular meeting)**
 - a. Hearing no objections or corrections, Mr. Daley 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. **Public Comment: No requests submitted**

TM Puiia handed out copies of the rules for public comment which had been used when Malcolm Gill was Chairman. Mr. Gill noted that he had not asked for it to be voted in as a policy so that it could be at a current chairman's discretion. Some discussion followed and Chairman Belskis said that the time of the Comments could be flexible if, for example, someone was late getting out of work and could not be at the meeting at the correct time.

6. Department Head Reports

I. Public Works:

- a.** Public Works Director Calvin Beaumier presented his report of work that has been done. Selectmen were given reports, copy is attached.
- b.** The Bridge on Severy Hill should be ready for the school busses on the 27th of August and following that, the Highway crew can have access to the repairs needed on the Valley Road.
- c.** Street signs that did not come in earlier are now here and being installed.
- d.** A tree fell across Spring St. and had to be removed.
- e.** They have been investigating the cause of a “sink hole” on Holt Hill and are preparing to fix it.
- f.** When there are heavy rains and the Main St. storm drains fill, the water backs up into the system on Mill St. but usually clears quickly.
- g.** Several trees and their stumps have needed to be removed from the highway right of way in order to correct ditches and water flow. The homeowners have first refusal of the trees and many have taken them for themselves or neighbors. Mr. Mitchell asked if the trees could be used for those people who might need them for heat this winter and Dir. Beaumier said he would like to do that if there were any available.
- h.** Dir. Beaumier met with the state road engineers who will be responsible for the changes to Rt.2 coming in from E. Dixfield. There will be some impact on the road frontage at the Town Garage. They are still in discussion but nothing will be done soon as the current plan is for the job not to go out to bid until spring of 2016.
- i.** There has been a report of more trash being dumped in the road right of way on the Common Rd., carpet, mattress etc.
- j.** There is a great need for replacement culverts around town and there were none of the correct sizes in inventory. Dir. Beaumier needed to order some in order to have them to complete the needed work this summer. While checking prices, he found that ordering a small number would cost as much as ordering the larger amount and they would receive about 1/3 less culverts so he ordered some of the most used sizes. They are made of plastic and will not deteriorate. Those not used immediately will be needed in the spring and summer of 2015. With \$3200 in Culvert Reserves and \$1000 carried over from 2013/2014 The balance needed was \$1800. It was decided to postpone discussion of paying the bill until a later date.
- k.** There are several areas in town where ledge is obstructing the ditch area of the road. Dir. Beaumier requested the opportunity to rent a hammer drill for a day and making a plan to move it from site to site to break up as many as possible in one day. If necessary, they would go back to clean up the ledge pieces another day. The ledge areas are hampering the roadside drainage which causes damage to the road.

Rental for the equipment is \$2000 per day. Some of the areas are Norton Road, Common Road, and Hall Hill.

- l.** The worker hired to do the cemetery mowing and maintenance has been helping with removal of brush from in front of street and traffic signs. Mr. Belskis asked if he is doing that for public works, do we need him for the cemeteries. Dir. Beaumier said that he was a very good and fast worker and is able to complete his work quickly. Mr. Whittemore asked if he was caught up with the maintenance work needed for fall and Dir. Beaumier said yes. The request was made that a record be kept for the hours he spends working for public works.
- m.** Dir. Beaumier is working with the mechanic to use a computer program for hours spent on repairing vehicles.
- n.** Questions were asked about what was being done about the Garage roof. Dir. Beaumier said he had tried to get information from Eng. Hodsdon but because of the other projects going on, he has not had any luck and he feels that what we need to do is contact a roofer. The Selectmen agreed.

2. Water and Sewer

Water Supt. Jim White reported:

1. The current list of liens and their resolutions.
2. Discussion was held about how excess water use (filling pools etc.) is covered when the sewer bill is based on the water use meter and what about sewer use when the homeowner is not on town water. Supt. White said that the rate schedule is being worked on and those items will be addressed.
3. Work is being done on the Sewer Budget.
4. Charges for the computer at the town garage have to be looked at to spread the cost among the users so Water/Sewer does not have to absorb it all.
5. Mexico has a new telemetry system which has been working well and it may be an option for Dixfield.
6. The Rte. 2 project will cause some water issues and Supt. White is in contact with the project engineers. Three fire hydrants will have to be moved and the culvert at the bottom of Hall Hill may have to be replaced. All of these things will be at Dixfield's expense.
7. Two water line leaks were reported. One was on Main St. and the next day there was one on Hall Hill. Both have been repaired.
8. Mr. Whittemore asked if a meeting had been scheduled yet between the Mexico billing office and the Dixfield office staff. TM Puia said that he had met with the Mexico office and a meeting will be scheduled as soon as the report is received from the auditor.

7. Old Business

- a.** There is an issue on Robbins Avenue where an original large lot was divided into three house lots and they are receiving water through

only the original shutoff. Each house will need to be separated and require their own shutoff. The original estimate was for about \$11,400. There are no clear boundaries between the properties. Time is of the essence because Mexico has an upcoming construction project. A letter will be written to get the final easement. In order to begin the project, there needs to be a Motion by the Board to approve up to \$11,400 contingent on the remaining easement. Chair. Belskis made the motion and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

b. Complaints policy draft review.

The policy is in the hands of the selectmen for review but there was a question about who serves as the Appeals Board and Mr. Mitchell said that there had been an ordinance calling for an appeals board but it was never filled. It was also requested that a resume form be set up for prospective members.

c. Recall of Elected Officials Ordinance Examples

TM Puiia handed out copies of the ordinances from several other towns for the Selectmen to review.

8. New Business

a. Notice of Waiver of Sewer Lien

TM Puiia reported that as of now, four properties which have liens on them would be automatic foreclosures. There are people living in all of the properties. TM Puiia recommended not foreclosing on the properties but to go to the Registry of Deeds for Oxford County and have it noted on the individual deeds that if any of the properties is sold that Dixfield's liens must be paid first. A motion was made by Mr. Whittemore to authorize TM Puiia to sign the waivers and make the notes on the deeds of these four properties. It was seconded by Mr. Daley. In discussion it was asked if this option is available to tax liens. TM Puiia said this is a one time solution and because of deadlines, it must be decided at this meeting. The vote was taken and it was unanimous but the Board agreed they would like to bring the topic back for further discussion.

b. Road Reserves.

There is \$150,000 in the Road Construction account. The bill for the culverts is \$6000. There is \$3200 in this year's budget for culverts and \$1000 which was carried over from 2013/2014 leaving a shortfall of \$1800. Dir. Beaumier will come back with estimates of what is needed for gravel and road construction and the item will be tabled till another meeting.

c. Sign Committee Meeting

Chair Belskis recommended that Wednesday be the night chosen to hold these meetings at 6:00pm in the Town Office. The date of the first one will be according to the needs of the committee members who are Chair Belskis, Sel. Whittemore, Beverly Glover, Charlotte Collins and Aaron

Jamison. A \$25 donation had been given by Ernie Robichaud who has since passed and the check will be returned to his family.

d. Wind Energy Facility Ordinance Review.

TM Puiia noted that they had had a very productive meeting with the Planning Board. Mr. Whittemore noted that the Selectmen still need a copy of the “fee schedule” for permits. TM Puiia said that he needed to ask Lawyer Collins about the “definition of Holman Mountain”. Chair Belskis said that he would like to have Lawyer Collins present at the Sept. 8 meeting of the selectmen if possible. Following discussion, TM Puiia read a list of the items that need to be addressed.

Fees

Decommissioning (built-in inflation cost)

Comprehensive Plan

Liability Insurance (wind company)

Lessor/lessee/co-applicants

Fire Protection

Audible sound 42 not 45

Clarification on 50 dBc

2000vs 4000 feet from building vs. property line

Fall zone (150% of height)

Remove “year round” from property description

All agreed to wait to Sept. 8, 2014 for further discussion.

9. Other Business: None

10. Public Comment/Correspondence: None

11. Board Questions and Comments

- a. Chairman Belskis polled the Board for comments and questions.
- b. Mr. Mitchell remarked that on voting day, the hot dog sign blocked the voting sign and that should not happen.
- c. Mr. Whittemore had no remarks.
- d. Mr. Gill
Would like an update on the Sidewalk project.
Asked for an update on High St. project and was told that the camera work on the sewer was completed today (Aug 25) and must be looked at to clear up storm water issues.
Asked to have an update from Eng. Hodsdon.
Noted that it may be time for the Electricity Contract to be renewed.
Inquired about “conflict of interest” issue with town lawyer Kreckel and Chair Belskis and was told it would be over by Sept. 8, 2014
- e. Mr. Daley had no remarks.
- f. Chair Belskis gave an explanation for the rise in taxes (see attached).

12. FYI: None

13. Chair Belskis recognized Bob Martin of MT Pockets who noted that he felt he had no recourse except to keep coming back to Selectmen's meetings to make complaints about business being taken out of town.

14. Next Meeting

The next Selectmen's meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 8, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Memorial Library

13. Adjournment

At 8:31pm, Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell, and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke recorder of minutes
nhc/