

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Present: Board of Selectmen, Chair Belskis, Dana Whittemore, Hart Daley, Norman Mitchell, and Malcolm Gill.

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Chief Pickett, CEO Beaumier, Angela Varnum, Leo Jolin

Citizens present: Peter Holman, Walter Newman, Aaron Jamison, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Don Lutick, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Richards, Bethany Poulin, George Welch, Don Litwin, Silver Varnum, Dan Carrier, and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens: Mexico Police Chief Roy Hodsdon, David Sinclair

Press present: Terry Karkos Sun Journal, WVAC tv 7

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Belskis called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Agenda Adjustments

- a. to 4. a. add #49
- b. to 4. b. add #48
- c. to Old Business, add Shoreland Zoning agreement
- d. to Old Business g. add Mexico Police Chief
- e. Town Office closing Nov. 27, 28
- f. postpone 14 a. to next meeting.

3. Minutes

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the minutes of Nov. 10, 2014 and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

1. Warrants and Payroll

Mr. Gill made a motion to accept the warrants and payroll as in the agenda adjustments. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all were in favor.

1. Public Comments

None

1. Department Head Reports

a. Police reports from July through October were handed to Selectmen. Chief Pickett began his statements with a reminder to all citizens to make sure to take the time to clean all snow from windshields, not just a small opening.

He commended the staff at Dirigo High School for their handling of a person with mental illness by keeping him outside the building and detaining him until Police personnel arrived. The person spent 3 ½ days in the hospital under police guard which

necessitated the hiring of an additional officer and will add to overtime pay in order not to charge the hospital. The new cruiser replacement should be arriving soon. When purchased it was a road ready package which has taken time to replace. Officers have been in the community, Officer Edmunds met with the Girl Scouts, and others have been in the schools. The Chief is meeting a challenge to grow a beard until November 30. Each beard grower in the will be donating \$100 to a local charity.

b. Public Works

Selectmen asked that they be allowed to look at the reports they were handed by Dir. Beaumier and discuss them at their next meeting.

1. Old Business

a. Fireworks. Chief Pickett reported that there were records of 19 complaints since 2009 and most of them occurred in 2012. He found no report of fireworks in a mail box but said he would check to see if it was filed under Criminal Mischief. He felt that the number of complaints did not warrant an ordinance. State laws allow for legal fireworks to be set off from 9 AM to 10 PM with exceptions for the days of and the weekends before and after July 4th and Dec. 31st which may extend the hours to 12:30AM. Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Poulin were there to describe what is occurring in their neighborhood. The fireworks are being set off at all hours and are frightening children and dogs because of their nearness. The remains are being found and eaten by the pets and are on the roofs of their houses. Chief Pickett encouraged folks to call in the complaints. It was questioned whether or not the fireworks used were illegal which would change it to a different complaint.

b. Cemetery Lot Prices

This item was postponed until Mr. Piper could be present. The next agenda item was moved to

g. Anticipated Vacancy of Chief of Police position.

Mexico Chief Hodsdon passed out proposals to the Board to address the sharing of a Chief between Mexico and Dixfield for a 6 month trial period. The departments are the same size so should be able to work out easily though the savings would be hard to predict. They would work as equals as they do now under mutual aid. One cruiser could be retired. Chief Hodsdon comes with 18 years of experience. TM Puiia voiced concerns about the Cops grant that both towns are currently receiving. Dixfield's requires that the 5 man force be in effect until Jan. 2016 and it will need to be determined if 4 ½ officers will meet that requirement. The Dixfield department is negotiating a Union membership and the Mexico officers would accept the Dixfield officers into their Union if they chose. TM Puiia said he would continue with the process to hire a new Chief for Dixfield so that they would be prepared. It could be pursued or discontinued as needed. Mexico has been approved for another grant for an officer to come on board after Jan. 1.

c. Drainage project on Newton Avenue.

Mr. Walter Newman was asked if he had had a chance to look at the plans and said "Yes, they look very good." Dir. Beaumier said that materials costs had been estimated to be between 8 and 10 thousand. With machines and labor included it would be between 14 and 18 thousand. The project will have to wait probably until June when the area will be dry and he has gotten all of the needed easements. TM Puiia mentioned that Lancaster St.

with drainage will be worked on next year also and perhaps could be packaged with the Newton Ave. job. The project will go before the Road Committee and then come back to the Selectmen.

The next item to come before the Board was the Shoreland Zoning Consent Agreement with Dan Carrier. He asked to have some of the language about responsibility clarified. He also questioned when the \$1320 he owed was to be paid. Mr. Carrier will meet with TM Puiia. Mr. Whittemore made a motion that the fine be payable within five business days of the closing date of the sale of the property, not to exceed 90 days. It was seconded by Mr. Gill and all were in favor.

- i. The Selectmen went back to item d. and all signed the appointment of Mr. Gill as an alternate member of the MedCare Board.

e. All Board members signed the Agreement with Mexico for the Water and Sewer billing responsibilities.

f. All Board members signed the Amended Agreement with the Mexico Water District.

h. Discussion of Wind Power Ordinance

The board discussed the vote of the town who did not accept the new Ordinance by 14 votes. Reasons mentioned were the 4000 ft. limit from the property line and the change of the decibel limits from 45 to 42. The decibel change was made to coincide with the state limits. Non-resident David Sinclair who has a camp at Concord Pond wanted citizens to know that his camp had to be repaired due to the construction blasting for the Woodstock turbines. The camp is on posts. Others mentioned that this is a common problem in Maine with settling and frost heaves being a factor. The conclusion was made that this was a construction issue and not relevant to the discussion of the Ordinance. Mr. Gill made a motion that the Planning Board version of the Ordinance with the addition of 100% of the decommissioning funds be paid up front be put before the voters in June. There was no second. Mr. Whittemore made a new motion which asked that the Planning Board version of the Ordinance be put before the voters in June with the addition of the 100% decommissioning funds up front and the inclusion of section C on page 24 of the Ordinance which is the section which discusses infrasound or low-frequency sound. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Gill voting no.

1. New Business

a. and b. Request from the American Legion Riders for a BYOB Permit on Dec. 4, 2014 and one for the American Legion for a BYOB permit for Dec. 31, 2014. Mr. Whittemore made a motion that they allow both dates and Mr. Daley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

c. A request was made by TM Puiia that the schedule for the week of December 22, 2014 will be as follows: the day before Christmas and Christmas day are paid holidays and scheduled for closure, but request the day after Christmas to be closed with the day off with no pay or use of a vacation day. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to follow that schedule and then amended it to include Public Works (unless there is a snow storm.) Mr. Daley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1. Other Business

none

1. Public Correspondence

TM Puia announced that approval to use McGouldrick Park as a Snow Discharge site has been approved for the next five years.

1. Board Questions/Comments.

Mr. Mitchell---none

Mr. Whittemore---none

Mr. Gill asked about the contract for the Town's electricity. The contract is good until Dec. of 2015.

He asked if there would be dates given soon for Budget meetings. The TM and Chair will draft a proposed schedule for the next meeting.

He asked if the "conflict of interest" of Mr. Belskis with the town lawyer had been dismissed and was told yes.

Mr. Daley---none

Mr. Belskis remarked that the rules of ethics are being followed even if the people don't agree.

- 1. FYI as corrected on the Agenda**
- 2. Next Meeting December 8, 3014 at 5:30**
- 3. Executive Sessions:**

a. Labor Negotiations are postponed.

b. Discussion of Confidential Records

Mr. Daley made a motion to go into executive session to discuss confidential records pursuant to 1 MRS § 495(6)(F) at 8:01 PM seconded by Mr. Whittemore. All were in favor.

The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. No action was taken.

1. Adjournment

Mr. Daley made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. seconded by Mr. Whittemore. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc