

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Interim Police Chief Jeff Howe.

Citizens present: Peter Holman, Grayson Child, Dan McKay, Ricky Davis, Susan Holmes, Jeff Knight, Jarred Luczynski, Richard Pickett and note taker Norine Clarke

Non- Citizens:

Press present: Matt Daigle 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 #77

to 4. b add #76

b. eliminate Water and Sewer warrants.

c. add to 6. Police Dept. Report

d. to 8 add oral updates

3. Minutes: Mr. Daley asked that his remarks under 11 in the minutes of Feb. 9, 2105 be amended as he read them to TM Puiia. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the Minutes with Mr. Daley's amendments. Mr. Daley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

4. Warrants and Payroll

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

5. Public Comments

a. Public Comments were opened by Norine Clarke reading a prepared letter presenting facts about "The First Ordinance". This was followed by remarks by Peter Holman concerning the democratic process and how he felt that the Board had not followed that process by twice ignoring the town citizens' vote. He said twice the town has voted to support windmills and the Selectmen continue to present Ordinances which will exclude them from being built. There followed a lively but respectful discussion of several concerns about the Ordinance from Susan Holmes, Grayson Child, Richard Pickett, Jarred Luczynski, Ricky Davis, Norine Clarke and Dan McKay.

b. Grayson Child reported that he had spoken to Steve Swan about naming the mountain. Mr. Child owns and asked him to withdraw the request. He said that Mr. Swan had

agreed to do that.

c. Chair Belskis read a letter to the Board from Richard Pickett thanking them for the recognition of his retirement. All in the room gave Mr. Pickett a standing ovation.

6. Department Head Reports

Interim Police Chief Jeffrey Howe was present to give the monthly Police Dept. report. No arrests were listed in the reports because they were all juveniles. The numbers for juvenile arrests were up in January which is unusual and he expects them to be up in February as well. There are several adult cases that are going forward.

7. Old Business

a. Wind Energy Facility Ordinance. More discussion of the finalizing of the Ordinance continued and the Board was asked to postpone the signing of the Ordinance until after the Planning Board meets on March 19, 2015 so that they may revisit the lower decibel level of 35 and consider changing it back to 42. Mr. Luczynski noted that 35 decibels is the accepted amount for ambient sound in a rural setting. Mr. Daley said that it is considered to be 18 to 20 decibels. There is sufficient time for this to go back to the Planning Board and still be signed before the hearings. He noted he would like to have five signatures on the Ordinance. Mr. Gill said that there would not be five if the decibel level was not set at the state accepted limit of 42 because he would vote against it. Mr. Gill made a motion to table all items on Agenda item number 7 until review by the lawyer. It was seconded by Mr. Whittemore and all were in favor. It was explained that wind power was not on the agenda for the last Planning Board meeting but after Chairman Tom Childs spoke to TM Puia, he agreed to put it on their March 19 meeting agenda. Mr. Gill made a motion to amend his previous motion by adding that the items to be tabled until after the Planning Board had the chance to discuss it. It was seconded by Mr. Whittemore and the vote was 3-1 with Mr. Daley voting no. Mr. McKay made an inappropriate remark concerning Mr. Gill and Mr. Pickett raised a "point of order". He asked that if any further remarks of that sort were made, that the person making the remarks should be admonished for it or escorted from the room. He stated that members of the Board do not deserve to be treated that way. Mr. Gill said that he would appreciate that happening.

8. Other Business

a. TM Puia reported that there will be interviews in the coming week for the position of Police Chief.

b. The Union negotiations with the Police Dept. are progressing.

c. There are vacancies on several committees and notices have been placed in the newspaper.

d. TM Puia reported that he is working on the Sewer Rate.

9. Public Correspondence:

a. Notification has been received from the County Tax Assessor that there is an increase of \$4015 this year which will make the amount \$116,392.

b. The DOT has sent a notice that a meeting will be held Thursday, March 12 at 6:00pm at Dirigo High School to discuss the reconstruction of Rtes. 2 and 17.

c. Med Care has notified the town that there is an increase in the per capita assessment for

the coming budget from \$18 to \$24. This will make Dixfield's payment \$52,563. A meeting will be held to discuss the reasons for the increase on Wed. February 25 at 6:00pm at the Med Care facility.

d. TM Puiia reported that he had received from the Town of Mexico a copy of a letter that they have sent to RSU 10. Their Board requested that RSU 10 reduce their budget by 10%, and asked other towns to do the same. Mr. Whittemore said he was not comfortable making a request similar to theirs and Mr. Gill agreed. They favored asking for a reduction instead of an amount. Mr. Whittemore made a motion that a letter be sent to RSU 10 with copies sent to our representatives asking for a reduction to the budget. It was seconded by Mr. Belskis and passed 4-0.

10. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr. Whittemore requested that he receive some current information on possible tangible benefits to be gained from having windmills in Dixfield. He asked that the information be confined to what has been given to the host towns after the towers were installed until now. Mr. Belskis asked to know what they had done for the communities. Mr. Gill remarked that he was pleased to see how well the Public Comment time was used and not abused.

Mr. Daley and Mr. Belskis had no comments.

Ms. Holmes asked why the interest in tangible benefits and Mr. Whittemore said he wanted to know what the town could expect. He said he was trying to be fair and will wait for the response from the Planning Board.

Mr. Holman noted that there will be jobs from the windmill projects and some educational programs are offering engineering and maintenance of windmills.

11. FYI: As noted on the Agenda.

12. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Monday, Mar.9 at 5:30pm at the Ludden Library.

13: Adjournment: Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn at 7:47pm, seconded by Mr. Whittemore, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc