

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, July 20, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, Chief Howe, Leo Jolin, Randy Glover, Vickie Carrier, and Angela Varnum.

Citizens present: Grayson Child, Terri Mitchell, Aaron Jamison, Peter and Lori Holman, Don Lutick, Walter Newman, Margaret St Cyr, Barry Prescott, Sue Holmes, Wil Shurtleff, Robert Riley, Royal Swan, Rick Davis, Scott Belskis, Silver Varnum, Steve Swan, Richard Pickett, Officer Dustin Broughton, Officer Dean Benson, and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non- Citizens: none

Press present: Matt Daigle of the Lewiston Sun.

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Daley opened the meeting at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Agenda Adjustments

a. to 4.a. AP Warrants add #6

b. to 8. Other Business add Safe Route To School Sidewalk update

Insert: Special Legislative Presentation: Rep. Richard Pickett, former Police Chief, made a special presentation from the 127th Legislature recognizing the actions of 2 Police Officers in an incident in Mexico in which shots were fired at the officers. Off. Broughton followed police training procedures and it saved his life by his avoiding a bullet. The police actions in which three other officers took part stopped the criminal activity planned by the perpetrator to blow up the gas pumps.

3. Minutes: Mr. Whittemore made a motion to accept the June 22 and July 6 minutes. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all were in favor.

4. Warrants and Payroll:

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to approve the warrants and payroll as in the agenda corrections. Mr. Mitchell seconded and all present were in favor.

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Public Works: Randy Glover handed out a day to day report and Mr. Daley thanked him for it. Mr. Skibitsky asked about the low bed trailer and Mr. Glover said it needed to have new planks before it could be inspected. That work has been completed and it has passed inspection.

a.i. Snow Plow truck: The truck that they had talked about before is waiting at

Fairfield's for a "spec" list. The original price of \$87,720 has been dropped by \$2,000, A Western Star truck was priced at \$81,000 but just to receive the truck would be 6 months out and then need to be outfitted. There is also a concern with having a different set of computers which would require a different scanner system. If the truck available from Morrison/Sylvester is purchased, it can be serviced locally. The total cost of the outfitted truck will be \$154,948. The new truck will replace the 1993 which will be sold. Mr. Glover estimated the sale price to be \$2,500 to \$4,000. The truck which Randy drives is ready to paint. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to release \$154,948 from the Public Works reserve fund to purchase the truck and the set-up from Fairfield's. It was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky and all were in favor.

a.ii. Sidewalks: Mr. Glover obtained quotes for the 920 foot 60" wide section of sidewalk on Weld St. starting at the first house after the Bank to past Wiles funeral home. He had bids from two local contractors. Marty Morgan's bid was \$31,000 which included sealing. He will use his own equipment. Dixfield's crew will take out the old one. Morgan will come as soon as told and could pour all the concrete in about 2 weeks. It will have a concrete curb. It is hoped to have it completed before Aug. 5 which is when the State will begin the paving on Weld St. After comparing the two bids, Mr. Whittemore made a motion to award the job to Morgan. Mr. Gill seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mr. Gill moved to give the TM permission to sign the contract and Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

a.iii. Chipper Rental: Mr. Glover said that he had been at the State Garage and tested a used Chipper that was going to go to Auction but could be purchased for \$1500. To rent one for a month would be \$1500 to \$2000 and would require going to get it and taking it back. Discussion was held and Mr. Jamison said that though he did not approve the purchase of an additional piece of equipment, chips could be sold to Catalyst to avoid finding a place to put them. Mr. Whittemore made a motion to buy the Chipper from the State and give the TM permission to sign the purchase and it was seconded by Mr. Gill. All were in favor.

b. Police Dept.:

Chief Howe discussed the process for purchasing a new cruiser. Bid letters have been sent to 5 dealers with the note that a left-over from the current year would be acceptable. So far, he has only heard from one dealer. One of the current vehicles (2005) has 170,000 miles on it and is not suitable for use as a cruiser. It is used only for general driving and will need a lot of repairs. The new radar unit will cost just \$500 with the 75% grant. He was asked about repairs on the units and said that re-conditioned ones were available but he did not have prices available. It was suggested that perhaps they might be used by Snowmobile Clubs or Speedways. The Music Fest held at the Mountainview Campground went pretty smoothly but the crowd was fairly small. There is one planned for September which will be Country Music and a larger crowd is expected. The chief said he would recommend allowing it. The Promoter has some ideas like catering to add to the show. They had an officer in the area. The promoter was told that if the crowds got too large, that they would be required to pay for a second officer. He reported that a lot of time has been spent and a lot of leads followed up on the current burglaries and they are making sure they can mount a solid case. It is frustrating but must be done right in order

to make the case. He asked citizens to be aware and watch their neighbors' homes and call the police if anything seems unusual. Drug trends are changing and will impact Dixfield. The vacant position for the 5th officer is hoped to be filled soon. An offer has been made and been accepted and, if all goes well, he will start in early August. The Chief expects him to be a great asset. The officer is looking to move to the area.

c. Town Manager Puiia made a few remarks about the recent re-count. While he recognizes that these things reduce the faith in government, honest mistakes are made. Formerly the ballots had a small list of items but since last year's referendum, the ballot has become much more difficult to count, with as many as 17,500 votes to count. If referendums are to continue, the town will have to fund ballots which can be counted by the voting machine which will make the budget go up. He encouraged citizens to "Look for solutions, not scapegoats". In response to a remark made at Town Meeting that the Town Manager doesn't "live here" he asked the citizens to remember that his first year in Dixfield and did not really care, he managed to turn money back from the budget by watching the spending and encouraging saving. He agreed that there are issues with the Sewer and Water but they are being addressed. Money spent to pay the salary of the personnel who take the payments in the office will be figured on a monthly basis and paid from the sewer and water departments so that taxpayers who do not have sewer and water will not be charged for the service.

6. Old Business:

a. Steve Swan and effort to name a hill: Letters from Grayson Child and Louise Hall Deconzo were read supporting maintaining the name "Hall Hill" for the area in question. Mr. Child owns the land which was formerly owned by Louise's ancestors Leroy and Esther Hall and she would like to see it stay that way. Mr. Child currently owns that land. Mr. Swan interjected that the hill actually is behind the Hall farm. Chair Daley noted that he felt that if the land was owned by Mr. Child, then it should be up to him to make the decision. There was discussion of the form sent to reply to the mapping organization and what responses could be made. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to reject the request to name it Swan Hill and to add a comment that historically it has always been Hall Hill. It was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Skibitsky asked to amend the motion to add that it was called Hall Hill anecdotally and informally. Mr. Mitchell accepted the amendment and all were in favor.

7. Old Business:

a. Appointment of RSU 10 Withdrawal Committee members.

a.i Confirmation of Municipal Officer Appointment and ii Confirmation of Petitioning Group. A letter has been received which directed the town to make the appointments. Mr. Skibitsky nominated Mr. Whittemore from the Select Board and Mr. Barry Prescott from the Petitioning Group. Mr. Gill seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 with Mr. Whittemore abstaining. He noted that he would have voted for Mr. Prescott if the motion had been separated.

a.iii Appointment for a member of the General Public. Three people have applied for consideration for the spot, Mr. Belskis, Beverly Glover and Jen Holmes. The Committee recommendation for Mr. Belskis remained in place. Mr. Whittemore nominated Mr.

Belskis and Mr. Mitchell seconded. Mr. Gill objected and said that he felt that Beverly Glover was an excellent candidate who was well respected and a team player. Several people had approached him to tell him they would prefer a different candidate than Mr. Belskis. He said that when there are only 4 committee members to represent the whole town, you need a member who unites people. Mr. Skibitsky agreed. Mr. Mitchell wanted to go with the person the committee recommended. The vote was 3-2 with Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Daley in favor.

b. Set hearing to extend Wind Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance: The current moratorium will expire on August 15. It would be possible to have the public hearing prior to the Selectmen's meeting. There was a discussion about whether or not a Moratorium was needed. A message sent by Lawyer Kristen Collins stated that she felt it was necessary. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to set a hearing at 5:30 PM on August 10 prior to the Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. The vote was 3-2 with Mr. Gill and Mr. Skibitsky opposed.

i. Wind Energy Facility Ordinance: The Moratorium statute states that work must be continuing on the Ordinance in order to maintain the moratorium. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to send the original ordinance back to the Planning Board to be amended. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion and the vote was 3-2 with Mr. Gill and Mr. Skibitsky opposed. Mr. Jamison stated that the Board was back to playing games, and Mrs. Holmes asked what the response would be to a petition to change the decibel levels to state standards. As Planning Board Chairman, Rick Davis said there would be a meeting on Aug. 20.

i. Municipal Tax Rate for 2015-2016: The current tax rate is 20.8 and could possibly be dropped to 20.3. Mr. Skibitsky suggested that it should only be dropped to 20.4 in order to cover the overlay and have enough to be able to use some to lower the taxes next year as has been done in the past. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to set the tax rate at 20.4 for the 2015-2016 tax year. Mr. Gill seconded and the vote was 3-2 with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Daley opposed.

e. Water Abatement request for 569 Main St. (Campground): No action was taken. Mr. Skibitsky requested that they revisit the policy with guidelines for residential vs. commercial.

8. Other Business:

Safe Schools Sidewalk update: More research needs to be done concerning this project. The costs have escalated for the Town's share due to the delays by the State. The TM will speak with the DOT for a firm number and put it back on the Agenda. He will also ask what it would cost the Town to scrap the whole project.

9. Public Correspondence: A letter from the Chairman of the Select Board of Canton to

the Supt. of RSU 10 was read which requested that no more RSU money be spent on reconfiguration. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to support Canton by sending a letter also. This was seconded by Mr. Whittemore. It was agreed that the letter be sent in Mr. Daley's name on behalf of the Board. All were in favor.

A letter from Mr. Albert Spaulding was read which stated he was resigning from the Dixfield Economic Development Council. Mr. Pickett asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Spaulding thanking him for his many years of service.

A request from Area Youth Football and Cheering requested a donation to help administer that program which is open to Dixfield youth. Mr. Whittemore asked to consider a donation from the Rec. Budget. The TM will bring the request to the Committee.

10. Public Comment:

Mr. Wil Shurtleff asked why the last two houses on Pine St. were not given new water pipe like the rest of the street. To finish the line would take 400 feet of water pipe and he felt that when there was a problem later, they would have to dig up the new hot top surface to fix it. Mr. Skibitsky said he was of the understanding that that section of the water service was good copper pipe and should last a lifetime and it was not worth the amount of excavation it would take to replace it. Mr. Shurtleff said he felt that the money was raised for Pine St. and should not be used elsewhere. The TM will speak to Jim White about it.

Margaret St. Cyr wished to address the High St. speeders and asked that speed “tables be built. (Speed tables are similar to speed bumps but are longer and flatter.) There are 23 houses with 2 vacant. 23 children live on the street. She obtained 21 signatures to agree that the issue needed to be addressed. Chief Howe said this has been an on-going problem even though it is watched and posted. He suggested it could be re-posted. The TM said he would meet with Chief Howe and Mr. Glover to see what could be done about speed “tables”.

11. Board Questions and Comments: none

12. FYI: none

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday Aug. 10 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library with a Public Hearing preceding the meeting.

14. Executive Session:

At 9:30 pm Mr. Daley made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(F) Discussion of Confidential Records. Mr. Whittemore seconded and all were in favor. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:39 pm. No action was taken.

At 9:40 pm Dana Whittemore made a motion to go into Executive session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(A) discussion of personnel matters. Mr. Skibitsky seconded and all were in favor. The Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:57 pm. No action was taken.

15. Adjournment:

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to adjourn at 9:58. Seconded by Mr. Gill and all were in

favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc