

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
MEETING MINUTES – Amended per BOS vote 1 11 16
MONDAY, December 28, 2015, 5:30 PM
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

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

Town Employees present: Town Manager Carlo Puiia, and Leo Jolin.

Citizens present: Mrs. Mitchell, Peter and Lori Holman, Rick Davis, Dan McKay and note taker Norine Clarke.

Non- Citizens: none

Press present: Matt Daigle of the Lewiston Sun and WVACTv.

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. add #60

b. to 4.b. add #59

c. to 8 add two pieces of correspondence: one from Maine Revenue Service's Mike Rogers, and the second from resident Bob McPhee with a street concern.

3. Minutes: Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to approve the December 14 regular meeting minutes and Mr. Gill seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0-1 because Mr. Daley abstained as he stated he had been absent from that meeting.

It was noted that the Public Hearing listed at the top of the Agenda had been overlooked and Chair Daley opened the Hearing at 5:35 p.m. for a request for a B.Y.O.B. Permit for Dec. 31, 2015 at the

American Legion Post #100. TM Puiia reported that he had spoken to Chief Howe and he said there has never been any problem there. The consensus of the Board was that they wished them well and that the Legion does good things. There were no comments taken from the public, so the Chair closed the public Hearing at 5:40 p.m. The Board meeting then resumed.

4. Warrants and Payroll:

Mr. Whittemore made a motion to approve the warrants and payroll with the agenda corrections. Mr. Gill seconded and all were in favor.

5. Department Head Reports:

a. Water Dept.: TM Puiia reported that Supt. White had noted that all was fine with the Water Dept.

b. Police Dept.: Chief Howe had another commitment and informed TM Puiia that he wanted to come to the next meeting with a year-end report.

c. Public Works Dept.: Mr. Glover was not present but TM Puiia noted that he was looking into getting the gas and diesel tanks removed from the Town Garage. There is a Roads Committee meeting scheduled for Thurs., Jan 7.

d. Sewer Dept.: Matt Timberlake was there representing Ted Berry Co. to answer questions about the budget (\$80,459.) He said that when they took over the job in 2007, the system was fairly new but was at the point where it was beginning to require maintenance. At that time they were making approximately 2 ½ trips to Dixfield a week. They then turned to work to identify risks and began preventive and predictive maintenance. The Bradley Street pump station is now the second most important work area and it needs an internet connection. Mr. Skibitsky asked about the reliability of Time Warner as a provider. Mr. Timberlake said that would have to be checked. TM Puiia said that Auditor Ron Smith would be at the next regular meeting and there would be discussion on how the construction money was spent on the High St. project. TM Puiia noted that he thought most of it was used for storm water, not for waste. The Town's Sewer Department has debt owed to the Town's Water Department (\$63,557) and how to go about repayment needs to be decided. Chair Daley asked for an impact schedule. Mr. Skibitsky voiced concern that there is no money set aside for capital needs of the system and the rate scale should be discussed. Questions were posed to be asked of the Auditor. What amount of money will be needed to cover the obligations, what amount was paid by the water district for work that was being done for the other municipal departments, and about how the salary of a previous employee should have been covered by more than one department. Mr. Timberlake reported that Operations and Maintenance was fine but it is a 40 year old system and needs more planning. Decision on the \$106,000 is not needed tonight. Mr. Skibitsky asked about any new users and was told that for about 4 years, it has been pretty much the same. TM Puiia has spoken with the Office Staff in Mexico for sewer billing and there is a list of outstanding bills which cannot be collected because proper lien rules had not been followed. These have been carried for some time. It was mentioned last year but no action was taken. Some go back to 2004. Some bills were assessed to renters, not property owners. Mr. Skibitsky noted that he believed this was for sewer only and suggested that they table it so as to handle water and sewer at the same time. Mr. Skibitsky asked Mr. Timberlake about re-doing the Ordinance which goes back to 1989. Mr. Timberlake said that there are a number of towns that have recently updated their ordinances. He said that they have prepared a draft of the technical, community and legal sides already and is 80% finished. A completed ordinance for Dixfield could be ready by June. Mr. McKay asked if the Board could check on the requirement of people near the sewer line being required to connect. Mr. Timberlake said it is probably a state mandate but should be discussed by the Board. Mr. Timberlake showed the Board and those present a sign which identifies the pump stations which will soon be installed.

6. Old Business: a. The Board members were given a draft of the Planning Board minutes from Robin Marshall, their secretary. The Board voted 4-1 to ask the Selectmen to "correct" the wording for the Wind Ordinance Referendum question. They also voted 3-2 to make a recommendation from the Planning Board that the question "ought not to pass". Chair Daley said that he would like to see a list of reasons from the Planning Board about why it "ought not to pass." The Planning Board version of the Ordinance

and the corrected (by Kristen Collins) sound section will be posted on the Town web site, and forwarded to the Selectmen. The Planning Board asked for some direction of action in writing from the Selectmen. None was given. Their next meeting is Thur., Jan. 21, 2016 at 5:30. (If it is a school storm day, it is postponed until the following Thurs.) Chairman Davis strongly recommended that the Selectmen attend the meeting. The subject of who owned the transmission lines in Dixfield was clarified. Saddleback Ridge Wind Project owns the lines. They paid \$22,101.36 in taxes with only 3 turbines active. It should be about 4 times that when all mills are active.

b. Maintenance contract for Traffic Lights. The Town pays the electric bill for them. The Board agreed to table discussion until a representative could come and answer questions.

7. New Business: a. B.Y.O.B permit

Mr. Skibitsky made a motion and Mr. Gill seconded to give approval. All were in favor.

8. Other Business: a. TM Puiia distributed copies of emails verifying Maine Revenue Service's Mike Rogers acknowledgement and commitment for an updated review of the Town's tax and funding impact if a Wind Energy Facility is built.

b. He also shared an email from a resident reporting the difficulty of seeing the edges of the sidewalk turning on to North ST. He will turn this over to Mr. Glover.

9. Public Comment: Mr. McKay commented on the difficulty of understanding the numbers of town evaluations and mil rates compared to the state evaluations and should be considered at budget time. TM Puiia noted that the Selectmen have been forward thinking about having a Town re-evaluation done by voting in a reserve fund. There is \$25,000 in the account now. If the town decides to have the re-valuation done by our current assessors, it should be less expensive than anticipated because their firm had done the work for the current assessment, and, therefore, it takes much less time. Assessor O' Donnell could be invited to a meeting.

Mr. Holman noted that many of these reserve funds could possibly be funded with the help of wind towers if they are voted in. Mr. Daley reminded all that there will be a three year delay before the state evaluations catch up.

10. Board Questions and Comments:

Mitchell -- The town will not save any money with the turbines, Dixfield has a spending problem not a revenue problem.

Whittemore—none

Gill---Mr. Gill complimented the Oxford County Sheriff's Dept. for their part in the recent drug bust.

Skibitsky---none

Daley---none

11. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, Jan. 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Ludden Library.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Mitchell second by Mr. Whittemore to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine H. Clarke, secretary
nhc/nhc