

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, November 13, 2007
5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

Board Members Present: Bettina M. Martin (Chair), Brad E. Dyer, Raymond E. Carlton,

Norine H. Clarke and James L.

Desjardins

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Town Manager Thomas F. Richmond,
Charlotte M. Collins

(Minutes), Tim Hanson (PWD)

Press Present: Reporter Rumford Falls Times

Citizens Present: Dickie Frost, Leo Jolin, Bill DeVries

Chair Martin opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. to hear comment on the following:

PUBLIC HEARING
Liquor License Renewal – Bear-ly Inn, 28 Weld
St., Dixfield

The Selectmen clarified the Bear-ly Inn's renewal application as a bed and breakfast that serves meals to their guests and caters to private parties only. It is no longer open to the public as a restaurant.

As there were no other public comments, the Chair closed the Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m. On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the liquor

license renewal for the Bear-ly Inn for one year.

1. The Chair opened the Board of Selectmen's Meeting following the Public Hearing.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 10/22/07 with the following amendment from Mrs. Clarke:

Page Two should read under Mrs. Clarke's comments: "if" some of the bus drivers were speeding...the Town Manager should talk with the Superintendent."

3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll registers as listed on the agenda.

4. **Department Head Reports:** PWD Tim Hanson reported that the sewer problem on Park Avenue was repaired and Ted Berry Company had checked it after completion. The cost to do the job was approximately \$800.00.

Public Comment:

Dickie Frost of the Public Works Department was in attendance to report a dangerous, 100' pine tree located on property belonging to Ms. Cynthia G. Freeman of 11 Rowe St., Dixfield. The tree was hit by lightning which split it down the middle. The tree is dead or dying and will hit the power lines and possibly neighboring property when it falls. Central Maine Power Co. will do nothing unless it falls on the power lines. The Town Manager will contact Ms. Freeman and explain the potential risk by not having the tree taken down.

5. **New Business:**

a. **Muriel Shurtleff – Sewer Concerns:** Mrs. Shurtleff contacted the Town Office earlier in the day and stated that she probably would not be able to attend the meeting due to a doctor's appointment.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the payment involved in repairing the sewer line to Mrs. Shurtleff's property located at 46 Park Avenue, Dixfield. The Town repaired the sewer line that had developed a sway in the line that caused freezing in the winter. Mrs. Shurtleff has been plagued with the problem since buying the mobile home several years ago. Dickie Frost stated that the line was originally installed about 5-6 years ago by the town's Public Works Department.

Discussion followed regarding the payment of the project. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to pay expenses incurred within the town's right-of-way and Mrs. Shurtleff is to pay the balance.

PWD Hanson will compile an itemized statement showing the town's costs and Mrs. Shurtleff's costs.

b. **Software Purchase Agreement for Water/Sewer Depts. (TRIO):** The Town Manager explained to the Board of Selectmen the contract costs for purchasing new software for the Water and Sewer Departments. The software will allow the Town Office access to the books at the Town Garage. On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to purchase the new software.

c. **Approval of Purchase of Two-Way Radio for the Town Office:** The Town Manager explained that the antenna located at the Town Office for use by the Emergency Management Director is serviceable for a two-way radio hook-up with the Public Works Department. On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a two-way radio for the Town Manager's office.

d. **Post Office Lease Reconsideration:** The Town Manager has composed a letter that he would like sent to the Post Office Administration regarding the town's lease of the Municipal Building to the Post Office. Both heating boilers are in need of replacement and will cost will be around \$25,000 for new furnaces. He would like to increase the amount of the lease. The Board agreed that he could send the letter.

Public Comment:

Bill Devries commented that he thought the town should not renew the lease when it expires, but give them ample notice that the town would like to use the whole building. Space is needed very badly. Also, by allowing a private owner to build a post office for lease, it would no longer fall under exempt status. The tax base would also increase.

6. Old Business:

7. Town Manager's Report:

- a. The Town Manager will be purchasing a projector for use at Town Meeting and for other events that various departments might be needing.
- b. The Town Manager will schedule a Selectmen/Auditor meeting at some time in the near future.
- c. Road construction has finished, and the crew will begin cutting brush on the Common Road as weather permits.
- d. The Harlow Park bleacher repair project will be scheduled for the spring.

8: Board Comments:

Selectman Dyer: Mr. Dyer stated that he felt the closing of Weld Street and some of the side streets for the Halloween Walk did not go very well. He suggested that better advertising and planning be done next year.

The Town Manager presented a bill from Nash Electric for work done at the library over a year ago. Library Director Malley suggested that the money received from rent be used to cover the bill. Ms. Martin stated that this was not legal to do.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted as follows to pay the Nash Electric bill from the current library budget appropriation:

Mr. Dyer	Nay
Mr. Carlton	Yea
Mrs. Clarke	Yea
Mr. Desjardins	Yea
Ms. Martin	Yea

Chair Martin reported to the Board regarding her recent attendance at a school consolidation meeting. Approximately 60 people from the area attended, and not one good comment was heard. There seems to be no solution to the problem without it costing Dixfield more money. A petition has been started around the State to stop the Governor's plan for school consolidation.

9. Other Business:

10. **Executive Session:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted to go into executive session at 6:15 p.m.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted to come out of executive session at 7:17 p.m. No action taken.

11. **FYI:** So noted.

12. **Next Meeting:** Monday, November 26, 2007, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

13. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments