

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
March 24, 2008
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: Thomas F. Richmond (Town Manager),
Charlotte Collins (Minutes
of Meeting), Scott Dennett (Fire Chief),
Richard Pickett (Police
Chief)

Press Present: Eileen Adams (Lewiston Journal)

Citizens Present: Leo Jolin and William Frost (Public Works
Department), John
and Beth Masse & Children, Kevin Scott of
Andover

1. Chair Martin called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

a. On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 10, 2008 and March 17, 2008.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kevin Scott of Andover asked to speak with the Board of Selectmen regarding MedCare Ambulance Service and the impact the new building will have on inter-local agreements. Andover voted not to amend their agreement with MedCare.

Mr. Dean Milligan, Director of MedCare, was also on hand to dispel any disparaging remarks made by Mr. Scott. Mr. Milligan stated that Mr. Scott was not an official representative of the Town of Andover. He also reminded the Board that all the Towns were notified in July, 2007 about the plans for the new building and that MedCare has always been above-board with the commitment asked of the member towns.

There will be no increase in funds from the operational side of MedCare's budget—only from capital expense. Mr. Scott was asked to attend a future meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the subject of the capital building fund and the inter-local contract wording by member towns.

6. Old Business:

a. **Severy Hill Road – Masse Request:** John and Beth Masse requested direction for requesting their road be taken over by the town. The Town Manager explained that when the subdivision was formed (where they live), it was stated that the road would remain discontinued. The Masses will need to request a meeting with the Planning Board as a first step to voiding this attachment to the subdivision. The Town Manager gave the Masses a list of steps to follow regarding their request.

4. Department Heads Reports:

a. **Police Chief:** Chief Richard Pickett gave Board Members the Police Department Reports for February 2008.

During the evacuation of Dirigo Middle School last week, all emergency protective services responded extremely well and handled the situation professionally and quickly.

The Chief passed out an informational sheet explaining the DARE Program and the steps that the department would like to take next year. The Board was also invited to attend the DARE graduation on March 28, 2008.

b. Public Works Director:

5. New Business:

a. **NORSWB Representative:** Tabled.

b. **Finance Committee Appointment:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Rebecca Marston to the Finance Committee through Annual Town Meeting, at which time the position will be open for re-election from the floor of town meeting.

c. **AVCOG Voting:** The town received an official ballot for various positions within the organization of Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments-all unopposed. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to vote for all unopposed candidates.

d. **Boston Post Cane Nominations:** It was explained that the Boston Post Cane had not been bestowed upon the most elderly citizen in town since the passing of Margaret Macpherson. A call for nominees will be placed in the newspapers.

e. **Accepting Bids on 1994 Dodge Ram:** A bid sheet will be made available at the Dixfield Town Office or by mail. Last day bids are to be received is April 14, 2008.

f. **Investments:** The Town Manager and Selectmen met last week to discuss the town's investment funds, reserves, etc. Bangor Savings Bank has submitted two competitive proposals for handling the town's investments. The Town Manager felt that it would be better for the town to have their funds placed under the FDIC than through MBIA. On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board of Selectmen voted as follows to transfer all funds to Bangor Savings Bank from MBIA:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Bettina M. Martin | Yea |
| Raymond E. Carlton | Yea |
| Norine H. Clarke | Yea |
| James L. Desjardins | Yea |
| Brad E. Dyer | Nay |

6. Old Business:

a. **2008/09 Budget:** Will follow meeting.

b. **Dedication of Annual Town Report:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to dedicate this year's Annual Town Report to Clara Howard, Loraine Smith and Oscar Robbins.

c. **Distinguished Citizen 2008 Nominations:** On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to honor Jon W. Holmes with this year's 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award.

d. Continued after the Selectmen's Meeting.

7. **Town Manager's Report:** The Town Manager reported on the following:

- The loader has been fixed for \$4,500.00
- Winter road costs exceeded the budget by \$23,124
- The town's sweeper has been disassembled. The model is very old, and no parts are available for repairs. This spring's sweeping will have to be contracted.
- There's a severe drainage problem at the end of Coburn Avenue that will need to be addressed in the near future.
- The final copy of the water rate increase papers has been prepared, and the capital costs fund has been lowered to \$75,000; the hydrant rental reduced to \$117,000.
- There are several tax foreclosures that will need to be addressed by the Board of Selectmen. Pictures will be included when they are discussed.

8. **Board Questions/Comments:**

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

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted to come out of executive session at 6:15 p.m.

Board action: No action taken.

10. **Other Business:**

11: **FYI:**

12: **Next Meeting:** March 31, 2008, 6:00 p.m., Ludden Memorial Library (Joint Meeting with Finance Committee).

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments