

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
July 14, 2008
5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

Board Members Present: Bettina M. Martin (Chair), Brad E. Dyer, Norine H. Clarke, James L. Desjardins, Raymond E. Carlton

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Charlotte Collins (Minutes), Leo Jolin, Vickie Carrier, Theresa Hemingway, Scott Dennett, Brenda Turbide, Steve Levi (MRWA)

Citizens Present: Bruce and Alice Clark, Montell Kennedy, Rusty Welch, Ralph Clarke

Press: Terry Karkos (Lewiston Sun Journal), WVAC Personnel

1. Chair Martin opened the Selectmen's Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 30, 2008.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 2, 2008.

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 as listed on the agenda.

4. Department Head Reports (Public Works): Lead man Leo Jolin presented the Board with a report of the work accomplished over the past few weeks, highlighting work on:

- Repairs to manholes
- Grading of Severy Hill and the Valley Road by Douglas Averill. He will be back this week to do additional work on the Holman, Porter and Sturtevant Roads.
- Wednesday, July 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Mexico, there will be a meeting to discuss the storm drain projects in area towns. Chair Martin and Selectman Desjardins will try to attend.

Public Comment

A. **Bruce and Alice Clark** of 7 First Avenue were in attendance to seek help from the town in fighting a serious mosquito problem caused by the local mill (Irving Forest Products, Inc.). Mrs. Clark explained that the problem has been on-going for 4-5 years with no clean-up results from the mill. Water is collecting at the edge of the mill's land (that borders the Clark property and others) and is stagnating causing serious insect problems for Mr. & Mrs. Clark and their surrounding neighbors. In addition to mosquitoes, the Clarks:

- Can't open their windows
- Mildew is present on their new deck from the mill's spraying operations
- They have to power-wash the house, garage, deck because of the spraying and bugs
- They're ending up paying higher water costs than necessary
- And they're worried about mosquito-borne illnesses

Mrs. Clark explained that they have tried and tried to take care of the problem in a friendly manner and have done everything they can do to eliminate the problem.

- Consulted the D.E.P.
- Contacted Boards of Selectmen over the years
- Contacted Irving personnel (Manager, etc.)
- Contacted the town's Health Officer who has written letters to Irving
- Contact the town's Code Enforcement Officer
- (all the above several times)

Mrs. Clark also gave the Board a copy of a letter she received previously from the town that stated something would be done. This was two years ago. There has been no response to date.

Selectman Carlton stated that he had called Irving last week to inquire of their status is fixing the problem. They stated to him that a power line had been broken which will further delay any work on the project. Mr. Carlton had also spoken with Mr. Thibodeau of Irving and that Dale St. Pierre is handling it now.

Citizen Ralph Clarke has contacted the York Masonic Lodge inquiring about the purchase of dragonfly larvae. It would help the situation, he felt, if only for the short-term.

Chair Martin stated that the Town Manager was on vacation, but would be back by July 21st. At that time she will make sure that he contacts Irving Forest Products and that an immediate correction to this problem is found. She will then notify Mr. & Mrs. Clark of the town's and Irving's actions regarding the problem.

B. **Rusty Welch** commented about the town's plow truck that needs to be replaced. He wondered why it couldn't be repaired instead of going into debt at this time. It needs a new windshield, cross members, fluid lines replaced, etc. He felt it could be refurbished for approximately \$2,000 and would get the town through the coming winter. Mr. Welch is willing to donate his time to helping the town's mechanic. He has spoken with Mr. Woods, and both feel it is a project worth pursuing. The Board suggested that Mr. Welch and Mr. Woods

compile a list of repairs and their approximate costs and return to the Board with the figures.

5. **New Business:**

a. **Re-Application for Water Rate Increase:** Steve Levi from the Maine Rural Water Association spoke of the new application that will be submitted to the PUC for the water rate increase. He commented on the following:

- The 307 filing application for a rate increase is submitted directly to the PUC. This filing is more complicated and involved. The 29% increase that the Board originally felt was necessary is still being submitted.
- Some of the problems associated with the delay were the way in which the rate case was compiled. The PUC would like it to be submitted in a different format.
- As the 2007 water department audit figures were not available for the first filing, these figures have now become available and have been worked into the new format.
- Depreciation and contingency accounts have also been established.
- The rate increase and revenue requirements have stayed the same, although the figures have been distributed differently throughout the application.
- In the original filing, a new truck was requested with a note that would be paid over a two-year period. That has now changed to a five-year period.
- Essentially, the same application figures will be submitted. The PUC requires that all capital items be paid by everyone over the life of the items financed. It is called deficit financing.

6. **Old Business:**

7. **Town Manager's Report:** The Town Manager is on vacation; no report.

Public Comment: None

8. Board Questions and Comments:

Chair Martin: Ms. Martin passed out copies of a letter received from David Dugay of the Oxford County Commissioners regarding a caucus that will be held in the near future.

Ms. Martin also received a letter from a concerned citizen regarding the re-establishment of a town-wide curfew due to increased juvenile vandalism, noise, etc. The citizen explained to Ms. Martin that perhaps just the need to make more people aware of contacting the police to report incidences and the need for more patrolling throughout town is all that is needed for the present.

9. Other Business:

10. Executive Session - 1MRSA §405, Personnel Matter: On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 5:46 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted to come out of executive session at 7:24 p.m.

11. FYI: So noted.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, July 28, 2008, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

13. Adjournment: On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments