

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
July 28, 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: Town Manager Thomas F. Richmond, Charlotte Collins (Minutes), Leo Jolin

Citizens Present: Rusty Welch, Dickie Frost, Craig Woods, Mike Brann, Bill Gallant, Steve McLeod

Press: Eileen Adams (Sun Journal)

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 July 14, 2008.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 21, 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:** None.

Public Comment - None

5. **New Business:**

a. **2008 Road Construction Plan:** The Town Manager presented a list of proposed roads and repair projects that need to be addressed at some point in 2008:

1. **Holt Hill Road:** drainage, ditching and paving
2. **Brian Street:** drainage and paving
3. **Averill Hill Road:** repairs and paving
4. **Norton Road:** ditching near culverts
5. **Severy Hill Road:** rebuild 4,800 feet
6. **Hall Hill Road:** extend ditching and resurfacing
7. **Other Work:** grind pile of used pavement at the Public Works Department for surface material; crosswalk painting; weekly mowing of park, cemetery and pumping stations; brush cutting; paint fuel tanks

Mrs. Clarke asked if the paint was in for painting the crosswalks. The moose prints need to be re-painted and can be done as soon as the materials are available.

The Town Manager presented a copy of a contract that can be used by the town to hire contractors for road work, etc. However, nothing else can be done until Averill Hill Road is completed.

On a motion by Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to place out for bid the Averill Hill Road reconstruction. Bids are to be returned in two weeks (8/11/08).

b. **Village Green Gazebo:** Selectman Clarke of the Economic Development Council advised the Board of a bid of \$2,534 the committee received for refurbishing the town's gazebo. She asked if there were any funds available in other departments to cover the costs that exceed the \$800 that the committee has. The Board asked her to get some other bids and bring them to the Board. Mrs. Clarke suggested if there are no funds, the roof needs to be fixed anyway. Selectman Desjardins suggested contacting Lauren Hebert to see if the Masons could possibly help.

c. **Trio Programs:** The Town Manager explained a letter received from O'Donnell's and Assoc. regarding the purchase of their interfacing assessing program. A one-time fee of \$250 and \$1,000 the first year/\$250 thereafter will allow for accurate updating of assessing figures.

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to purchase interfacing software that will allow for the conversion from O'Donnell's and Associates.

d. **Workshop to Set Mil Rate:** The Board scheduled a workshop for Monday, August 5, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. to set the town's 2008/09 mil rate.

e. **Public Petition:** William Gallant of 28 Weld Street presented the Board of Selectmen with a petition from town citizens calling for the Board not to renew the Town Manager's contract in November.

Mr. Gallant asked if a background check had been done before hiring Mr. Richmond due to information he had acquired on his previous employment record. Mr. Gallant also stated that he felt the decisions made by Mr. Richmond did not affect him as he doesn't live in town and is not a taxpayer.

Ms. Martin stated that there had been a committee during the hiring process and Mr. Richmond's references had been checked.

Mr. Gallant stated or questioned the following of the Board of Selectmen:

- The Board needs to be more diligent in checking references when hiring
- Stop and think before you do something as it affects everyone who has to pay for your decisions
- Why are there so many executive sessions
- The residents of the town elect you to the Board, but the residents are barred from speaking at meetings
- Other people have ideas that might be of use and help the Board make better decisions
- Why are meetings held at 5:00 p.m. instead of at a later time when more people could attend

Mark Brann wanted to know how the lawyer fees would be paid on the Chief Pickett disciplinary action taken by the Board of Selectmen. It was explained that the money would come from attorney fees in the budget and not from roads, etc.

Brad Dyer offered that the town places its operations in the Board's hands for a year and trusts them to do what they think is right.

Mr. Gallant stated that he didn't expect anything to be done right away, but asked the Board to give the petition some "real thought" before extending the Town Manager's contract in November. He thanked the Board for allowing him to express his concerns. (Copy of petition attached to minutes.)

6. **Old Business:**

a. **Mosquito Infestation Problem:** Selectman Clarke gave Board members the figures on purchasing dragonfly larvae for next spring as a possible option to mosquito control. The Town Manager had met with Irving Forest Products managers and looked over the standing water problem due to the berm that was required by EPA. They will spray 2-3 times a year providing all land abutters sign off on the spraying.

Ms. Martin requested that the Town Manager get in touch with the Clarks to let them know the progress being made.

b. **Post Office Boiler Bids:** Bids were opened as follows; the winning bid will be award at the next Selectmen's meeting:

1. A. Mauriais & Son, Inc.	Jay	\$ 8,600
2. RPH, Inc.	Jay	7,625
3. Dead River Company	Rumford	12,165
4. Community Energy	Rumford	8,094
5. Specialty Service Corp.	Greene	9,980

c. **Truck Repair Issue:** A list of materials for repairing the public works truck was explained by mechanic Craig Woods and volunteer Rusty Welch. Materials will cost approximately \$1,250. The whole project will cost approximately \$2,000 or under. Both men suggested that oiling underneath the truck be done to prevent rust as well as regular cleaning and maintenance.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to repair the truck as suggested.

d. **FEMA Grant:** The town has received the expected funding.

e. **Bleacher Update:** The bleachers at Marble Memorial Park have been repaired, but the Harlow Park ones have not been done due to emergency repairs to roads from the recent heavy rains. Craig Woods offered to donate his personal compressor to get the rusted bolts out so that new seating can be installed. The lumber is in at Towle's Hardware for the project, and Mrs. Clarke felt it is a serious safety issue that must not be ignored. The school was promised that the project would be completed.

The Town Manager stated that the Averill Hill Road repairs would be completed, and then Harlow Park Bleachers will be addressed.

7. **Town Manager's Report:**

a. **Rural Initiative Program Certificate:** On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to sign

the grant.

Public Comment: None

8. Other Business:

9. Board Questions and Comments:

10. Executive Session:

(1) Executive Session – 1MRSA 406-6E: On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:10 p.m.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to hold a Disciplinary Hearing for Richard A. Pickett on August 4, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.

(2) Executive Session - 1MRSA §405, Personnel Matter: On a motion from Mr. Dyer under MRSA 406, and a second by Mrs. Clarke, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:20 p.m.

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 7:40 p.m.

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the resignation with regret of Tom Richmond, Town Manager.

Selectman Norine Clarke moved to have Bettina and the Town Manager work on the wording and start the advertisement for a new manager as soon as possible. Mr. Dyer seconded the motion; unanimously approve.

11. FYI: So noted.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, August 4, 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 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments