

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
October 27, 2008
5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

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

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes), Police Chief Richard A. Pickett

Citizens Present: Terri Mitchell

Press: Sun Journal Reporter Terry Karkos and River Valley Access Channel

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Martin opened the General Assistance Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m. to take comments from the public regarding the town's General Assistance Ordinance and Addendum Pages that include guidelines for receiving General Assistance from the town as submitted by the State of Maine Department of Human Services. No comments were made and the meeting closed at 5:03 p.m.

JUNKYARD AUTOMOBILE GRAVEYARD PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Martin opened the Junkyard Automobile Graveyard Public Hearing at 5:03 p.m. to take comments from the public regarding the renewal of Junkyard Automobile Graveyard Renewal Applications from the following property owners:

Averill, Claude & Lester	Mitchell, Norman
Blanchard, Robert	Morrison Motors
Drown, Shannon	Speranza, James
Hall, Clifford	Tyler, Roland

Town Manager Skibitsky explained that the town's Code Enforcement Officer had inspected all applicants' properties and found no violations. No other comments were made and the meeting closed at 5:04 p.m.

1. Chair Martin opened the Selectmen's Meeting at 5:04 p.m.
2. **Executive Session:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 5:05 p.m. per MRSA 406-6E, Meeting with legal counsel.

The Board came out of executive session at 5:35 p.m. and reconvened the meeting.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 14, 2008.

4. **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.

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Water and Sewer Departments warrants as listed on the agenda.

5. **Department Head Reports:**

b. **Police Department:** Chief Pickett presented his monthly report (see attachment) to the Board of Selectmen and reported as follows:

- The town's streetlights were inspected by the Police Department at the end of August and a list of the location of lights with problems was given to CMP Co.
- The Chief attended the Abused Women's Advocacy Program, "Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil" at the Village Green on October 1st to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness month. Sheriff Gallant, activists, citizens and students spoke with some giving their personal experiences.
- The Police Department will provide an officer "on bike" to be present at the town's annual Halloween Walk on Friday evening. Arrangements have also been made with the Public Works Department to cordon off several streets that feed into Weld Street. The walk will end at the Dixfield Elsemore Clinic.

Public Comment: None

6. **New Business:**

a. **Approval of Junkyard Permits:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the renewal applications for Junkyard Automobile Graveyards.

b. **Fuel Bids:** Mr. Skibitsky explained the difference in pricing between Community Energy and Woodstock Oil Co. regarding gas pricing. Much had to do with "timing" at the time of purchase. Mr. Skibitsky recommended that the town contract with Woodstock Oil Co.; the school department will not be contracting along with the town.

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to contract with Woodstock Oil Co. for the town's gas needs.

c. **Water and Sewer Departments Budgets:** The Board was given an interoffice memo from Administrative Assistant Darlene Brann (see attachment) that explained the new budget figures for the Water Department due to the rate increase.

Report format options were explained by Town Manager Skibitsky, noting that some figures differ due to the “slicing/dicing” during the rate increase process. New figures for 2009 will be those that are agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Desjardins asked about the current balances that were owed to the town from the Water and Sewer Departments. They are: \$4,165.84 Water; \$59,660.33 Sewer as of 10/30/08.

Chair Martin suggested that the Water and Sewer Departments’ budgets be completed no later than 12/31/2008. The Town Manager suggested that a rough draft be presented to the Board by November 10th or 24th with approval dates at the December 8th or 22nd meetings of the Board of Selectmen.

7. **Old Business:**

a. **Treadwell Consent Agreement:** Town Manager Skibitsky explained that Michael and Elise Treadwell of 100 Webb River Drive signed the Consent Agreement, and the town’s CEO and the DEP also approved it. The Board of Selectmen signed the agreement.

b. **Boiler Correspondence:** Specialty Services presented the town with a list of the repairs that were needed in addition to the new boiler being installed for the Post Office side of the Municipal Building. Both the Post Office and the Town Office receive hot water from the town’s boiler system. Specialty Services recommends that hot water heaters be installed under bathroom sinks for instant hot water as both offices have a low need and it would save oil. Also included in the correspondence was a list of codes that were brought up to date for the building.

c. **McGouldrick Park Skating Rink:** Mr. Skibitsky explained that there is \$2,000 available in the budget for maintenance on the skating rink. This would allow for 166 man hours at \$12.00/hour for Alton Arsenault and Dale Carlton to do ice rink maintenance throughout the season.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board unanimously approved ice rink maintenance at \$12.00/hour for 166 man hours.

d. **Thaddeus White Bridge:** Town Manager Skibitsky explained that the Annual Town Meeting vote of May, 2008 approving up to \$50,000 as the town’s share of payment on the Thaddeus White Bridge would not be enough. Due to the construction costs of installing the bridge, additional funds will need to be raised either from surplus or from the town’s road account. As the town’s first payment will not be due until the fall of 2009, it was decided to place this item on the next Annual Town Meeting Warrant in the spring of 2009.

8. **Town Manager’s Report:**

- The Community Development Block Grant application for 2009 has been received. However, due to the time constraints, the Town Manager will table items until possibly next year if the town developments criteria that meets the needs of the grant.

- Received vacation schedules for the Public Works Department for the remainder of the year. Dick Frost will be out on medical leave until the first of the year; Leo Jolin is out all this week, and Randy Glover has returned to work from medical leave.
- An advertisement has been placed in the newspapers for temporary snowplow operators. A schedule will be developed once the town has hired the spare drivers.
- Will be meeting with Dr. Tom Ward and Kenneth Robbins on Thursday to discuss the town's agreement with S.A.D. No. 21 and the town regarding the parks.
- Turkeys need to be ordered for the traditional employee turkey gift from the town for Thanksgiving. Board members agreed to continue tradition.
- Ben Dolloff of the Class of 2010 contacted the Town Manager for permission to use McGouldrick Park for a fund-raising haunted hayride event for his class. It will be held this Friday from 6:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m. Refreshments will also be sold. On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to allow the use of McGouldrick Park by the Class of 2010 for a Halloween fundraiser.

Public Comment: None

9. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr. Dyer: Reported that the beginning of the Mease Road where the gravel meets the tar is deteriorating rapidly. Fill needs to be placed so that the snowplows will not tear up the pavement.

Mr. Desjardins: Reported that Averill Hill (at the point where the recent repairs were made) ditching is sliding into the dugout area. This item needs to be placed on next year's budget to allocate funds to the property owner who will be losing some of his land when future repairs are made as well as for the expenses incurred during the final repair work.

10. Other Business: The Board of Selectmen signed the Assessing Agent's list of new abatements. It was also reported that the recent appeal to the County Commissioners for an abatement was rejected and the town prevailed on its assessed value. On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer the Board voted unanimously to approve the abatements.

11. Executive Session: On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted to go into executive session at 6:35 p.m. (MRSA 405 Personnel):

12. FYI: So noted.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, November 10, 2008, 5:00 p.m., Town Office.

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer

/cmc