

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, March 16, 2009**  
**5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office**

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

**Selectmen Absent:**

**Administration:** Town Manager Eugene R. Skibitsky, Charlotte M. Collins  
(Minutes), Public Works Foreman Leo Jolin, Water Department  
Superintendent Jim White

**Others:** Citizens Freemont Tibbetts and Clayton McKay

**Press:** Eileen Adams, Lewiston Journal

1. Chair Martin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of 2/23/09, 3/2/09 and 3/9/09.
3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board unanimously approved the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.
4. **Department Head Reports:**
  - a. **Public Works Department:** Mr. Jolin stated that the crew had been pushing snowbanks back, checking equipment and working on the street sweeper. A Dynatrite sidewalk snow blower was demonstrated and proved to work very well, although quite expensive. Road posting will begin 3/17/2009.  
  
Selectman Dyer stated that problems that should not be occurring on the Common Road with culverts that have surfaced. Large dips and bumps need to be addressed.
  - b. **Water Department:** Mr. White stated that over the weekend 60,000 gallons of water was pumped—more than a normal weekend—and no cause has been found as yet. There could be a leak, so he will be monitoring the situation. If it continues, Maine Rural Water Association may need to be consulted.

- There have been problems with the controller valves, so two new ones for \$50.00 each have been ordered: one to use and one for a spare.
- The end of April has been scheduled for spring flushing. Having talked with the engineer, it has been decided that flushing Weld Street would commence on a Monday with Tuesday finishing the rest of the main to the plant.
- The SCADA (Super Control and Data Acquisition) system that was installed at the town garage eleven years ago is becoming old and giving problems. Mr. White spoke with Kenny Robbins and requested a price for a new system. The costs would be split between the water and sewer departments for a price of \$11,740. The savings would be \$1,740 and would save a lot on call-in time. The Town Manager is in favor of purchasing the new system this year as \$4,000 has been budgeted in each department. He will check further on concrete figures and report to the Board at the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Freemont Tibbetts and Clayton McKay were present at the meeting to voice their concerns regarding the day and time of the town's Annual Town Meeting. This year it is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the T.W. Kelly Middle School gymnasium. They felt that a Saturday at 9:00 a.m. (as was previously held for many years) was a much better day and time in which to hold the meeting so that older citizens could attend and not be subject to a late evening meeting. The Board will discuss this at their next regular meeting and make a final determination at that time.

#### **5. New Business:**

a. **Abatement Requests:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to grant a tax abatement to Ms. Grace Goodrow (Map 17, Lot 10) in the amount of \$91.16. They further approved the recommendation to deny an abatement request to Mr. Harry Hutchins (Map 22, Lot 17) as recommended by the Assessors' Agent.

b. **Naming New Bridge Over Webb River:** The town has received a request from veterans of the American Legion to rename the new Webb River Bridge to Veterans Bridge after completion. The Town Manager will check with the Mexico Town Manager and the state project manager to determine who has the authority to name the bridge and report back at an upcoming meeting.

c. **O'Donnell Contract:** The Town Manager explained the assessing contract proposed by O'Donnell & Associates for the 2009/10 budget year and recommended signing it. On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the assessing contract with O'Donnell & Associates.

d. **Personnel Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** The Town Manager recommended changes to the town personnel policy regarding Article 14.2 (Travel Expense) and 17.7 (Anti-nepotism). On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve both changes.

e. **Water/Sewer SCADA Upgrade:** (See Department Heads Report)

6. **Old business:**

a. **Gerrier Campground Update:** The Town Manager spoke with John Maloney of AVCOG regarding the setback requirements of shoreland zoning protection areas. He outlined the steps involved to make amendments as follows:

- The ordinance needs to be changed to reflect the new zone
- A public hearing must be held prior to a special town meeting
- A special town meeting must be held for citizens to approve it
- The DEP must be notified within 45 days

On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, March 23, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Dixfield Town Office.

b. **Mexico Sewer District Contract Update:** The Town of Mexico Sewer District has sent the contract to their attorney and is awaiting recommendations. The Town of Dixfield, however, can contract directly with the district.

A proposal from Wright-Pierce Engineers in the amount of \$120,000 has been received regarding the new force main that is needed when the new Webb River Bridge is built this summer. A loan of \$150,000 will not be needed until the end of the project; Wright-Pierce will need to be paid as the project progresses.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal from Wright-Pierce.

c. **River Valley Agriculture Commission Member:** To date, no one has volunteered to serve as Dixfield's representative on this commission. The position remains open.

d. **Special Town Meeting:** On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2009, to discuss the following:

- Approve Funding for the Thaddeus White Bridge
- Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- Abatements, Overdrafts Approval

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

- a. Two additional public hearings will need to be scheduled to receive comment on the new General Assistance food levels and Special Amusement Permits.
  - The General Assistance Food Level Amendments Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 20, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office
  - The Special Amusement Permits Application Hearing will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office
- b. Information regarding the River Valley Expo has been received.
- c. The Town Manager received the draft audits of the Water and Sewer Departments. These will be given to the Water Advisory Committee as well. Discussion will be held at the next meeting.

**8. Board Questions/Comments:**

**Selectman Desjardins:** Trash is accumulating again at an apartment building on Mill Street. He would like the Health Officer contacted so that immediate action will be taken to prevent a serious health hazard.

**9. Other Business:**

**10. Executive Session - 1MRSA, 405(6)(D) - Town Manager's Evaluation:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:12 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:55 p.m.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to extend the Town Manager's contract to March 31, 2010 and for his salary to remain the same.

**11. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments