

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, March 23, 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), Chief Richard A. Pickett

**Others:**

**Press:** Eileen Adams, Sun Journal

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**SHORELAND ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

Chair Martin opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. to hear comment from citizens regarding the proposed amendments to the Town of Dixfield Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. There were no comments, and the hearing closed at 5:01 p.m.

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1. Chair Martin opened the meeting at 5:01 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 3/16/09 with two spelling corrections.
  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. **Police Department:** Chief Pickett presented his report for February and reported the following:
      - A new addition to monthly reporting will be an arrest summary report; no juvenile names will be revealed.
      - The Chief and Selectman Clarke attended a meeting in South Paris regarding the closing of the jail. It will become a 72-hour holding facility only and also used for pre-trial cases. There will be very little effect

locally. The staff will be reduced to fourteen (14), and there will no longer be an inmate work program available to communities.

- The Chief attended a Saturday training session for Oxford County Emergency Management Agency; the meeting proved to be very good with excellent training.

Selectman Desjardins pointed out to Chief Pickett that Social Security numbers should probably not be listed on the new reports. Chief Pickett agreed, and all will be removed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

a. **Occupational Health Services Agreement:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Town Manager to sign the agreement from OHSa for drug testing, etc. of behalf of the town.

b. **MMA Unemployment Compensation Group Fund:** The Town Manager signed the contract received from the MMA Unemployment Compensation Group Fund that the Board had previously agreed to join. Contributions will begin on July 1, 2009.

c. **Water/Sewer Draft Audit:** The town received the draft Water and Sewer Departments' audit for 2008 depicting an error of approximately \$1,800 that needs to be adjusted: the Water Department is over \$1,800, the Sewer Department under \$1,800. The Board agreed that once the adjustments are made to the appropriate accounts, there will be no need for the auditor to meet with them. They directed the Town Manager to see if there will be a management letter from the auditor and report back at the next meeting.

d. **Oxford County Sheriff Patrol Coverage Proposal:** The Town Manager received the OCSPCP from Sheriff Wayne Gallant. For a minimum of four (4) officers with 24-hour coverage the cost will be \$483,000. The town's police department costs the taxpayers \$310,000 per year at current rates. Chair Martin asked if the cost of the town's county assessment would be reduced if these figures were used. The Town Manager felt this would be an additional assessment and not affect our current share of county expenditures.

e. **Oxford County Assessors Return:** The Selectmen signed the 2009/10 Oxford County Assessment for \$81,144 that must be paid by September 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

f. **Preliminary State Valuation:** The Town Manager received the preliminary figures from Maine State Revenue Services for town's State valuation. Dixfield's total tax assessment is very close to that submitted by the assessor to the State of

Maine. These figures determine many factors in revenues received from the State, so the figures will be watched closely.

## 6. Old Business:

a. **2009 Annual Town Meeting Date:** The Board felt that the Annual Town Meeting date should remain as Thursday, May 28, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the T.W. Kelly Middle School gymnasium. Several citizens had expressed an interest in returning to a Saturday. The Board, however, will be taking a “straw” vote at the meeting to determine which day most people favor.

b. **Citizen Request for Jake Brake Sign on Pine Street:** The Town Manager received information from the Public Works Secretary regarding Jake brakes and the law. No other citizens have complained along that stretch of town. However, the Town Manager will contact Irving Forest Products, Inc. to work with them regarding posting signs for their contractors’ benefit in using more discretion with their Jake brakes in the neighborhood.

c. **Special Town Meeting Warrant:** The Town Manager explained that additional funds were needed to cover interest costs on the loan that the town will be paying for the installation of Thaddeus White Bridge on Coburn Avenue. He also stated that if the town does not vote for this increase, the Town of Mexico probably has the right to sue the town for the additional costs. In the end it could cost much more for lawyers, etc.

The Board of Selectmen signed the Special Town Meeting Warrant that calls for a meeting on Thursday Evening, April 23, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ludden Memorial Library Community Room.

d. **Naming of Webb River Bridge:** The Town Manager explained that the State Legislature has the authority to name the bridge. Because there is already a Veterans Memorial Bridge that crosses the Androscoggin River from Mexico to Rumford, it is doubtful that another bridge would be so named from Mexico to Dixfield due to E911. A joint effort may be made between towns. The item was tabled for further discussion.

## 7. Town Manager’s Report:

a. **Time Warner Cable TV:** The town Manager reported that due to transitional ownership, no draft agreement has been received by Dixfield or any other towns to date.

b. **Boiler Summary Report:** The report has been faxed to our furnace company (Specialty Services) so that repairs can be made to town furnaces.

c. **Incident Reports:** Two (2) incident reports have been forwarded to the town's Health Officer, David Saphier, that include garbage, etc. that can cause health hazards this spring.

8. **Board Questions/Comments:**

**Selectman Carlton:** Mr. Carlton followed up on a burned building that needs to be removed from a property and also asked if cold patch had been ordered to begin repairs to the many potholes in the streets and roads of Dixfield.

The Town Manager will check with the C.E.O. and also with Public Works and report back.

**Selectman Desjardins:** Mr. Desjardins asked if a meeting had been scheduled for union negotiations with the Public Works Department. Mr. Skibitsky stated that the Teamsters representative will be meeting with the town crew this coming Thursday.

The Town Manager reminded the Board of a Special Amusement Hearing for the Dixfield American Legion will be held on April 6, 2009.

9. **Other Business:**

10. **Executive Session - 1MRSA, 405(6)(D):** None

11. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments