

TOWN OF DIXFIELD

Minutes of Meeting

Board of Selectmen

April 27, 2009

5:00 p.m., 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), Police Chief Richard A. Pickett

Citizens Present: Boy Scout Troop #580 from Rumford, Boy Scout Troop #544 from Mexico together with 3 Leaders

Freemont Tibbetts and Clayton McKay

Press: Eileen Adams (Sun Journal)

PUBLIC HEARING – USRDA LOAN/GRANT – SEWER DEPARTMENT

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened the Public Hearing to take comments regarding the loan/grant application by the Dixfield Sewer Department for the replacement of the town's hookup to the sewer force main located near Webb River Bridge. A new force main must be installed when the state replaces the current bridge that spans Webb River.

Mr. McKay asked how the town will be securing the loan/grant, bidding process, etc. The Town Manager gave a thorough explanation of the following to the audience:

- There are two (2) sources pending for financing—Maine Rural Development Administration and the Maine Municipal Association Bond Bank with different loan rates and terms.
- Bidding will begin in July with construction starting in late September.
- A completion date will be in 2011.
- The engineering firm will determine the costs of the project; Wright-Pierce projects \$130,000 but hopes for less.
- The road in Mexico near Leavitt Street will be widened, flattened and moved closer to the river

As there were no other questions; the Public Hearing closed at 5:10 p.m.

1. The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at 5:10 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 4/13/09 and 4/21/09.

3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.

4. **Department Head Reports:**

a. **Police Department:** Chief Pickett reported on the following items:

- Officer Beale has a reportable Workers' Compensation injury to his knee and will be receiving an MRI later in the week. The Chief will keep the Town Manager informed of the determination of the injury.
- The department will be receiving funds for a seatbelt enforcement grant. There are, however, very few in Dixfield who do not voluntarily comply with the law which speaks well of our residents.
- Patrols have been increased on Weld Street to slow traffic down. There have been positive results. Most of the cars and trucks travel at a speed between 26 and 34 miles per hour.
- There has been criminal mischief at Greenwood Cemetery with stones having been tipped over.
- The Chief will check with the Maine Department of Transportation for the possible use of their trailer for speed control.
- The Chief commented on his monthly report and stated that more criminal mischief has been reported. The Officers have been doing more patrolling by foot this past month.
- There have been negative comments regarding the placement of a stop sign at the intersection of Coburn and Brackett Streets. A petition may be circulated to prevent the measure.

5. **New Business:**

a. **Clayton McKay – Article for Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** Mr. McKay and Mr. Freemont Tibbetts were on hand to request that an article be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that addresses the possible adjournment of the meeting at 8:00 or 9:00 p.m., reconvening on Saturday or another night. Mr. Tibbetts stated that last year's meeting didn't adjourn until 2:00 a.m. in the morning, and this year's meeting will probably call for even more scrutiny.

Town Manager Skibitsky stated that the Board had made their decision, but that he and Mr. McKay could circulate a petition addressing the issue. 105 signatures will be needed for the article to be placed on the warrant. Mr. McKay requested help for the needed format, and the Town Office Staff will help him with creating the petition.

b. **CEO Update and Consent Agreement:** The Town Manager informed the Board that Sigrid Houlette, CEO had worked her last day on Thursday, April 23, 2009. Three interviews have been scheduled to fill the position.

In addition to the Hemingway property and the replanting of trees, the Board reminded the Town Manager of the consent agreement regarding the former Treadwell property and the planting of trees to replace those that were cut down. They wanted to be sure that the new CEO was apprised of this situation.

Mr. Dyer also stated that towns will eventually have to hire Building Inspectors in the near future so that there are standards throughout Maine.

c. **Town Building Brickwork:** Brickwork replacement is badly needed and required by the Post Office Lease last year on the back of the Municipal Building. Mr. Belanger of Rumford, who also did the repairs to the fire station, quoted a price of \$3,575; the Town Manager stated there is about \$2,500 left in the building repair account. However, the “bottom line” of the executive department should come in at the budgeted amount.

Painting the Post Office should also have been contracted last year in compliance with the Post Office Lease. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to place the painting job out for bid.

6. **Old Business:**

a. **(1) Budget Department #15 – Reserves:** The Town Manager stated that another article allowing the town to finance the proposed Public Works Truck needs to be included on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

(2) Budget Department #16 – Debt Service: The Town Manager stated that the debt service line should be dropped from \$17,644 to \$10,000. On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to drop the amount of debt service to \$10,000.

It was agreed by the Board of Selectmen to hold discussion of a new cruiser (from the cruiser reserve fund) until June and possibly discuss the option of purchasing an SUV instead of a Crown Victoria.

b. **Sewer Force Main:** The Town Manager received an email from our engineers that estimated a cost of \$16,500 for the manholes that are located on the Mexico side of the river. The email was forward to the Rumford/Mexico Sewer District.

c. **Rumford/Mexico Sewer District:** The Town received a letter from an attorney who represents the Rumford/Mexico Sewer District commenting on the status of the town’s contract. The contract expired one year ago and the town has

made no progress in resolving the issue. He stated that the town will be charged an additional amount of \$5,000 per year as there is no joint agreement to maintain the force main.

The Town Manager contacted the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District Superintendent Greg Trundy who said that the town can become a direct customer effective 4/1/09 and that we would pay the same fees. On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carton, the Board voted unanimously to sign a Letter of Understanding with the Rumford/Mexico Sewer District that will make the Town of Dixfield a direct customer. The Town Manager was directed to seek this course of action.

d. Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Amendment: The Board of Selectmen signed the amendments certification to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance that was passed at the Special Town Meeting of 4/23/09. The amendments will be sent to the State for approval. The must send a written answer within a 45-day period.

7. Town Manager's Report:

a. Labor hours on Vehicles: The Town Manager commented on the Public Works Mechanic's report regarding the town's equipment usage. Mrs. Clarke requested the labor hours be more specific.

b. Contractor's Quote for Averill Hill Road Work: A quote of \$13,000 was received for cutting back the bank on Averill Hill Road. The work will be started later in the season.

c. Meter at Harlow Park: There is a water meter in the old bathrooms at Harlow Park that the town no longer uses. The Town Manager requested that the school take them over which they have agreed to. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Dyer, the Board voted unanimously to give ownership of the old Harlow Park bathroom meter to the school department.

d. Other:

- The Town Manager informed the Board of a Fire Department meeting that will be held at the East Dixfield Fire Station on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.
- Hugh Daley of the Common Road would like to serve on the Dixfield Planning Board. Mr. Skibitsky explained that there are five (5) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen and one (1) alternate. Currently all positions are filled, but when one opens, he will be notified.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McKay questioned the location of the work that will be done on the Averill Hill Road. The Town Manager explained that it was the bank that needed to be lowered so there would be no cave-ins that could cause further damage to the road. An easement to the town will need to be given by the landowner.

A representative from REACH presented the Board with materials to help decide their recommendation for this year's funding.

8. Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Dyer: Mr. Dyer requested that he be removed from Union Negotiations due to scheduling requirements of his job. Mr. Desjardins agreed to take his place. A meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. to meet with the Teamsters Representative. The committee will meet at noon for discussion prior to the meeting.

Chair Martin: Ms. Martin suggested that since a week has gone by since the last money article for town meeting was discussed that maybe the Board would like to finalize the figures and meet once more. All members agreed to meet on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

9. Other Business:

10. Executive Session:

11. **FYI:** So noted.

12. **Next Regular Meeting:** Monday, May 11, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

13. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Dyer and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer/Secretary

/cmc

Attachments