

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, August 31, 2009 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Dixfield Town Office**

**Board Members Present:** Bettina M. Martin, Norine H. Clarke, James L. Desjardins, Raymond E. Carlton and Stephen G. Donahue

**Board Members Absent:**

**Administration Present:** Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager) Leo Jolin (Public Works), Chief Richard Pickett, Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes)

**Citizens Present:** Kelly Sastamone, Katie Chaisson, Steve Leavitt, Susan Knight, Rusty Welch, Jon Holmes, Freemont Tibbetts, Dan McKay, Tom Powell

**Press:** Eileen Adams (Sun Journal), Amy Chapman (RFT)

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 12, 2009.
3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.
4. **Department Head Reports:**

1. **Police Department:** Chief Pickett commented on his monthly report by highlighting the fact that home and car burglaries have increased. He urged the public to lock their cars before leaving them unattended.

2. **Nomination of David Hodgson as Fourth Officer:** Chief Pickett placed the name of David Hodgson before the Board as the new nominee for the position of the town's fourth police officer. Mr. Hodgson has passed all the required tests and was interviewed by the Town Manager for the position. Town Manager Skibitsky also recommended Mr. Hodgson for the position.

Chief Pickett stated that out of five candidates, three passed the agility tests that were scheduled for reserve officers. The town's Animal Control Officer, Anne Simmons-Edmonds, did very well and will be joining the force as a Reserve Officer. A list of reserve officer candidates will be compiled by the Chief for review and approval by the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the nomination of David Hodgson as the town's fourth police officer.

3. **Vehicles – Maintenance/Bids:** Chief Pickett explained the cruiser maintenance records that were requested by the Board. All three vehicles are four years old and require more maintenance as times goes on. He requested permission to purchase a 2009 Ford Expedition for \$26,565 with a \$4,700 set-up charge for lights, installing equipment, etc. The oldest cruiser will be traded at the time of purchase.

Current Balance Cruiser Reserve	\$32,252.36
2009/10 Town Meeting Approp.	<u>15,000.00</u>
	\$47,252.36
Cost of 2009 Ford Expedition	-26,565.00
Set-up Cost for Cruiser	<u>- 4,700.00</u>
<b>Balance in Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$15,987.36</b>
<b>(for next year)</b>	

Town Manager Skibitsky stated that he had talked with town’s mechanic Craig Woods and confirmed the condition of all the cruisers.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase and set-up of a new, 2009 Ford Expedition cruiser.

Officer Hodgson was able to stop by for a few minutes for Board questions. Selectman Donahue asked if all the officers will be experiencing the use of a taser. All will be trained and experience the effect of one. Chief Pickett will inform the Board when training begins.

### **Public Comment**

Citizen Stephen Leavitt raised questions regarding the speed that the new vehicle can maintain and gas usage. Chief Pickett answered his questions as well as reported to the Board that the Common Road speed limit will be lowered to 35 mph now that the road construction on Route 2 has been completed.

### **5. Old Business:**

a. **USDA Rural Development Loan/Mexico Sewer District:** The Town Manager reported that the town’s loan has been approved and the money set aside for the town to use when needed. In the meantime, other sources of funding will be sought as new programs have become available through the Stimulus Act.

Chair Martin reported that she and Selectman Clarke had met with Mexico Sewer District Trustees to work out a plan for Dixfield’s contract renewal. Board members discussed the options. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board unanimously approved option #1 (100% force main and 50% gravity sewer) and approved Selectmen Martin and Clarke to move forward with negotiations.

b. **Identity Theft Prevention Policy:** Selectman Clarke met with the Town Manager to edit last meeting's policy so that it might follow more closely the needs of the Town of Dixfield. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

c. **FEMA/MEMA Storm Damage:** The Town Manager explained the summary of storm damages that occurred between June 18 and July 8, 2009 as outlined in their agenda materials submitted by FEMA. Four areas were damaged: Norton Road, Valley Road, Severy Hill Road and the end of Coburn Avenue. Some will qualify for federal funding and others through the Municipal Emergency Management Association.

d. **Road Proposals Update:** Phil Curtis will return and work with Leo Jolin and forward to us a Scope of Projects.

## 6. New Business:

a. **River Valley Growth Council Election:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a Second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve Bettina M. Martin as the town's representative to the RVGC Board for a two-year period.

b. **Grant Opportunities/Pierce CD:** The Town Manager explained the materials he received from various agencies regarding the opportunity for towns to participate in numerous grants. Also, he reported that the Richard M. Pierce Award of \$5,000 now has a balance of \$6,971.91 in a C.D. This CD will be coming up for renewal on September 8, 2009. The Board was asked to keep this money in mind for a future economic development project.

c. **Wind Power:** The Town Manager reported that Patriot Renewables, LLC had applied for and received a building permit for the installation of a 196-foot tall, temporary meteorological tower that measures and records wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, air pressure, etc. averaged over 10-minute intervals. It will be erected from August 17, 2009 through August 21, 2009. This instrument is needed before the installation of any Wind Turbines can be made.

<b>Location of the tower:</b>	Colonel Holman Mountain, (Map 4, Lot 8)
<b>Property Owner:</b>	Thorndike & Sons, Inc.
<b>Structure:</b>	Temporary, to be removed before August 14, 2010
<b>Powered by:</b>	Two D-cell batteries, a rechargeable 12-volt battery and a 5-watt solar panel. No utility power, telephone line or other infrastructure is required

A small group of concerned citizens was present to voice concerns about this project coming to fruition in the Town of Dixfield. R. Thomas Powell of Dixfield led the group with constructive suggestions regarding the acquisition of reliable information so that the Board of Selectmen and citizens can become better informed before judgments are decided.

At the current time, no ordinance has been passed by the inhabitants of Dixfield that would guide the town in the direction voted by its citizens. The people present suggested a 60-day moratorium preventing any further steps being taken so that the Board of Selectmen may gather

additional information, create an ordinance, hold public hearings and call for a special town meeting at which time an ordinance might be approved (or not) by the citizens of Dixfield.

Clayton (Danny) McKay requested that Daniel Mitchell be removed from the Planning Board as he currently works for a wind turbine company and it would constitute a conflict of interest. Chair Martin explained that if the Planning Board becomes involved, Mr. Mitchell would have to recuse himself from all voting and decision-making regarding the project.

After the audience was given the opportunity to voice their concerns, Chair Martin thanked them for attending and suggested that the Board of Selectmen meet on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at the Dixfield Town Office to hold a workshop for the Selectmen on this topic and to begin the drafting of an ordinance. The Town Manager will seek boiler plate ordinances that will closely address Dixfield's needs. Board members all agreed for the need of the workshop.

d. **MMA Loss Control Visit:** Maine Municipal's Loss Control Unit visited the town's facilities and reported to the town regarding their findings. So noted by the Board.

e. **Snowmobile Grant:** Mr. Jon Holmes was present to answer questions regarding the annual submission of the town's snowmobile grant to the State. Approval was made at the Annual Town Meeting of May 28, 2009. Of the registration fees (approximately \$18,020), the town will be sent a return of approximately \$9,000.

**Note:** Approval for this grant submission was given at the Annual Town Meeting and will remain in effect for future grants unless rescinded by an Annual Town Meeting vote. An additional article was also approved at the same meeting for the submission of ATV Trail Fund grants and will also remain in effect until such time it is rescinded by an Annual Town Meeting vote.

## 7. Town Manager's Report:

a. **Union Vote:** Carl Ginard, Teamsters Local #340 Representative, will be at the municipal garage on September 9, 2009 to take the vote on the Public Works union contract.

b. **Ditching and Culvert Work:** The Public Works Department will be renting an excavator to do ditching and culverting work after the Water Department is done. The work is scheduled for a 3-week period at a cost of \$4,200 per month rental.

### Public Comment

Jon Holmes thanked the Board for all the work they do; they often go unappreciated.

c. **New Plow Truck:** The Town Manager signed the proposal for a new plow truck for the Public Works Department.

d. **OCAR:** The Selectmen signed the Oxford County Assessors' Return.

e. **Hall Hill Pump Station:** The Hall Hill pump station may be in need of a new pump at a cost of approximately \$6,000.

**8. Board Questions/Comments:**

Mr. Desjardins requested that the Town Manager investigate the location of the stop sign at the end of Ellis Street. Mr. Desjardins also asked about Town Office staff sending building permit applications.

**9. Other Business:** None

**10. Executive Session:**

**11. FYI:** So noted.

**12. Next Meeting:** Monday, September 14, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office  
Wind Power Workshop, Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

**13. Adjournment:** The Board voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Deputy Treasurer/Secretary

/cmc

Attachments