

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, September 28, 2009

5:00 p.m., Ludden Memorial Library

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

**Board Members Absent:**

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

**Press Present:** Eileen Adams (Sun Journal)

**Citizens Present:** Numerous Citizens

## **PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY MORATORIUM ORDINANCE**

Chair Martin opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. to hear comment on the proposed Wind Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance. Ms. Martin explained that comments would be taken regarding the moratorium only. Wind turbines would not be discussed at this particular hearing. Wind turbines and all the ramifications would be discussed at a later town meeting and informational meetings.

Town Manager Skibitsky also stated that the hearing was held to discuss the proposed ordinance and reported on a field visit on September 25, 2009 to the Colonel Holman Mountain area where the proposed wind turbines will be installed. The installation of a 196-foot tall, temporary meteorological tower is now in the process of being erected. This instrument will measure and record wind speed, wind direction, temperature, etc. averaged over 10-minute intervals. If there is "good" wind there, it will be borne out by the findings.

Mr. Skibitsky also stated that the town only has its Comprehensive Plan, Subdivision Ordinance, Building Permit Ordinance and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance with which to govern land use. The town has no other zoning restrictions. D.E.P. permits for wind turbines take approximately a year to acquire. In the meantime, information must be sought, both pro and con, for this type of project to be approved or disapproved.

A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at Dirigo High School Community Room. After the election of a moderator, the town will be asked to vote by written ballot to see if it will approve and adopt the Wind Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

The following citizens commented or asked questions of the Board as follows:

- David Holman expressed concern that the turbines would be 1,000' from his buildings and also wanted to know who would be benefitting from the project. Mr. Skibitsky stated that there is a two-person committee charged with finding many of the answers that he needs and will be reporting in the future to the town.
- Kate Chaisson thanked the Selectmen for their speedy actions in asking for a vote on the moratorium.
- Danny McKay stated that there were people present at the meeting that were very knowledgeable about the subject and could answer many of the questions people had.
- Brad Dyer stated that he was neither for nor against the project but thought the moratorium was a good idea.
- William DeVries asked if the moratorium would prevent individuals from erecting personal wind turbines. The Town Manager stated that the moratorium was not designed for that purpose.
- Peter Holman stated that he hoped the Selectmen would design an ordinance that would best suit the town's goals and needs.
- Ed Merrill stated that a test site was in the process of erecting a tower now.

Ms. Martin offered the room for citizens to meet with Tom Powell and others to discuss the ordinance and acquire additional information from those present. The Board adjourned to the Town Office for the Selectmen's meeting at 5:16 p.m.

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1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Martin opened the Selectmen's meeting at 5:20 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 September 14, 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:**

b. **Police Department:** Chief Pickett presented his monthly report to the Board and commented as follows:

- In response to an inquiry from Mrs. Clarke, the Chief reported that there had been an accident by the back apartment of her store address.

- The Chief presented a criminal forfeiture form for approval by the Board to recover a weapon in a criminal case that can be auctioned. The recovered funds will be turned into the town's general fund. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.
- The Chief received an email from the Portland Probation Office that offered a sizeable amount of used equipment to municipalities. He will be looking over the offer to see if any can benefit the Dixfield Police Department.
- The speed sign that Dixfield P.D. requested will not be available until October 12, 2009.
- Laser training has not yet been scheduled.
- The Dixfield Common Road speed limit will be changed to 35 mph shortly by the State of Maine D.O.T.
- The Chief has bargained with the dealer of the new cruiser to reduce the price another \$650.00.
- A new piece of equipment may be requested in next year's budget that will allow for foot patrols at night.

b. **Fire Department:** Chief Dennett introduced fireman Barry Prescott who accompanied him to the meeting and reported as follows:

- The fire department is in need of a truck replacement. The Chief passed out materials covering a used vehicle that he would like permission to pursue. The truck has been completely refurbished and is located at a dealer in Alabama. This truck is shorter than our current one, but is more useful to our rural area. The truck we now have will be sold.

The door of the fire station will have to be raised to accommodate the new truck, but structurally there should be no problems. East Dixfield would have no need of the truck.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request from Chief Dennett to investigate the truck and to go look at it.

5. **Audit Report:** Vernice Evasius of RHR Smith Company, the town's auditing firm, was on hand to explain the 2008/09 audit. The town had a good year; everything internally was greatly improved and materials ready for audit. She also explained the General Fund figures, fund balances and itemization of the designated fund balance. The town gained \$148,798 in an overall increase in the fund balance from the previous year's audit (2007/08). The Board and Town Manager thanked Mrs. Evasius for her report and attendance at the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

## 6. **Old Business:**

a. **Ellis Street:** The Town Manager stated that a letter had been sent to property owners who would be impacted by a change in traffic patterns on Ellis Street. He will be looking

at curbing and signage before any recommendations are made and will report at a future meeting.

b. **Office Fees Policy:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the new fees schedule for all departments in the town. Citizens can view the new policy at the Town Office.

c. **Special Town Meeting Warrant:** The Board approved the Special Town Meeting Warrant for posting with the following corrections:

1. Article 2. Australian Ballot changed to written ballot
2. The location of the meeting will be at Dirigo High School, not the library.

d. **Working Foreman:** The Town Manager will post the Working Foreman's position to the general public. Applications will be due by October 12, 2009. A two-member hiring committee was formed with Selectmen Desjardins and Clarke.

7. **New Business:**

a. **Fuel Bids:** On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to award the fuel bid to Hometown Energy. Dead River will still be the supplier of propane gas to the library.

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

a. **Delivery of Vehicles:** The new police cruiser will be delivered on Friday, October 2, 2009; the public works truck, October 28, 2009.

b. **Sidewalk Plow:** Mechanic Craig Woods gave the Town Manager a detailed list of the problems and repairs needed for the sidewalk plow. He also estimated the costs involved in repairing the vehicle. After a short discussion, the Board gave its approval for the Town Manager to look around for a replacement and report at a future meeting.

c. **Safety Program:** Darlene Brann, Clerk at the Public Works garage, gave the Town Manager an update of the safety program. So noted.

d. **Boiler Bids Due 10/16/09:** The Town Office boiler bid has been mailed out; bids are due by Friday, October 16, 2009.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

9. **Board Questions/Comments:**

- The Wind Power Committee will be reviewing the Brunswick Ordinance.
- The Town Manager stated that Phil Curtis and three contractors will have the road bids by 4:00 p.m., October 5, 2009. The committee will award the bid Monday at 4:00 p.m.

9. **Other Business:** CEO Calvin Beaumier was present to discuss the upcoming Automobile Graveyard/Junkyard Permit renewals. He feels that much more control and inspection needs to be done to insure that the yards are viable businesses and are in compliance with the State of Maine and DEP rules and regulations. Inspections must be done by the Code Enforcement Officer on an annual basis. Before new licenses are issued, proof that the owner has complied with the law is essential. The Town Manager asked the Board for direction for Mr. Beaumier. The consensus by the Board was to allow the CEO to follow all State and town guidelines to insure the town's best interest in granting the licenses.

10. **Executive Session:**

11. **FYI:** So noted.

12. **Next Meeting:** Monday, October 12, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

13. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments