

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, November 9, 2009

5:00 p.m., Town Office

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), Jim White (Water Dept.)

Press Present: Eileen Adams (Sun Journal), River Valley Access Channel

Citizens Present: Fremont Tibbetts, Dickie Frost, Danny McKay, Mark Thompson, Turner Selectman Jeff Timberlake and Buckfield Selectman Chip Richardson

1. 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 October 26, 2009 with the following corrections:

- Add to the Executive Session motion the reason and statute that allows for the executive session, 1MRSA, §495 Personnel Matters
- Add Executive Session ended at 8:45 p.m.

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:**

a. **Water Department:** Jim White, Water Department Superintendent, reported as follows:

- The Newton Avenue job is complete and came in approximately \$120 over budget
- The water mains have been flushed using approximately 380,000 gallons of water
- All hydrants have been pumped

- The Water Department's pickup truck is in need of tires and a switch on the ignition
- Mr. White is working on the 2010 budget and will ask at the first meeting in December for approval
- A small leak on North and Pine Streets has been repaired
- The abandoned building recently inspected by the Health and Code Officers has now been vacated and water service terminated to the building
- A sewer line on Brian Street was lowered to avoid freezing each winter (only 2 feet down from surface)

b. Public Works Foreman: David Phair reported as follows:

- The hockey rink boards have been repaired or replaced
- Mill Street extension work of removing asphalt and replacing it with graded reclaim came out very well
- Cleaned the catch basins
- Work behind the American Legion is complete
- The new truck has received stenciling of the town seal
- Plow trucks are being prepared for winter
- The Code Enforcement Officer and Town Manager trimmed the town's Christmas tree at the Village Green
- Christmas and holiday decorations will be put up this week while the weather is good
- Grading Severy Hill is complete; George Averill will finish the Old Canton Road tomorrow
- A request from Vickie LaPlant for the installation of a culvert will need completed permits first

Upcoming:

- Cemetery cleanup is scheduled for the next week
- Plowing routes will be designated
- Gathering information for the road budget; Averill Hill will be complete this week

Mr. Phair also reported that he is taking classes for his Class A Driver's Licenses at Region 9 over the next 10-week period.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Representatives from Turner Holder presented an overview of the Holder Snowplow/blower to the Board and quoted a price of \$59,500 for a new machine. To add a sander would cost another \$4,600. The machine would have a one-year warranty on parts and labor and come with unlimited hours of training included.

The Board asked several questions about the equipment and decided to make a decision within the next few weeks as the town's current sidewalk plow will not last the winter.

Mr. Danny McKay commented that it was nice to see so many people in attendance at the recent windpower meeting held at the Dirigo High School. He also had concerns with the town's Code Enforcement Officer being a member of the committee that is formulating a Windpower Ordinance for the town as he is not a resident. It was explained that his knowledge of land use laws, etc. was invaluable to the Board and that Selectmen Clarke Donahue will be writing the ordinance. Mr. McKay wished to express that the Board might find it more favorable if the citizens also could contribute to the process.

5. Old Business:

a. **Harlow Park Football Booth:** Mr. Mark Thompson, a coach at Dirigo High School, requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to design and build a new football booth at Harlow Park to monitor games. The current one is old, outdated and is too small. He would like to tear it down and solicit donations of wood, money and volunteers to build a new one close to the bleachers. He presented a rough draft of the proposal to the Board. It will be a free-standing structure that will have the ability to allow video taping of the games and also allow room for the coach, timer, and press.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request presented by Mr. Thompson. He will report back to the Board next spring.

b. **Mexico Sewer District Agreement:** Chair Martin explained the changes made to the final draft that will be sent to the town's attorney. On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the final draft and forward it to the town's attorney for review.

6. New Business:

a. **Thanksgiving Turkeys:** The Board gave approval for the annual Thanksgiving Turkeys that are given to employees.

7. Town Manager's Report:

- Reported to the Board that radar signs fall generally into a category costing \$3,300 each
- The Hemingway restoration project plan has not been approved; more work needs to be done
- So that the town can continue plowing that portion of the Porter Road that was discontinued, an easement must be given to the town before any work can proceed
- The town's CEO trimmed the town's Christmas tree
- It is the responsibility of the town to remove old speed limit signs on the Common Road and replace them with signs that read 35 mph
- Time Warner is revisiting their rate schedules

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to allow Cathy Mattson, a non-resident, to speak. Ms. Mattson offered to help the Board through

the process of drafting a windpower ordinance as she has had a great deal of experience in this area and also has a good handle on comprehensive plans and land use laws. She felt that it might save time and errors. The Board thanked her for offer.

8. **Board Questions/Comments:**

9. **Other Business:**

10. **Executive Session:**

11. **FYI:** So noted.

12: **Next Meeting:** Monday, November 16, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

13. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments