

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, November 8, 2010

5:00 p.m., Town Office

Board Members Present: Bettina M. Martin (Chair), Norine H. Clarke, Stephen G. Donahue, Malcolm M. Gill and Katherine N. Harvey

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Darlene Brann (Minutes), Chief Richard Pickett, Jim White (Mexico Water), David Phair (Working Foreman Public Work), Planning Board Chair Dave Harvey

Press Present: WVAC, Sun Journal (Eileen Adams), Rumford Falls Times

Citizens Present: Steve Arsenault, Scott Blaisdell, Scott Holmes, Dan McKay, Freemont Tibbetts, Mark Thompson, Others

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 25, 2010 with the following correction: Board Questions and Comments, should have read: Mr. Gill: Toured the Dixfield Water Department Plant with Jim White and found it to be very impressive and well maintained, not weld maintained.

3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:**

On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.

6. **New Business:**

a. Lights at Harlow Park: Dr. Tom Ward (Superintendent of RSU #10), Mr. Holmes and others have been working on proposal for lighting at Harlow Park. Mr. Holmes presented an extensive slideshow to the board with the pros of lighting. Lighting would be for football and soccer games at Harlow Park and could be utilized for other events as well. Four poles would be put in place that would have twenty-six fixtures on them. The cost of the lighting would be

\$75,000.00 with the installation being done by trained volunteers. Ms. Martin asked if they had any funding at this time. Mr. Holmes stated that they have none at this time. Ms. Martin thought that the Langervan family had set-up a fund in memory of their son for lighting. Dr. Ward said that he would look into it but was unaware of any at this time.

Mrs. Clarke was concerned if there would be any restriction as to the events that could be done. Dr. Ward felt that other than the cars on the field, he could not think of any other restrictions. Mrs. Harvey would like to see a meeting scheduled with the abutters so that they are part of the process and any questions that they may have could be answered. Mr. Holmes felt that his committee needed the blessing of the town first and once they had that, then they could plan fundraisers and meetings.

Mr. Gill moved to schedule a special town meeting to use \$50,000.00 of the Ione Harlow Dixfield Community Fund accrued interest for the purchase of new lighting at Harlow Park. Mr. Donahue seconded the motion; all approved.

4. Department Head Reports:

a. Water Department(Jim White):

1. Jim reported that Coburn Avenue and North Street have been paved. There is a section of sidewalk on North Street that will be done next year when the weather warms.
2. They have finished flushing for the fall season and by changing the route around have saved 150,000 gallons of water.
3. Power failures and a hydrant accident have resulted in the department receiving three calls-ins.
4. PUC has requested two copies of infrastructure maps and two disks. AVCOG has printed them and they were sent out last week to the PUC.
5. The Water Department has made an agreement with Dean and Trisha Benson (65 Main Street). Their service line will be replaced next spring. Jim explained that this is a large job due to the fact it is on Route 2 and will require boring under the road.

b. Public Works (David Phair):

1. The department has incurred an extra expense. The Volvo truck lost a Cam and was no longer under warranty. By calling O'Conner's, Mr. Phair was able to negotiate with them, getting a reimbursement check for \$2,660.21.
2. Mr. Phair had the crew do more cleaning around the garage area and was able to sell \$1,084.29 in scrap metal. Dave requested that the money be put into Equipment Repair Account of this year's budget. After some

discussion regarding proper auditing and fairness to other departments that sell items, the board chose not to act on the request.

3. Brian Street needs hay and repairs to a driveway. Holt Hill will be paved this week and the edge of the road done the following week. Newton Avenue is finished with the exception of one driveway. Work will begin at the end of the week on the Weld Street sidewalk.

c. Police Department (Chief Pickett): Chief Pickett informed the board that he put out 6 bid packages for a new cruiser and has received 5 back. All but one bid met the color scheme. At this time, his recommendation is to purchase a Crown Victoria instead of a Ford Expedition. This will leave \$7,500.00 in the cruiser reserve account as a base for the next purchase. Farmington Ford came in with the lowest bid of \$21,069.00. The Chief asked the board for permission to hold off in awarding the bid at this time, allowing him to make a phone call or two to see if the dealer can do better. Mr. Donahue asked if an extended warranty was available. The Chief explained that it would be available for a price between \$2,000.00 and \$2,200.00. Mr. Gill moved to allow the Chief to find the lowest bid and purchase a Crown Victoria. Mrs. Harvey seconded the motion; all approved.

6. **New Business:**

d. Zoning - Mr. Dan McKay: Mr. McKay was concerned with the election results and felt that they were right back at the beginning regarding lack of rules and regulations. The vote was close with an almost 50/50 split. He believes that the ones that voted "Yes" did not want the turbines in Dixfield. At this point in time all applications will go through the DEP because the town does not have its own ordinance. For this reason he and Mr. Tibbetts will be writing an ordinance to take to the voters of Dixfield at the May 2011 Annual Town Meeting. This ordinance will be designed to stop wind projects.

5. **Old Business:**

a. Town Report Dedication: Ms. Martin asked the Board if there was anyone they would like to nominate for the dedication of the Annual Town Report. After some discussion regarding guidelines, Chief Richard Pickett suggested Mr. Mark Thompson. Scott Blaisdell stated that he organizes events for the children of the community and has put in numerous hours working at Harlow Park. Mr. Thompson is from Peru. Mrs. Clarke motioned to have a special thank you to Mr. Mark Thompson in the Town Report as long as there were no guide lines regarding residency. Mr. Donahue seconded the motion; all approved.

b. Election Results:

1. **Certify Curfew Ordinance:** The Town of Dixfield Curfew Ordinance was passed at the November 2, 2010 elections and needs Selectmen signatures.

2. **Wind Ordinance:** At the October 25, 2010 Board of Selectmen's meeting the Wind Energy Facility Ordinance was pulled from the ballot question. Discussion was held as to how the Town should proceed or if they even wanted to. Mr. Donahue questioned Mr. Harvey if it was something the Planning Board would like to write. Mr. Harvey stated that at this time he was unsure. He stated that the Planning Board would need a direction to head for first. Mrs. Clark was worried about the timing: would there will be enough time to write an ordinance and bring it to the town for a vote if Patriot Renewables has already filed with the DEP. Mr. Donahue stated that he was resigning from Wind Ordinance Committee but would support the board on any decision they made. One Citizen stated that he was confused with the questions on the ballot and was unsure of what he was actually voting on. Mr. Donahue then made a motion to leave the Wind Ordinance as drafted by the Wind Committee inactive, null, and void. Mr. Gill seconded the motion; all approved. Mr. McKay will still be going forward with his ordinance and the town will have a safety net with the DEP guide lines in place. Mrs. Clarke resigned as well from the Wind Ordinance Committee.

3. **Date of Town Meeting:** The Special Town Meeting will be called to vote on the Route #2 Sewer Bond and lights at Harlow Park. Mrs. Harvey motioned for a Special Town Meeting on December 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ludden Memorial Library. Mr. Donahue seconded the motion; all approved.

c. **Irving Water Settlement:** The mill has been charged for Fire Protection and after some investigating by Mr. Orcutt (Mill Manager for Irving Forest Products, Inc.) found that they had no Fire Protection from the Water Department. His best guess was it was eliminated back in 1996, and he was asking the town for a refund. PUC statue will only allow going back six years. A committee was formed of Mr. Donahue, Mr. Gill and the Town Manager to meet with Mr. Orcutt, and Mr. Bryant (Irving Representative). The committee recommended a 50/50 split, each taking responsibility for the mistake. This would mean that the Water Department will refund Irving Forest Products, Inc. \$21,350.00 in four, equal installments over the next year. Mr. Gill motioned to settle with Irving Forest Products, Inc. in the amount of \$21,350.00 to be divided in four, equal installments. Mr. Donahue seconded; all approved.

6. **New Business:**

b. **Seat Belt Policy:** Bob Thompson (MMA Safety) provided a model policy on Seat belts. Mr. Thompson felt it would be a good idea for the town to adopt a policy regarding seatbelts. If the equipment is manufactured with a seat belt, then all employees will need to use it when operating any equipment. Manufactured

seatbelts can not be removed and have to be kept in good working condition. Mrs. Harvey motioned to approve the Town of Dixfield Seat Belt Policy as recommended by MMA. Mr. Donahue seconded; all approved.

c. **Bartlett Fund for Library Repairs:** The Library had incurred a large unexpected bill for work done on the heat exchanger. They would like to use money from the Bartlett Fund to pay for the repairs. Mrs. Clarke motioned to allow the use of the Bartlett Fund to pay for repairs at Ludden Memorial Library. Mrs. Harvey seconded; all approved.

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

a. **Thanksgiving Turkeys:** The Town Manager requested approval for purchasing turkeys for town employees. Ms. Collins has comprised a list of 29 employees and the cost will be under \$500.00. The funds will come from the Employee Relations account. Mr. Donahue motioned to purchase turkeys for the employees. Mrs. Harvey seconded the motion; all approved.

b. **MDOT Bridge Project:** The Town Manager updated the board on the standings of the MDOT Route #2 bridge project. November 17, 2010 bid packages will be opened and the town will have a better idea of what it is looking for on needed funding. The town will have to move (replace) the sewer force main. The State has also sent a agreement to both Dixfield and Mexico asking them to wave any load limits that they will have on local roads in both towns while the construction was being done. Mr. Gill moved to issue overweight permits. Mr. Donahue seconded; all approved.

c. **Other:** The Town Manager will be having a staff meeting on December 7, 2010 at 9:00am.

d. **Water and Sewer Audit:** RHR Smith will do the Water and Sewer Audit for for the year 2010 at the same price as last year: \$3,900. Mr. Gill motioned to contract with RHR Smith for the Water and Sewer Audit. Mrs. Harvey seconded; all approved.

e. **Water Advisory Committee:** The Water Advisory Committee would like a person from the board to be on there committee as well. Mrs. Harvey volunteered to be the liaison.

f. **Roads Committee:** Next meeting November 18, 2010 at 9:00am.

8. **Board Questions and Comments:**

Mr. Gill: Would like to find a way of getting word out to the community on what the board has been doing. The November Elections was a prime example. Voters did not understand what they were voting on. He feels very frustrated by that. Ms. Martin stated that it has been an ongoing problem. Staff writer from the Rumford Falls times suggested having the students in RSU #10's government class do a newsletter or website for citizens to see and read. Mrs. Harvey agrees and understands Mr. Gill's frustrations that information needs to get out to the public somehow.

9. **FYI:** So Noted.

10. **Next Meeting:** Monday, November 22, 2010, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

11. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Brann
Secretary

/db

Attachments