

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, February, 22, 2010

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), Richard Pickett (Police Chief), David Phair (Public Works)

Press Present: Eileen Adams (Sun Journal) and Rumford Falls Times Reporter

Citizens Present: Nancy Carpenter, Fremont Tibbetts, Danny McKay

1. **Call 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 February 8, 2010.

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. **Police Department:** Chief Pickett reported as follows:

- Officer David Hodgson is now in his 6th week at the police academy and doing very well
- The second phase of taser training will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010
- Mr. Reed of the Department of Labor has provided valuable assistance in creating policies for the Police Department that will bring Dixfield into proper compliance
- Another section added to the monthly Police Department Report is the ability to track the amount of mutual aid by town in the greater Dixfield area
- Paint on the front of the new Ford Expedition cruiser will be reconditioned as it was shipped with a faulty paint job; there will be no expense to the town

Selectman Desjardins voiced his concern regarding tasers used by police officers. Chief Pickett assured him that only those who have been trained in the use of tasers and have been given training in the policies covering tasers will be allowed the use of them

Selectman Martin asked the Chief why the DARE Program will be cut this spring from the Police Department budget. Chief Pickett stated that County Sheriff Tim Holland has been the instructor at Peru schools and wished to continue DARE with the 5th grade and also with the current 7th grade class at Dirigo Middle School. After having spoken with Dr. Ward of RSU No. 10, it was decided to have Officer Holland continue. This item cut from the budget will allow for considerable savings and help with the town's revenue shortfall this year.

Public Comment: None

5. Old Business:

a. **Tax Acquired Property:** The Town Manager explained the timeline for bidding on tax acquired properties. March 22, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. will be the deadline for bidding on vacant land properties with bid openings held that evening at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Occupied properties will be advertised with a closing bid date of April 26, 2010, 4:00 p.m.; bids will be opened at the Selectmen's Meeting that evening at 5:00 p.m. A letter will be sent to all owner-occupied properties and bid advertisements will be in the local newspapers on February 24th, March 3rd and March 10th.

Four (4) properties were previously tabled due to mortgages but will be included in the April 26th bid deadline: accounts #1206, #894, #685 and #632

One property was retained by the town; however, the owner seeks to redeem the property within two weeks. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to allow the two-week period (from February 22, 2010) for the property owner to redeem the property with all taxes and water/sewer charges paid in full.

Mrs. Clarke suggested that all abutters to tax acquired, vacant land lots be notified in case they might be interested in bidding.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to add the following tax acquired properties (owner-occupied) to the bid list for April 26, 2010:

Account #1206
Account #894
Account #685
Account #632

b. **Bureau of Labor Standards Report:** The town's inspection of municipal properties report was received from the State of Maine Bureau of Labor Standards citing various infractions by the town. Each department (building) has been listed with possible fines and dates by which all violations must be corrected. Those that have fines imposed on

them can usually use the fines to correct the problem. The town has until June 2010 to make repairs.

6. New Business – Policies:

a. **Smoking Policy:** The Town Manager presented the Board with an amended Smoking Policy that will be in line with State Law. This policy will be included on the next regularly scheduled agenda.

b. **Surplus Property Policy:** This policy is a way in which old town property can be disposed. After discussion, it was decided to have the Town Manager include the following in the policy and re-visit at the next regularly scheduled meeting:

- Town employees can make offers if no other offer is made
- All property will be reported to the Board before bids and/or offers are made

Mr. Phair stated that road work excavation must go to the nearest permitted fill site. The policy will be re-worked and brought back before the Board at a later date.

During the Town Garage clean-up, toxic chemicals have been found such as rat poisoning, lye used to clear sewer mains, etc. Mr. Phair contacted a biofuels company in Portland that will pickup the toxic chemicals.

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to release the toxic chemicals but there must be a “hold harmless” clause in the sales agreement.

7. Town Manager’s Report:

- The Western Maine Economic Development Council is looking to fund \$115,000 so Linda Walbridge can continue her work through next year.
- An energy audit will be performed at the Town Garage to tighten up costs; will report back when done
- The Public Works schedule is now available for review
- Mike Poulin at Dirigo High School will find a student to enter road data into the computer
- The auditor will be here on Tuesday to do the Water/Sewer Audits
- Meeting with Dr. Ward and Kenney Robbins on Wednesday to review the parks agreement with RSU No. 10

Public Comment: None

8. Board Questions/Comments: None

9. Executive Session:

10. FYI: So Noted.

11. **Next Meeting:** March 8, 2010, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

12. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

Wind TIF Presentation

Due to a family emergency, Mathew Eddy of Eaton Peabody was unable to be present for the TIF presentation. The Board agreed to hold the program at their first meeting in April (4/12/2010).

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments