

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Finance Committee (6:00 p.m.)

Monday, March 22, 2010

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), Richard Pickett (Police Chief)

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

**Citizens Present:** Freemont Tibbetts, Danny McKay, Michael Hebert, Ronald LaTouche and others

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 March 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:**

- The Police Department will be participating in a local fund-raiser for Gabby Severence on April 29, 2010. Ms. Severence, a student at RSU No. 10, is suffering from a brain tumor. The school will be sponsoring a basketball game with local Police and Fire Department personnel to raise money. The Chief encouraged all to attend.
- The Dixfield Police participated in a “drug bust” at a residence on Hall Hill last week. A marijuana growing operation was shut down.
- Officer David Hodgson is now in his 8<sup>th</sup> week of attending the Police Academy. Next week the Chief will be attending a “Chief’s Day” there.
- The radio grant was awarded to the Dixfield Police Department. They will get 3 mobile units and 4 hand-held units. The used radios will go to other departments such as the

Public Works. Emergency Management Director Jay Bernard will help with the installation, etc.

- The Chief has applied for the new Combined Summer Enforcement Grant that includes OUI, Speeding, Seatbelt violations. The grant is for \$8,000 (no match from the town) and pays for additional coverage in these areas.
- The Underage Drinking Grant has been quite successful; parties with 18-20 year-olds have been broken up and several tickets issued. The additional coverage from this grant will be used during April and May due to the high school graduation.
- The Police Chief has found a buyer for the light bar from the old Crown Vic Police Cruiser. The money received will be placed back in the Cruiser Reserve Account. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sale of the light bar for \$1,250.

**Public Comment: None**

**5. Old Business:**

**a. Tax Acquired Property Bids:** Chair Martin opened the submitted bids and read the following results:

Acct. #1051	Mobile Home on Ellis St. (no land)	No Bid
Acct. #1473	.09 Acres Land on Church St., East Dixfield	No Bid
Acct. #682	1590 Main St., .51 acres land with mobile home	\$3,000
Acct. #631	1.0 Acres Land, 118 Norton Road	6,000 6,002.99 10,100 20,100

On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$3,000 on account #682, land and mobile home at 1590 Main Street.

On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$20,100 from Donald Abbott on account #631, 118 Norton Road.

After all taxes and expenses are paid, any remaining funds will be turned over to the town's general fund. The Board agreed to table any additional action on Acct. #1051 and Acct. #1473 (both received no bids).

**Account #25 (37 Coolidge Road):** At the previous Selectmen's Meeting, the Board agreed not to take any further action until a letter could be received from the property owner's attorney regarding his disability status. A letter has been received stating there will be a hearing by the end of 2010 regarding the disability status of the property owner. He requests that the Board wait until December 31, 2010 for further action.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted as follows to wait until December 31, 2010 before taking further action:

Selectman Martin	Nay
Selectman Desjardins	Nay
Selectman Donahue	Yea
Selectman Carlton	Yea
Selectman Clarke	Yea

b. **Sewer Contract:** Minor errors in the Mexico Sewer District Contract were corrected and then sent to the Mexico Sewer District Board. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended contract. All Selectmen signed six (6) copies of the contract.

c. **Annual Town Meeting Date:** A citizen petition was received at the last meeting requesting that the Annual Town Meeting be held on a Saturday. Town Manager Skibitsky contacted MMA's legal services who stated that the Board of Selectmen has sole authority in scheduling the meeting. The Board agreed to hold the meeting on Thursday evening, May 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. as previously voted.

#### 6. **New Business:**

a. **AVCOG Ballot:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the ballot as presented.

b. **Preliminary State Valuation:** The Town Manager presented the preliminary state valuation of the town that indicates a slight increase in value.

c. **Assessors' Return for Oxford County:** Board members signed the Oxford County Assessors' Return for \$97,407 based on a valuation of \$147,250,000.

d. **East Dixfield Fire Truck:** The East Dixfield Fire Department is in need of a fire truck to service East Dixfield and Wilton. The Fire Chiefs met with both towns' Selectmen and Fire Chiefs to submit a grant application that will pay for most of the costs. The town's share will be \$5,000. If the grant is not successful, a 5-year lease could cost \$43,064 per year for five years.

Chief Dennett stated that the town could get by another year if need be. The Town Manager will contact the Wilton Town Manager once the status of the grant is known.

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

- A Public Hearing will be held on April 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. for Special Amusements for the American Legion
- Planning Board Chair Craig Nash has asked for a Public Hearing on 4/26/2010 for the amended Shoreland Zoning Ordinance; this ordinance will be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- The Town Manager reported that he had mailed a letter to Mr. Michael Hebert which addresses the concerns he had at the last Selectmen's Meeting
- The Board would like to take a "straw" vote during the June elections regarding 24/7 coverage from the Police Department; the Town Manager will provide wording at the next meeting

**Public Comment:**

Dan McKay reminded the Board that the Wind Energy Moratorium Ordinance will expire in April (180 days from 10/14/2009 Special Town Meeting – 4/11/2010). The Chair stated that they will extend the expiration date for an additional 6-month period as the Ordinance is not complete.

8. **Board Questions/Comments:** None

9. **Executive Session:**

10. **FYI:** So Noted.

11. **Next Meeting:** March 29, 2010, Town Office, 5:00 p.m., Budget Meeting

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

**The Board Met with the Finance Committee following the meeting, and the Town Manager presented the town's 2010/11 budget to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Members.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc