

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, April 26, 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), Chief Richard Pickett

**Press Present:** Rumford Falls Times, Lewiston SunJournal and WVAC

**Citizens Present:** David Harvey, Craig Nash, Katherine Harvey, Robert Acheson

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Hearing – Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Amendments:** Chair Martin opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Amendments.

Craig Nash, Chair of the Planning Board, spoke of the proposed changes to the ordinance:

- The PB has changed the ordinance to meet with new State of Maine requirements
- The new changes must be presented to the citizens at the Annual Town Meeting
- The PB used the Town of Chesterville's ordinance to help make the changes as Chesterville's ordinance and changes were very much the same as Dixfield's
- Some wetlands areas were altered or eliminated
- The State wanted the language more uniform (housekeeping changes)
- Changes were made to the Wetland Map
- David Harvey presented the new map for the Shoreland Zoning and explained where the changes had been made

Chair Martin closed the Public Hearing at 5:10 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 April 12, 2010.
- On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 19, 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.

- Complaints have been received regarding the parking problem on Coburn Avenue that results from baseball/softball games held at Marble Memorial Park (Little League Field). The Board discussed a “No Parking” sign for one side of the street and a “No Parking” at all along the street. It was decided by the Board that an emergency vehicle could get through as it has all these years. A “No Parking” policy would make it very difficult for people to get to the games, having to walk a great distance. The parking will remain the same.
- A complaint about the use of “Jake Brakes” was received at the Police Department. The Chief contacted the DOT about the problem and found that the town would need to adopt an ordinance, install signs and maintain them. As the complaint would affect East Dixfield, the Town Manager was directed to contact the Wilton Town Manager to inquire if they have an ordinance as one would be needed from both communities.
- Officer David Hodgson will be graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on Friday, May 21, 2010. The Chief invited the Board to attend.
- The Chief has applied for a Summer Enforcement Grant that will run from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

**Public Comment:**

A citizen asked about the water problem on Weld Street that has affected several residences with water flooding their basements. The Town Manager stated that the Water Department personnel had done everything they could to find out what the problem is and so far the only explanation can be ground water.

5. **Old Business:**

a. **Tax Acquired Property Bids.** No bids were received on the one remaining tax acquired property located at 25 High Street. Of the 23 tax acquired properties, 18 have been paid in full by the property owners. The remaining four have special circumstances. The 25 High Street property will be bid out again in the future.

b. **Water Advisory Committee Memorandum of Understanding:** The Memorandum of Understanding was edited to include “Board of Selectmen/Water Department Trustees” throughout the document. The Board agreed with the text of the document. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve the memorandum. Signatures will be signed at a later date with the Water Advisory Committee members.

c. **Straw Vote Ballot:** The “Straw Vote” ballot regarding Police Department 24-hour coverage was addressed. Mrs. Clarke suggested that the wording on the ballot be

changed to read “Non-Binding Opinion Ballot” instead of “Straw Vote” so that it would not be confusing to the voters. All Selectmen agreed. The wording will be changed.

d. **Wind Towers – Next Steps:** Discussion followed regarding the information from Eaton Peabody. The Town Manager suggested that Mr. Mike Rogers of the State Bureau of Taxation speak to the Board regarding an alternative view on the TIF program. Mrs. Clarke also suggested not contacting Eaton Peabody at this time for additional information and wait to use the money at a later date. The subject was tabled until the first or second meeting in July. The Town Manager will contact Oakfield to inquire about the progress of their project.

Mrs. Clarke suggested that the Board attend a meeting regarding the noise factor of wind towers that will be held at the Phillips Elementary School on Monday, May 3, 2010. Demonstrations will be held. The Board and Town Manager will attend the meeting that is open to the public.

e. **Town Meeting Location:** The Town Manager reported that the High School Community Room will hold about 300 people. On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to hold the Annual Town Meeting of May 27, 2010 at the High School Community Room.

f. **Budget Approval (added to the agenda):** The Town Manager suggested that the Board vote on the totals of the 2010/11 fiscal year budget. A draft copy of the warrant was also given to the Board to edit before the next meeting. On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously on a recommended budget figure of \$1,906,999 for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

## 6. **New Business:**

a. **Permanent Discontinuance of Sewer Service:** A request was received for the permanent discontinuance of sewer services for Amit and Angela Somi of 196 Main Street (Map 21, Lot 10); this property is land only and they use it occasionally for camping. They will dispose of their own waste. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to grant the discontinuance of sewer services.

b. **Fast Forward Program:** Rumford and Mexico have joined the economic development program Fast Forward and have invited Dixfield to be a part of the program also. This program is a two-year program; no money is involved. It involves business leads and ideas. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously for Dixfield to join the group with Town Manager Skibitsky as Dixfield’s representative.

c. **Distinguished Citizen Nominations:** The town is calling for Nominations for Distinguished Citizen 2010. Written nominations are due at the Town Manager’s Office by May 10, 2010.

d. **William Frost's Retirement:** Wm. Dickie Frost will be retiring on July 9, 2010 after 21 years of service to the town. Town Manager Skibitsky stated that Dickie has been a good worker, full of cheer when you meet him and that he'll be missed. A retirement reception will be held with more details at a later date.

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

- The town received a bridge report from the DOT. A report will be sent regarding the town's culvert conditions as some are substandard and are in need of repair
- The Assessing Agent prevailed at an assessment appeal at So. Paris
- A request for mediation on the town's labor contract that expired on 6/30/2009 has been received and a mediator has been assigned
- The Town Manager requested comments from the Board on the draft warrant before the next meeting

**Public Comment: None**

**8. Board Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Clarke: A meeting of the Outdoor Market Committee will be meeting Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office

Mr. Carlton: Asked that the potholes on Pine Street be filled. He also requested that all the information be available to the public by May 10, 2010

Town Manager: The Town Manager will be on vacation the weeks of 6/7/2010, 7/19/2010 and 8/16/2010.

9. **Executive Session:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter (1 MRSA, §405).

10. **FYI:** So Noted.

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, May 10, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., Town Office  
The Budget Meeting of May 3, 2010 was cancelled.

12. **Adjournment:** The Board adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc