

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, May 24, 2010

5:00 p.m., Town Office

**Board Members Present:** Bettina M. Martin (Chair), Norine H. Clarke, James L. Desjardins, Raymond E. Carlton and Stephen G. Donahue

**Board Members Absent:**

**Administration Present:** Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes), Police Chief Pickett

**Press Present:** RVAC

**Citizens Present:** Freemont Tibbetts, Danny McKay, Mackie Gill

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. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with the following correction:

Selectman Clarke asked that all requests for funding from various groups throughout the year be brought before the Selectmen's attention so that they may consider the requests.

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 DOT radar trailer has been monitoring traffic for two weeks in various places throughout town
- The town has received another Seatbelt Grant; patrols will be done at various times
- The town will be utilizing the Underage Drinking Grant and will be focusing on the various graduation festivities
- David Hodgson graduated from the Police Academy on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and distinguished himself by graduating 14<sup>th</sup> in physical agility testing; his son, a proud Marine, presented his dad with his badge. Officer Hodge will return to work full-time on Tuesday, May 25, 2010
- Officer Jeffrey Howe is on medical leave and should return to work on June 4, 2010

Selectman Carlton questioned the Chief regarding the use of Dixfield's officers in mutual aid. However, it turned out that the officers were here in Dixfield and an address on the Police Department's report was mistaken.

Selectman Desjardins asked about the continued complaints from Pine Street residents regarding teenage speeding and/or mischief. The Chief will be meeting with homeowners in the area to address the situation.

**Public Comment:** None

## 5. **Old Business:**

**a. Insurance Summary:** The Town Manager presented a spreadsheet of the insurance company quotes and stated that they were all very close to Kyes Insurance Agency (our current carrier) coverage and deductibles. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board approved continuing insurance coverage with Kyes Insurance Agency for \$26,479.00.

**b. Engineering Draft:** A draft road engineering template was presented to the Board of Selectmen to study. This item was tabled until after the Annual Town Meeting.

**c. Harlow Park Announcer's Booth:** A letter from Mark Thompson regarding the Harlow Park Announcer's Booth was presented to the Board. The Recreation Committee will be helping to build the booth and will utilize the storage area once completed. The CEO requested that the booth receive additional strengthening materials as it will be in a windy area as well as taking precautions with the public.

An additional request came before the Board for approval for dugouts to be built at Marble Memorial Park. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve building dugouts at MMP.

## 6. **New Business:**

**a. Fish Property:** The Town received a letter from the estate of the late Althea W. Fish regarding the possible purchase of her property located at 35 Main Street and identified on the town's tax maps as Map 14, Lot 120.

The property consists of a 19<sup>th</sup> century, two-story home (with additions) that sits on a 1.06 acre lot, bordering the Androscoggin River. The town has an assessed value of \$72,980 on the property. Mrs. Clarke felt that the property was in a prime location for a boat launching area and commercial parking lot and that this could be realized with funding from the Ione Harlow Dixfield Community Fund.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously for the Town Manager to contact the broker and inquire about negotiations regarding the purchase of the property and to also look into costs involved in razing the property. The Town Manager stated that all negotiations will be held in executive session in the future regarding the possible purchase of the property.

**b. Sidewalk Grant:** The State of Maine has received funding for transportation enhancement which includes sidewalks. Laurie Soucy has volunteered to write a grant for the Town of Dixfield for sidewalks as follows:

Repair the Sidewalk on Weld Street to Dirigo High School  
Add a Sidewalk from Dirigo High School to the T.W. Kelly Middle School  
Add a Sidewalk from Dirigo High School to the Superintendent's Office

The Town Manager will work closely on the grant and report to the Board at a later date.

**c. Water/Sewer Audit:** The Water and Sewer Departments' Audit will not be finalized until approved by the Board of Selectmen/Trustees. On June 14, 2010 the auditor will meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss any questions they may have.

The Town Manager reported that the Water Department is doing quite well; the Sewer Department is "holding its own". On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2009 Water/Sewer Audit.

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

- The Town Manager informed the Board of an upcoming news item that was generated by the tenants of Sara Pepper Place. The town's CEO was interviewed by Channel 8 and Channel 6, but was not instrumental in the controversy.
- Water Department Superintendent Jim White has requested permission to compare prices regarding the contracting of an excavator for summer projects versus an hourly rate for an operator. It was noted the Selectmen will have final approval on the R.F.P. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to allow Mr. White his request
- The town has received information from the State regarding the damage that must be repaired to a very large culvert located on Newton Brook. This culvert is located on Porter Road behind the old town dump. The Town Manager, MDOT official, and David Phair will inspect the culvert and report back to the Board
- The RSU No. 10 Town Garage Lease is being updated and agreements will need to be re-signed
- The new fire truck has arrived
- Greenwood Cemetery is experiencing a "grub" problem—the Japanese beetle larvae that skunks love to dig up. Pest services have been called, but it may take some time to cure the problem
- Dawn Davis of Property Management of Collins Way has requested a "Children at Play" sign on Collins Way as there are approximately 12 children in the area. On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the "Children at Play" sign for Collins Way

Chief Pickett suggested that should the town acquire the Fish property, perhaps the boat launch could be named for her.

**Public Comment: None**

**8. Board Questions/Comments:**

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 5:50 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations per 1MRSA §405 (6)(D).

10. **FYI:** So Noted.

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, June 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., Town Office

12. **Adjournment:**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc