

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, July 12, 2010

5:00 p.m., Town Office

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

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes), David Phair (PWD), Jim White (Water Dept.), Officer Eric Bernier

Press Present: None

Citizens Present: Freemont Tibbetts, Danny McKay, Roberta Donahue

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 28, 2010.
3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda. The miscellaneous document was signed (thank you card).
4. **Department Head Reports:**
 - a. **Public Works (David Phair):**
 - On July 14, 2010, interviews for the Public Works Department opening will begin
 - Culverts were replaced on the Common Road and Rollins Ridge
 - “Welcome to Dixfield” signs were refurbished, cleaned and repainted
 - Parking lines were painted at crosswalks and parking areas
 - The Kabota grader is being setup
 - Next week more culvert work will be taking place
 - Efficiency Maine resources have completed an audit of the Town Garage for help in lowering energy costs
 - A few lots that border various streets in town have been rebuilt so that water will no collect on the lots but flow into the catch basins, etc.

b. Water Department (Jim White):

- Construction is scheduled to begin on August 9, 2010 on the various approved water projects on North, Pine, Coburn and Weld Streets. Customers will be notified when the water has to be shut off. As little inconvenience to the water supply will be made as possible.
- The old hydrant located on Third Street will be replaced also

Public Comment: None

5. Old Business:

a. Excavator Bids for Water Project: The following bids were received by the Board of Selectmen for excavator services which include an operator:

1. J.D.M. Excavation	Dixfield	\$ 85.00/hr.
2. George E. Averill, Jr.	Carthage	135.00/hr.
3. Noyes Sand & Gravel	Peru	90.00/hr.
4. Archie's	Mexico	79.00/hr.

Selectman Harvey voiced her opinion that whenever possible, the town should support our local citizens.

On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board unanimously voted to accept the bid of \$85.00/hr. from J.D.M. Excavation of Dixfield.

b. Refinance Water Department Loans: Town Manager Skibitsky invited Mr. Richard Ranaghan, Senior Vice President of Public Finance, at Gorham Savings Bank to explain to the Board of Selectmen the possible savings to the town should they choose to refinance the Water Department's loans.

Mr. Ranaghan explained the process of refinancing that includes looking at existing debt, bond rating, costs involved, etc. Having done a cursory study, the town could possibly save between \$130,000 and \$195,000.

On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to begin the process at no cost with a preliminary rating. All information will be supplied to the Board once completed.

c. Efficiency Maine Grant: The town has been award \$25,000 toward energy savings at the town garage through lighting and insulation. Contracts must be in place by May 2011.

d. Special Town Meeting Warrant: A short discussion regarding the times of the Selectmen's Meeting and the Special Town Meeting was held by the Board. On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board unanimously approved the wording in the warrant. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board unanimously approved the warrant with the change of time to 6:30 p.m. at the

library. The Selectmen will meet as usual at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2010 at the Town Office and then adjourn to a Special Town Meeting. A copy of the warrant is included below:

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
WARRANT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY – JULY 26, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

State of Maine County of
Oxford

To: Richard A. Pickett, a constable in the Town of Dixfield, County of Oxford and State of Maine:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Dixfield in said County and State qualified by law to vote in town affairs to meet at the **Ludden Memorial Library on Monday, the 26th day of July, A.D. 2010 at 6:30 p.m.,** in the evening and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To elect a **MODERATOR** to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to use up to One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars of **UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** (surplus) for the purpose of lowering the 2010/11 tax rate.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to use up to Forty-Five Thousand (\$45,000) Dollars of the **IONE HARLOW DIXFIELD COMMUNITY FUND** accrued interest for the purpose of acquiring and disposing of the so-called **ALTHEA W. FISH PROPERTY** located at 35 Main Street, Dixfield, Maine, and identified on the town's tax maps as Map 14, Lot 120. *(The purchase price of the property is \$35,000; \$10,000 is also estimated for disposal of the house and sheds. The balance available to the town is \$57,070.80)*

Given under our hands at Dixfield this 12th day of July 2010 A.D.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Bettina M. Martin _____

Malcolm M. Gill _____

Norine H. Clarke _____

Katherine N. Harvey _____

Stephen G. Donahue _____

Attest:

Eugene R. Skibitsky, Town Clerk, Dixfield, Maine

WARRANT RETURN

State of Maine
Town of Dixfield

County of Oxford
July _____, 2010

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Dixfield qualified as therein expressed to meet at the time and place and for the purpose therein named, by posting this day an attested copy of the within warrant at the

United State Post Office, Dixfield, Maine
United States Post Office, East Dixfield, Maine
Torrey Municipal Building, Dixfield, Maine

the same being public and conspicuous places in said town.

Resident of Dixfield, Maine: _____

e. **Petition for Town Meeting:** A petition to hold a Special Town Meeting was received from Freemont Tibbetts. The petition reads as follows:

To see if the town will have the select board set a date to allow the voters of Dixfield, by secret ballot, to vote on the following:

Are you in favor of voting nay or yea to zoning the areas along the Colonel Holman Mountain Ridge and Sugarloaf Mountain starting at the elevation of 1,000 feet above sea level and continuing to the highest points and prohibiting industrial/commercial development from taking place in these areas, with the exception of logging operations and erection of communication towers?

PURPOSE: Colonel Holman Mountain and Sugarloaf Mountain are designated as scenic resources within the Dixfield Comprehensive Plan of 2007 which also states that development should be restricted or prohibited there.

The signatures were verified by the Registrar of Voters who counted 277 signatures. All were valid Dixfield registered voters. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to accept the petition with the words “voting nay or yea to” to be struck from the wording and to place on the November ballot.

6. **New Business:**

a. **Tree Growth Penalty:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tree Growth Penalty as prepared by Assessing Agent Paul Binette.

b. **MMA Election:** On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted 4-0 to vote for Clinton Duchane who was running for M.M.A. Vice President. Mr. Donahue and Ms. Martin abstained. Vote was 3-0; 2 abstained.

On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously for the three candidates running for individual offices as listed on the MMA ballot.

c. **Patriots Renewables (Tom Carroll):** Mr. Carroll stated that the project will create 20 mega watts of electricity and the TIF figures have been revised as presented to the Board. He also requested a copy of the proposed draft ordinance once completed.

Mr. Carroll further stated that the project was a very responsible one and the company plans to aggressively educate the public once the ordinance is completed. A simulation of the project (to scale) will be available shortly.

7. **Town Manager’s Report:**

- The first mediation date has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Office. Additional dates will be scheduled at the first meeting. Selectmen Harvey and Martin will attend the mediation meeting with the Town Manager.

Public Comment

Mr. Fremont Tibbetts and Danny McKay commented on the Wind Power Project and requested a map that shows the projects in Western Maine.

8. **Board Questions/Comments:**

- Mrs. Harvey reported that approval has been received for the Planning Board’s Shoreland Zoning Ordinance making it valid. There is a meeting of the Board on July 22, 2010. Ms. Martin volunteered to attend.
- Mr. Gill complimented the staff with their arrangements for Dickie Frost’s retirement party. It was nicely done and was well attended by the community.
- Mrs. Harvey apologized for not attending.

- Mrs. Clarke reminded the Town Manager of the August 15th Open Air Market Day and the need for Public Works to do various jobs. There is plenty of booth space still available at \$15.00 per space.

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9. **FYI:** So Noted.

10. **Next Meeting:** Monday, 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., Town Office, followed by a Special Town Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Ludden Memorial Library.

11. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc