

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, July 26, 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), Police Chief Richard Pickett

Press Present: Eileen Adams, Lewiston SunJournal

Citizens Present: Fremont Tibbetts, Danny McKay, Tiny Carlton, Cynthia Coulombe, Brenda Norcross

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 12, 2010 with the following correction:

Page 5, #8.: Mr. Harvey reported that approval has been received for the Planning Board's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance...

3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mrs. Harvey, 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 computers, purchased around 2003, are getting tired and need to be replaced; the Chief will be looking into compatible computers to fill the needs of the Police Department.
- The current curfew that is in effect was passed by the town in 1967; there are many elements missing such as the ability to recoup courts fees, etc. Another curfew ordinance was proposed in 2007 and was voted down at town meeting. The Chief will make changes to that ordinance and present it to the Board at the

next regular Selectmen's Meeting with possible placement on the ballot in November.

- The department has received word of receiving another grant for patrols that will enforce underage drinking violations.
- Officer Bernier will be holding a "Silent Auction" on the many bicycles that have been held in evidence. Everyone will be free to bid on them.
- The town's mechanic (Craig Woods) saved the department many hundreds of dollars recently by the repair of a leaking seal for approximately \$100 and not \$800-\$1,000.
- The Chief requested that the Board think about purchasing another Expedition when it comes time to trade in another cruiser.

Public Comment:

Mr. Tibbetts spoke about the curfew and the town's ability to make sure it does not cost extra taxpayer dollars.

5. Old Business:

a. **Ronald Hemingway (Replanting Agreement):** Mr. Hemingway was not present at the meeting. The Town Manager and Code Enforcement Officer will visit the property and report back at the next meeting.

b. **Wood Gnats – Irving Forest Products, Inc.:** The Town Manager received a letter from the State entomologist stating that the location where the gnats hatch has not been located yet. More tests need to be done.

6. New Business:

a. **Mexico Sewer District:** A letter was received from the Board of the Mexico Sewer District requesting the following:

1. Set-up a Sewer Contract Administrative Committee, consisting of three (3) members that will meet with the Mexico Sewer District Trustees twice a year. The first meeting will be held on September 14, 2010 (time to be determined).

Selectmen Clarke, Harvey and Martin volunteered.

2. Devise a list of first responders in case of a sewer emergency or problem with the system. The Working Foreman (David Phair), Town Manager (Gene Skibitsky) and Paul Pomerleau from the Ted Berry Company are to be the 1st responders.

3. Supply a copy of the town's contract with Ted Berry Co., Inc.

b. **Mexico Water District Contract:** The contract will be expiring and the proposed changes by the Mexico Water District are as follows:

1. Extend the length of the contract to three (3) years
2. An increase to the contract costs will be 5% per year for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013

A meeting will be scheduled with the Mexico Water District Trustees. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

7. Town Manager's Report:

- The town has received word that a \$20,000 Septic Systems Grant has been awarded to Dixfield; there are two applicants who have applied (Dianna Broadway and Dale Briggs). The Town Manager will discuss the grants with the applicants. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to accept the grant and approve the Town Manager as the authorizing signer of the documents.
- FYI: Governor's Paddle Day for those interested
- The Town Manager will be meeting with the Bureau of Labor Standards on August 13, 2010 to discuss fines, etc. that can be mitigated as all violations have been corrected
- The MeDOT will be repaving Wilton Road from one mile east of the Common Road (Morrison Hill); Pike Industries will be reclaiming pavement and resurfacing the road
- The Town Manager explained the recent information received from Gorham Savings Bank regarding the refinancing of the Water Department Loans and requested authority to move ahead. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to proceed with the loan process.
- Received an email from MMA requesting volunteers to serve on the new E911 Council
- Received a letter from Representative Cheryl Briggs regarding State surplus
- MMA requested ideas from towns for the Legislative Policy Commission

Public Comment

Brenda Norcross spoke to the Board regarding the need for a curfew as her neighborhood is experiencing an increase of property damage by juveniles.

8. Board Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Clarke: Attended the Planning Board Meeting; no ground was covered as there were only two members in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19th at 7:00 p.m., Town Office.

Mrs. Harvey: Requested a list of all the grants that the town is requesting and has received to date.

Mr. Gill: Will not be in attendance at the next board meeting as he will be out-of-state for approximately three weeks.

9. **FYI:** So Noted.

RECESSED: The meeting was recessed at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened after the Special Town Meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at Ludden Memorial Library

The meeting reconvened at approximately 7:50 p.m. and discussion followed regarding setting the 2010/11 tax rate. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted unanimously to set the tax rate at 16.75/M.

10. Executive Session: Labor Negotiations (1 M.R.S.A., §405(6)(D))

On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

The Board ended executive session at 8:10 p.m. No action taken.

11. Next Meeting: August 9, 2010, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

12. Adjournment: On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc