

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, May 23, 2011

5:00 p.m., Town Office

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

Board Members Absent: (1) Vacancy

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Darlene Brann (Minutes), David Phair (Working Foreman Public Works)

Press Present: WVAC, Sun Journal (Dan Fayen)

Citizens Present: Dan McKay, Freemont Tibbetts.

Others Present: Tasha Raymond (CMP Representative), Student (MVHS), Tom Carroll (Patriot Renewables), Others.

PUBLIC HEARING - SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMITS American Legion Post #100: Bingo-Sealed Tickets

Public Hearing: The Special Amusements Public Hearing for the American Legion Post No.100 was opened at 5:00 p.m. to the public. There were no questions asked of the Board; the hearing closed at 5:01 p.m.

Call to Order: Chairman Donahue called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all in attendance

3. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of May 9, 2011.

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.

Department Head Reports:

Police Department (Chief Richard Pickett):

1. The department has had several vehicle vandalism complaints. Chief Pickett reminded citizens to keep doors locked and valuables out of sight.
2. On May 13, 2011 three vehicles were stolen: one from Dixfield and two from Carthage. If anyone has any information please contact the Dixfield Police Department.
 1. **Pine Street:** Pine Street resident Katie Chaisson had concerns with speeding on Pine Street. Chief Pickett recommended waiting until after the study comes in from the town's engineer before making any changes.
 2. **COPS Grant:** This grant will allow the department to hire a fifth officer. The officer's salary and benefits will be paid for three years through the grant, with the town paying the salary and benefits the final, fourth year. Several opportunities will be had having a fifth officer. It will open up avenues for investigation, having a cop in the schools and coverage for other officers who are on vacation or sick leave. Chief Pickett is prepared to stay with the department until the end of the grant. Mrs. Harvey motioned for Chief Pickett to submit the COPS Grant for consideration. Motion seconded by Mr. Gill; all approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

6. Old Business:

a. CMP Smart Meters Program (Tasha Raymond): Ms. Raymond (CMP Customer Service Representative) stated that CMP will be installing approximately 1,314 new Smart Meters in Dixfield starting in the fall of 2011. At this time CMP has installed 7 new meters. All customers/citizens will receive a letter prior to installation. Customers will have the option to opt out (with a fee) of receiving the new Smart Meter. Smart Meters operate on a two-way radio frequency similar to a wireless router, baby monitors and cell phones. After fielding several questions from citizens, Ms. Raymond stated the new technology would help CMP with faster restoration time pertaining to outages, and allow customers to see kilowatts used prior to receiving their bills. The company doing the installation will be BSI and they will have their logo along with the CMP logo on their vehicles. The technicians will also be wearing badges.

- b. Thorpe “Cat” Bequest Lawsuit Update:** Town Manager Skibitsky will be going to the South Paris District Court to talk with the Clerks and read legal papers pertaining to the case. This will help allow a better understanding of the bequest lawsuit, and how to proceed.
- c. Webb River Bridge Update:** On May 17, 2011 Town Manager Skibitsky attended a bridge progress meeting (minutes of meeting given to Selectmen). At this time the temporary bridge is on hold. There are concerns with the temporary bridge being able to handle all the truck traffic that Route #2 has. Updates on the bridge project will be posted on the Town’s Website, as they become available.

7. New Business:

- a. Special Amusement Permits:** Mrs. Clarke motioned to approve an Amusement Permit for the American Legion Post #100. Seconded by Mr. Gill; all approved.

b. Summer Hours: Under Union Contract, the union members and Selectmen may approve changing summer hours (Memorial Day–Columbus Day) for the Public Works Department. The first request from the union was to change hours from 7-3 Monday thru Friday to 6-4 Monday thru Thursday with Fridays off. Second request was to change from 7-3 Monday thru Friday to 7-4 Monday thru Thursday and 7-11 on Friday. After a brief discussion Mr. Gill motioned to change the Public Works summer hours to 7-4 Monday thru Thursday and 7-11 on Friday, seconded by Mrs. Harvey, all approved.

Under the same contract union members and Selectmen may approve changing summer hours (Memorial Day –Columbus Day) for the Utility Office. The change would be from 8-2 Monday thru Friday to 7-2:30 Monday thru Thursday with Friday’s closed. Mrs. Harvey motioned and Mr. Gill seconded, to change the Utility office hours from 8-2 Monday thru Friday to 7-2:30 Monday thru Thursday with the Office closed on Fridays for the summer schedule. All approved.

- c. RSU #10 Budget Meeting:** Dr. Ward sent an email that the School Board will be holding a Regional Budget Information meeting on June 8, 2011 at the Student Community Center (High School) at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

8. Town Manager’s Report:

a Animal Control : Received a letter from McKennel's Animal Shelter, stating that the rates for the kennel will be staying the same as they were for year 2011.

Lighting Efficiency Comparison: Handed out a cost savings comparison sheet for the new LED lighting that will be installed at the Town Garage vs the old florescent lights now installed. The town received a grant thru Efficiency Maine to help with the installation.

Other:

1. Mr. Bermier will be working with the Harlow Park Light Committee regarding ground water at Harlow Park. They may be doing a test pit at some point to see how much water if any is in the ground. This will help them to be better prepared prior to setting the light poles.
2. The American Legion will be holding a Memorial Day service at the Greenwood Cemetery starting at 9:00 a.m. Monday May 30, 2011.
3. Voting will be held on June 14, 2011 at the American Legion, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Board Questions and Comments: None

10. **FYI:** So Noted

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, June 13, 2011, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

12 **Adjournment:** At 6:06 p.m. Mr. Gill motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Harvey. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Brann
Secretary

/db

Attachments