

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, February 27, 2012

5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

**Board Members Present:** Stephen G. Donahue (Chair), Norine H. Clarke,  
Robert V. Withrow, Malcolm M. Gill

**Board Members Absent:** Katherine N. Harvey

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

**Others Present:** Ralph Clarke, Freemont and Phyllis Tibbetts

**Press:** RVAC, Eileen Adams (Lewiston SunJournal)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Donahue called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; all repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012.
3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board unanimously approved the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.
4. **Department Head Reports:**
  - a. **Police Department – Chief Pickett:**
    - The Chief reviewed his monthly report with Board noting 93 calls for service
    - In January there were 11 arrests, 15 counts
    - A copy of the “Operation Sunshine” report was also given to Board members; there are 11 people on the list; 2 more were added this month
    - The ATV Policy has been revised into a draft ordinance and is ready for discussion with the Board on Friday, March 9, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Office
    - The department has done the necessary paperwork for an ATV grant; the last one the department received was in 2006. This grant will involve 15

patrols and our officers will be working with the game wardens. The grant is for approximately \$7,400.

- The radar units in our cruisers are beginning to get old; an application for a grant has been submitted to Maine Municipal Association with the hopes of obtaining funds to pay for one unit.
- Spoke with the bridge contractor about improving the traffic flow; the project is scheduled to run through October
- Officer Anne Simmons-Edmunds received a thank-you note from the Chief in recognition of her outstanding efforts with our senior citizens and “Operation Sunshine”

## 5. **Old Business:**

a. **Freemont Tibbetts – Electricity and Windpower Ordinance Petition:** Mr. Tibbetts began by thanking the Town Manager for looking out for the town and checking the best electricity rates which will show a savings to the town. He thanked Mr. Donahue for allowing him to speak.

He presented a draft wind ordinance and inquired if the town would hold public hearings to discuss it and whether or not they had read it.

Chair Donahue stated that the Board had read it and many, many other ordinances over the past year regarding wind projects. Mr. Tibbetts asked about the tangible benefits of the project and presented a petition (see attachment) that he hopes to circulate in the community.

Selectman Clarke stated that he would need to get the ordinance out to the people before beginning his petition so that they would know what they were signing. Selectman Withrow commented that the ordinance was very anti-wind. It was decided that 104 valid Dixfield voter signatures were needed to legalize the petition. Mr. Tibbetts asked several times if he would need a lawyer. Selectman Clarke and Chair Donahue told him that the Board was **NOT** advising him on whether he needs to get a lawyer.

After several more minutes of argument, Mr. Tibbetts was escorted from the meeting by Chief Pickett. Upon the Chief’s return, he recommended that Mr. Tibbetts should not be allowed to attend another meeting.

## 6. **New Business:**

a. **Swasey-Torrey Legion Request:** The town received a request for the sponsorship of a Boys and a Girls State representative from Dixfield. After a short discussion, it was decided that the Legion should raise what they can and the Outdoor Market Committee might be able to make up the difference.

b. **Employee of the Year Program.:** The original program was started in 1986. The Town Manager suggested that this program be revitalized and employees recognized who have performed outstanding work. Selectman Clarke suggested that the “Employee of the Year Program” be changed to “Employee of the Year Policy” in keeping with other adopted policies. On a motion from Mr. Withrow and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted unanimously to reinstitute the program and change the name to “Policy”. 4-0

c. **Pastor Hinkley’s Fuel Assistance Proposal:** Pastor Hinkley of the Dixfield Common Baptist Church sent a letter to the town requesting support for various projects that would help families in need. Board members felt that he had caring and good projects but that the Board must decline due to the use of taxpayer funds.

7. **Town Manager’s Report:**

a. **AVCOG Slate of Officers:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted unanimously to vote for the slate of officers as presented.

b. **Town Manager’s Vacation Time:** The Town Manager has 28 hours left of 2011 vacation time and would like to carry it to April. On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to allow the time to be carried. 4-0

8. **Board Questions/Comments:**

Mr. Withrow: had a very interesting tour of the sewer department’s infrastructure and pumping stations. He found that the maintenance and care to the system is being done very well. He also found the need to begin planning immediately for the upcoming, major repairs that will be needed to the system. The rate structure of the sewer department will need to be analyzed.

Mrs. Clarke: still calling for a replacement of the Chairman of the Outdoor Market Committee. Please contact the Town Office.

9. **FYI:** So Noted

10. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 12, 2012, Town Office, 5:00 p.m.

11. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke, and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board was unanimous in adjourning the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins  
Deputy Treasurer/Secretary

/cmc  
Attachments