

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, March 12, 2012

4:30 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

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

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes), Richard Pickett (Chief of Police), Jim White (Water Dept.), David Phair (Public Works Dept.)

Others Present: Freemont Tibbetts, Danny McKay, Glen Holmes (Western Maine Economic Development)

Press: RVAC, Eileen Adams (Lewiston SunJournal)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Donahue called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.; all repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012; Mrs. Harvey abstained as she was not in attendance at the meeting.
3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey, and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board unanimously approved the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.
4. **Department Head Reports:**
 - a. **Public Works Dept. – David Phair:**
 - Due to the temperatures warming, the town's ice rink has been closed.
 - The new 2009 plow truck's warranty will expire in November. Mr. Phair is getting prices on a warranty extension as the truck has only 13,000 miles on it.
 - Due to a mild winter, overtime for Public Works employees is at budget. The salt line went over 13%, but we still have salt stored at the town garage.
 - By using waste oil in the town garage boiler, we saved about 2,500 gallons or approximately \$9,500.

- In addition to the waste oil savings, the use of the boiler was down due to the cost-saving measures of Efficiency Maine and the energy-saving factors that went into the town garage.
- By the third week in March, the sweeper will be ready to go.
- The engineers have suggested that the town upgrade the North Street pavement to take a heavier weight due to truck traffic.

b. Water Dept. – Jim White:

- VFD has been installed and Mr. White is working on the electrical usage analysis.
- On February 17, 2012 Irving Mill had a 6” line water break. The department got it fixed, and Irving Forest Products was very please with the town help as it saved them quite a bit of money.
- The lawnmower shed’s pre-fab panels are nearly ready for assembly.
- There have been quite a few people “not at home” during the time of water meter exchanges. The department will be checking with people during spring break in hopes of finding more people at home.

5. Old Business:

a. Engagement Letter for Sewer Analysis: The auditor has given the Town Manager a figure of \$2,500 to analyze the sewer department funds so that an audit of the sewer department rates can be made. They will make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and hold a public hearing. On a motion from Mrs. Harvey, and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to sign the letter of Engagement for Assessment of Sewer Charges.

6. New Business:

a. Western Maine Economic Development Council-WMEDC-Glen Holmes: Mr. Holmes was present to discuss the WMEDC and his role in it to help Dixfield and surrounding towns with marketing, business development, workforce development, business financing and promoting partnerships with local governments. There are various funds available for loans to struggling businesses or for help with new ones to take root (see attached brochure).

b. FY2012 CWSRF Funding: New funds are now available for a second round. Approximately 1,000 feet of additional pipe needs replacing when found during the bridge project. Mr. Skibitsky will be checking with the town’s attorney to see if the original town meeting vote will cover the authorization to spend the additional money. On a motion from Mr. Withrow and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to begin the process of applying for additional funding.

c. Boston Post Cane: On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Withrow, Dixfield resident Harry Francis was chosen unanimously by the Board to be the recipient of the Boston Post Cane. Mr. Francis was born on December 23, 1915

and is nearly 97 years old. Flowers, a plaque and a box of chocolates will be presented to Mr. Francis by the Board of Selectmen in the near future.

d. **Resignation from Water Advisory Committee:** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board unanimously accepted the resignation of James Desjardins from the Water Advisory Committee.

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

a. **Federal and State Mandates:** Town Manager Skibitsky provided Board members with a new list of State and Federal Mandates from Maine Municipal Association.

b. **WVAC - Budget Meetings:** All Board members agreed to WVAC taping the upcoming budget meetings

c. **MMA Wind Power Workshop:** The Town Manager announced an upcoming wind power meeting for 3/21/2012 at Farmington, \$40.00 each.

d. **Commitment Comparison:** The Town Manager passed out a spreadsheet to Board members with commitment comparisons back to 2004. Four components outlined the changes to various budgets as follows:

County	Up	44.0%
Municipality	Down	1%
Schools	Up	26%
Overlay	Up	5%

8. **Board Questions/Comments:** None

9. **FYI:** So noted.

10. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 26, 2012, Town Office, 5:00 p.m.

11. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Withrow and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. They all attended the RSU No. 10 meeting at Dirigo High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer/Secretary
/cmc
Attachments