

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, March 26, 2012

5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

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

Board Members Absent:

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

Others Present: Freemont Tibbetts, Danny McKay, Scott Belskis, Hart Daley

Press: RVAC, Rumford Falls Times, 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 Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 12, 2012.
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 – Dave Phair:**

- RSU No. 10 has approached the Public Works Foreman to do the sweeping of the school parking lots, etc. for the middle school, high school, Superintendent's Office and the Peru school. Mr. Phair stated that the job could be done in less than two shifts of the Public Works crew. A new revenue account will be established to track the costs, and the Town Manager will check with the insurance company about the liability.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to contract with RSU No. 10 the sweeping of various school property for one year, contingent on insurance concerns.

b. Police Department – Chief Pickett:

- The Chief submitted his monthly report to board members.
- Sergeant Howe spent the day at the high school during “Diversity Day” and answered questions. Sgt. Howe presented the Police Department in a friendly manner that students could relate to.
- The patrol officers will probably have work on Saturdays through October on the bridge project.
- The Chief reminded residents to wear their seatbelts.

5. Old Business:

a. Force Main Extension Project: The Force Main Extension Project has been submitted to the DEP.

b. A.E. Hodsdon Infrastructure Project: Executing the study’s infrastructure report and the rating of roads must be authorized by the Board. On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to sign the A.E. Hodsdon Infrastructure Project proposal document.

c. Update on Sidewalk Project: The Town Manager explained the need for more footage to allow for the sidewalk to be built at the end of Harlow Park, bordering Nash Street. There may be an extra ten (10’) feet at the end of the football field that might have to be utilized to allow for the sidewalk. The football field would be pushed down to that point. It appears the extra footage has already been utilized. The Town Manager will talk with Wright Pierce regarding the possible changes.

d. Wind Ordinance Petition: A citizens’ group has turned in a petition regarding the regulating of the Wind Farms in Dixfield. The Town Manager suggested speaking with the town’s attorney. On a motion from Mr. Withrow and second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to seek legal advice for the town before proceeding.

6. New Business:

a. Bridge Abutment: There is a space on the Dixfield side of the new bridge, abutting the Opera House property that could be used for those who stop to view the river. It lies near the retaining wall, below the bridge. A letter needs to be written to the DOT requesting a railing to the area and show the purpose the town would like to see realized. The Board was in agreement to contact the DOT regarding this possibility.

b. Tax Acquired Properties: Seven (7) properties have recently become tax-acquired. The Town Manager/Treasurer will be sending letters advising the owners that they will be going out for bid or auction in the near future.

7. Town Manager's Report:

- The PUC has our terms and conditions for the Water/Sewer Departments and will be taking up to five (5) months to analyze them (August 2012).
- MMA is starting their election process and is looking for candidates from all member towns to run for positions at MMA.
- The Maine DOT is looking for any historic significance in the area from Hall Hill and ending 0.55 miles on Route 2 going towards East Dixfield. If any citizens know of anything, please contact the Town Office.
- FYI: letter received from Time Warner regarding their re-structuring.

8. Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Withrow: the traffic flow seems much better on the bridge project.

Mr. Gill: Asked about the petition against RSU No. 10; the Town Manager stated that Mr. Jon Holmes is gathering signatures.

9. FYI: So Noted

10. Executive Session: 1 MRSA , §405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter

On a motion from Mrs. Clark and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:00 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:37 p.m.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board unanimously approved the motion from Mrs. Clarke which states: *to expunge from Chief Richard A. Pickett's personnel file the record of his termination on June 30, 2008 which took place at a Disciplinary Action Hearing held at the Ludden Library and all other actions arising from or taken by the sitting Board of Selectmen at the Hearing to include the thirty- (30) day suspension received by Chief Pickett on August 4, 2008.*

11. Next Meeting: Monday, April 9, 2012, Town Office at 5:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment: On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer/Secretary

/cmc
Attachments