

TOWN OF DIXFIELD
Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
October 14, 2008
5:00 p.m., Dixfield Town Office

Board Members Present: Norine H. Clarke, James L. Desjardins, Raymond E. Carlton and Brad E. Dyer (Vice Chair)

Board Members Absent: Bettina M. Martin (Chair)

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes), Leo Jolin (PWD), Scott Dennett (Fire Chief), Sigrid Houlette (CEO)

Citizens Present: John Madigan (Mexico Town Manager), Mike Treadwell, Donald St. Germain, Mexico Selectmen (2)

Press: Sun Journal Reporter Eileen Adams and River Valley Access Channel

1. Vice Chair Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 9/22/08.
3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.
4. **Department Head Reports:**

b. **Public Works Department:** Leo Jolin presented his monthly report (see attachment) to the Board of Selectmen and reported as follows:

- Severy Hill Road Project is completed
- McGouldrick Park skating rink shack is being built
- Awaiting the price quote on a cold oil pump for the town garage; could be a substantial savings with heating the town garage this winter
- Alton Arsenault has offered to keep the skating rink flooded again this winter for the same hourly rate of \$12.00/hour
- A location for a snow dump has not yet been found; checking with the DEP regarding the use of McGouldrick Park

Selectman Carlton stated that the garbage at the cemeteries needs to be removed as all garbage cans are full.

- A letter to the contractor (Stephenson) has been sent to approve the Severy Hill job

Mr. Jolin asked the Board to approve overtime hours to help with traffic control during the Halloween Walk. After discussion, Norine Clarke moved, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve overtime for two (2) police reserve officers and three (3) public works employees.

A request was received for the reclaim pavement for use at the new garage at Harlow Park. The Selectmen questioned its need for the Hall Hill project and felt that it should not be given to the Harlow Park project until the town knows how much is needed for Hall Hill

Public Comment: None

5. New Business:

c. **Treadwell Consent Agreement with D.E.P.:** A letter was received from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Shoreland Zoning violation by Dixfield homeowners Michael J. and Elise A. Treadwell of 100 Webb River Drive (Map 23, Lot 45). This violation was discovered by a D.E.P. flyover of Webb River during a two-year period.

Mr. & Mrs. Treadwell are also in the process of selling this property and need to have any fines and added corrections that will restore the property as close to the original shore land done as soon as possible.

Dixfield C.E.O. Sigrid Houlette was on hand to explain the Board's role in establishing a fine for the violation. Mr. Treadwell has consulted a forester to establish the correct ratio of softwood to hardwood trees and the planting distance between them. The correction to the violation will cost up to \$11,000 for 109 trees, and the homeowners will be responsible for the costs incurred. Because of the impending sale, an attachment to the sale agreement will need to be made.

A motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke was made to fine the Treadwell's \$1,000. Additional discussion followed at which time Mr. Desjardins removed his motion from the table.

After much discussion, the Board felt that correcting the problem at a price that could total \$11,000 was enough to expect of the property owner. The town's C.E.O and a representative from D.E.P. were asked to devise a plan that will benefit both the Town's interests as well as those of the D.E.P.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously not to fine the Treadwell's, but to enforce the correction of the violation. If the correction is not made, the Board reserves the right to fine the property owners at a later date.

6. Old Business:

c. **Thaddeus White Bridge:** Mexico Town Manager John Madigan attended the meeting to update the Board on the Thaddeus White Bridge progress and to begin the formulation of a bridge maintenance agreement between the Town of Dixfield and the Town of Mexico.

Mr. Madigan reported that the old bridge has been torn down and removed, the Mexico side of the river excavated and the four (4) main beams of the new bridge are now in the Mexico Town Garage.

Mr. Madigan also met with Key Bank regarding financing of the bridge on a five- or ten-year note with 3.76% interest on five years and 4.71% on a ten-year note. The total amount that both towns will be financing on the note will be about \$150,000 (after the ME D.O.T. has paid its share). The money will be placed in escrow until the bridge arrives in total.

Mr. Madigan requested additional police coverage from the town until the bridge is totally assembled. Mexico Selectman also commented that the bridge would be seen as brown color during the sealing process and that it is NOT rust as it might appear. Town Manager Skibitsky will be meeting with Mr. Madigan to finalize the financing of the bridge, and a special town meeting may be held to raise the additional funds that will be needed to cover costs.

5. **New Business (Cont.):**

a. **Town Manager Appointment Papers:** The Board of Selectmen signed the appointment papers for Eugene R. Skibitsky as Town Manager, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Road Commissioner and Welfare Director.

b. **Re-Commitment of Taxes:** The Board of Selectmen re-committed all outstanding taxes to Tax Collector Eugene R. Skibitsky on a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Desjardins. Unanimous.

d. **S.A.D. No. 21 Referendum Warrant:** The Board of Selectmen signed all appropriate papers regarding the S.A.D. No. 21 Referendum Warrant and Ballot.

e. **General Assistance Appendices:** On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the new General Assistance Appendices as suggested by the State of Maine Department of Human Services.

A public hearing will be held on Monday, October 27, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Dixfield Town Office to hear comment regarding the General Assistance Ordinance and newly approved appendices to the ordinance.

Town Manager Skibitsky also reminded the Board of the scheduled School Consolidation Referendum Meeting to be held at Dirigo High School on October 22, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

6. **Old business (Cont.):**

a. **Severy Hill Update - FEMA:** The Town Manager reported that the town submitted a project (Severy Hill) to FEMA for mitigation funding. We stated in the plan that the town would be excavating clay and replacing it with gravel. The scope of the work to the contractor changed, and FEMA is not happy with the change. FEMA did a field examination of the project and has drawn a draft diagram of its

composition. The town is awaiting the results to see if FEMA withholds funding due to the difference between the submission to FEMA and the actual contractual work.

b. Owen Libby Tree Growth Penalty: The Town Manager explained to the Board that because of the change in land use by Mr. Libby and his failure to comply with Tree Growth Tax Laws, the tree growth withdrawal penalty cannot be waived. It automatically becomes a supplemental tax. The Selectmen signed the penalty on August 11, 2008. A supplemental bill will be sent to Mr. Libby.

d. Water Rate Approval of Terms & Conditions: The Water Rate Stipulation Agreement has been approved by the P.U.C.; No. 36 of the last condition states that the town can abate water bills if the customer has been told to run the water by the water department.

e. Firefighters Mutual Aid Agreement: The Board of Selectmen signed two (2) of the Firefighters Mutual Aid Agreement.

f. Wendell Blood's Appointment Papers: The Board of Selectmen signed the appointment papers for Wendell Blood as a School Board Director for S.A.D. No. 21.

g. Tax Acquired Properties: The tax acquired property belonging to the Heirs of Lyman and Lucille Holman c/o Jeffry J. Dill was discussed at length. These two properties are identified as follows:

6 Mill Street (Map 14, Lot 84)	\$13,837.57
10 Mill Street (Map 14, Lot 85)	<u>12,590.93</u>
	\$26,428.50

Note: The tax total includes tax years 2004-2009.

Mr. Dill indicated that he would pay off the taxes by August 25, 2008, but this was not done due to problems with the estate; he is supposed to pay by the end of this week. The Town Manager will report to the Board at the next meeting.

7. Town Manager's Report:

- Reminded the Board about the deadline of 11/1/08 for the "Right-to-Know Law" training
- Attended an unemployment hearing regarding former Police Officer Dow; awaiting the results
- Specialty Services is installing the new boiler for the Post Office; it should be finished this week. Specialty Services will give the Town Manager an inspection tour
- Mexico Town Manager stated that there is a good deal to be had from Woodstock Oil Company; the cost per gallon of gasoline at the present moment is \$2.34. The Board of Selectmen gave authority to the Town Manager to purchase fuel at his discretion when prices are most favorable
- Hugh Daley has offered to do the snow removal for town buildings at the same price as last year.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve Hugh Daley to be contracted to do snow removal. It was also decided to hold a meeting with Mr. Daley, Leo Jolin of the Public Works Department and the Town Manager to decide on "call-in" protocol

- The Public Works Department will begin winter hours on November 3, 2008, working from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The Chief of Police and the Fire Chief have both been notified of the meeting being held by Portland Natural Gas Pipeline Company
- Dickie Frost of the Public Works Department will be leaving soon for an operation and will be out 10-12 weeks; Randy Glover will return soon
- Will be checking to find part-time public works plow truck drivers
- Darlene Brann, Public Works Secretary, will be contacting FEMA for a possible grant to help fund the Averill Hill Road
- The State's assessment of the town's 2007 valuation came in at \$124,750,000; the 2006 figure was \$115,350,000
- The Post Office Lease can now be increased from \$14,500 to \$17,500 as the new boiler has been installed. The Town Manager will sign, date and return both copies of the lease to the U.S. Postal Service and enclose a copy of the paid bill with it

Public Comment: None

8. Board Questions and Comments:

Mr. Carlton: Mr. Carlton asked if the list of five (5) questions that the town received from Mr. Tim Hanson had been answered. Mr. Hanson would like to receive the answers as soon as possible. Ms. Martin has the list, and the Town Manager will contact her soon so the inquiries can be resolved.

9. Other Business:

10. Executive Session: On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted to go into executive session at 7:10 p.m. (MRSA 405 Personnel):

The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

11. FYI: So noted.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, October 27, 2008; Public Hearing General Assistance, Same Night

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Deputy Treasurer

/cmc