

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield

Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor

Monday, September 14, 2009

5:00 p.m., Town Office

Board Members Present: Bettina M. Martin (Chair), Raymond E. Carlton, Norine H. Clarke, James L. Desjardins and Stephen G. Donahue

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skibitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins (Minutes), Leo Jolin (Public Works), Police Chief Richard A. Pickett, Officer Eric Bernier

Press Present: Eileen Adams (Sun Journal)

Citizens Present: Clayton McKay, Freemont Tibbetts, Reserve Officers Police Department

1. Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

August 31, 2009: On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with the following amendment:

Page #2 should read that both Mexico Sewer District options were approved in principle.

September 3, 2009: On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 9/3/09.

September 9, 2009: On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 9/9/09.

3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mr. Carlton and a second from Mr. Donahue, 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 reported as follows:

- Finished compiling the culvert list

- Winter sand is piled and ready
- The catch basins have been cleaned and counted (75); three need repairs such as re-bricking, re-topped and new covers to replace those that are broken
- The crew has been mowing and patching roads; ditching has been done on Porter Road
- Awaiting word from Manzer, Inc. for Porter Road work

Selectman Clarke felt that the catch basins should be fixed, if at all possible, before winter—especially the worse ones. On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the repairs to the catch basins.

b. **Fire Department:** Chief Scott Dennett sent his apologies for having to attend a previous commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

5. Old Business:

a. **Reserve Officers:** Chief Pickett introduced full-time Mexico Police Officer Brad Gallant and full-time Wilton Police Officer Josh King who he wishes the Board appoint as Dixfield Reserve Police Officers.

On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve Brad Gallant and Josh King as Dixfield Reserve Police Officers.

b. **AVCOG Salt Bid:** The Town Manager read the salt bid received from AVCOG and explained that the cost came in cheaper than last year at \$68.45/ton; last year it was \$80/ton. On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to accept AVCOG’s recommendation for the winter salt bid.

c. **FEMA Projects:** The Town Manager reported to the Board the projected reimbursements from FEMA for road project repairs due to the summer rain.

6. New Business:

a. **Water Rate Request:** A request was made by a water user to suspend charges for water usage while the citizen was in Florida for the winter months. It was explained to the Board that there are no provisions for this type of request in the Water Department Tariff and that the water is not shut-off, but available for furnace or other use. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to deny the request.

b. **Boiler Bid Specifications:** The Town Manager explained that the Town Office Boiler Bid will be sent out soon with some changes. In addition to the boiler, the possibility of using an “instant” water heater for the sinks will be looked in to. On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to send out bids.

c. **MMA Voting Credentials:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Desjardins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Town Manager as the town's delegate for voting purposes at the Maine Municipal Association's fall convention

d. **Key Bank Trust:** The Town Manager reported that he had met with Key Bank Trust Department Officials and discussed the town's trust funds, their disbursements and the investment strategy used with these funds. Key Bank seemed to be doing a good job in light of the poor economic climate.

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

a. **McGouldrick Park:** Dirigo High School students have requested the use of McGouldrick Park as a class project that will be looked into for sources of funding for a possible boat ramp. The history of the park will be included and other ideas that will be developed. The consensus of the Board was that this would make a good project.

b. **Fuel Oil:** The Board approved sending bids out to the River Valley area for heating fuel, gas and diesel.

c. **Phil Curtis – Road Project:** The Town Manager will address this project during the coming week.

d. **Septic System:** The Roy Hutchins septic system that was cause for concern has now been addressed. A new system is in place, and the CEO has approved it.

e. The new state valuation was passed out to the Board.

f. The Public Works Department is looking into energy efficient grants.

g. Attorney Lee Bragg has approved the town's proposed moratorium ordinance against windpower turbines was approved. A public hearing and town meeting must be held in the near future.

On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following meetings:

Public Hearing

Proposed Windpower Moratorium Ordinance

Monday, September 28, 2009

5:00 p.m., Ludden Memorial Library

Special Town Meeting

Proposed Windpower Moratorium Ordinance

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

6:00 p.m., Ludden Memorial Library

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

8. Board Questions/Comments:

Town Office Photocopies: It had come to the attention of the Board that a citizen's request for free photocopies for various political projects in the area had been done, but that the town could not continue to do this for free. It could become quite costly and was not fair to other residents. On a motion from Mr. Desjardins and a second from Mr. Donahue, the Board voted unanimously to charge twenty- (25) five cents per copy with no exceptions.

Ellis Street Stop Sign: The Board discussed the visibility problem at the end of Ellis Street. The Town Manager will notify all residents of the Ellis Street area that the street may become a one-way town street in the near future.

Mr. Carlton: Selectman Carlton requested that the roads be checked to see if there are any problems with shoulders crumbling and undermining the pavement as they are on the Common Road. Thousands of dollars have been spent on repairs in various parts of town, and he felt these projects should be checked.

Mrs. Clarke: Mrs. Clarke reported on the meeting that she and Ms. Martin attended with the Mexico Sewer District. Another meeting has been scheduled in October to fine tune the contract with Dixfield. Both Selectmen will report to the Board after the meeting.

9. Other Business:

10. **Executive Session:** On a motion from Mr. Donahue and a second from Mr. Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:21 p.m. to discuss the Public Works Department labor contract.

11. **FYI:** So noted.

12: **Next Meeting:** Monday, September 28, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Office

13. **Adjournment:**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

/cmc

Attachments