

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town of Dixfield
Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor
Monday, October 24, 2011
5:00 p.m., Town Office

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

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Eugene R. Skubitsky (Town Manager), Charlotte M. Collins
(Minutes), Calvin Beaumier (CEO), Chief Pickett, Officer
Howe

Press Present: RVAC, Rumford Falls Times

Citizens Present: Freemont Tibbetts, Sean MacFarland, Robert Blanchard,
Dan McKay, Alice Barnett, and others

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Donahue called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.; the
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

PUBLIC HEARING – JUNKYARD AUTOMOBILE GRAVEYARDS

**Averill, Lester N. & Claud
Blanchard, Robert
Drown, Shannon
Hall, Clifford
Mitchell, Norman
Morrison Motors
Speranza, James**

Code Enforcement Officer Calvin Beaumier explained that he had inspected all
Junkyards prior to the meeting. He stated that he had been working with Mr. Blanchard
in the removal of cars that were located within the 100-year flood plain. Mr. Beaumier
proposes to give Mr. Blanchard until December 31st to comply with the statute and
recommended that a conditional license be approved with the above stipulation.

As there were no further questions or concerns, Chair Donahue closed the Public Hearing
at 5:05 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Gill, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes of October 10, 2011.

3. **Approval of Warrants and Payroll:** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Gill, Board voted unanimously to approve the warrants and payroll as listed on the agenda.

4. **Department Head Reports:**

a. **Police Department – Chief Pickett** reported the following:

- It was a busy month for the Police Department with 20 arrests and 36 offences
- The RSU No. 10 central office building and the Chow home burglaries have been cleared up with both investigations solved
- Graffiti was discovered in the dugouts; case solved with four people involved
- Sergeant Howe did a really great job with his investigative work
- Take Back Drugs will be held at the Police Department and Town Office on October 29, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Officer Anne Simmons-Edmunds is doing very well at the academy
- The Halloween Walk will be staffed with three officers
- Rumford Police Department will be hosting a “bath salts” seminar for area police and officials. The public is asked to let your local department know if you see suspicious activity

ATV Policy Update: The Chief met with Selectmen to discuss the proposed policy last week. The Chief strongly suggested that instead of policy development, an ordinance should be enacted by Annual Town Meeting vote. Another meeting with the ATV Club should be scheduled very soon. All State ATV Laws should be incorporated into the proposed ordinance.

Mr. MacFarland was present at the meeting to address his concerns about the public’s involvement in the process. He felt that as a taxpayer in Dixfield, ATV’s should be allowed to use town roads. Most people are very respectful of the current laws and regulations; it is just a small percentage that abuses the privilege. Mr. MacFarland also requested a Public ATV Hearing be held so that all interested citizens might attend.

5. **Old Business:**

a. **Fuel Oil Bids:** The Board discussed the various bids presented and voted as follows:

1. **Heating Oil:** On a motion from Mr. Withrow and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of “rack plus fifteen cents” from Dead River Co. for the town’s heating oil needs.

2. **Propane:** On a motion from Mrs. Clarke and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of a flat price of \$2.459 from Dead River Co. for the town's propane needs.

3. **Gasoline & Diesel:** On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid from Community Energy for the town's gasoline and diesel fuel needs.

b. **Tax Acquired Property Bids:**

- **804 Science Hill:** paid off
- **1436 Spring Street:** paid off
- **1 Dix Avenue:** on a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$4,000 (with a 10% deposit) from New Realty, Auburn, Maine
- **17 High Street:** on a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$12,000 (with a 10% deposit) from New Realty, Auburn, Maine
- **Church Street (acct. #1474):** On a motion from Mrs. Harvey and a second from Mr. Withrow, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$299 (total amount attached to bid) from Rodney Hall and to abate the remaining taxes owed. *The building was razed by the town; the sale is for land only.*
- **Church Street (acct. #1473):** On a motion from Mr. Withrow and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$900.11 from Scott Vail.

6. **New Business:**

a. **Junkyard Permits:** On a motion from Mr. Withrow and a second from Mrs. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Junkyard Permit Renewals with the exception of Robert Blanchard's. Mr. Blanchard's has conditional approval that he follows the Code Enforcement Officer's direction in removing all cars and/or junk from the 100-year Flood Plain by December 31, 2011.

b. **Culvert – Averill Hill Road (Dan Rand):** Mr. Rand did not attend the meeting; no action taken.

c. **Proposed Wind Ordinance – Dan McKay:** Mr. McKay emailed a portion of a proposed wind ordinance to the Town Manager regarding sound. He would like it to be made available for anyone else who was interested in sound levels. He will be writing a Wind Ordinance to be submitted by citizen petition for an Annual Town Meeting vote.

d. **Water Department Terms and Conditions:** A new rule from the P.U.C., Chapter 660 will allow towns to turn off water if sewer charges are not paid. The

information has been given to the Water Advisory Committee with Jim White's comments. Mr. White will attend the next meeting to discuss the changes which will need to be approved, signed by the Board and sent to the P.U.C.

7. Town Manager's Report:

a. **TIF Meeting:** A public TIF explanatory meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ludden Memorial Library. Representatives from the Department of Economic and Community Development and from Maine Revenue Services Property Tax Division will be on hand to give both sides of the TIF Program.

b. **Carthage Wind Project:** This project will have transmission lines which run through Dixfield.

c. **Overtime Wages:** Overtime, if requested, has been approved for employees working the Halloween Walk.

8. Board Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Clarke: Inquired about the judge assigned to the Thorpe Cat Lawsuit. Gravel needs to be placed on the Common Road. The Town Manager explained that due to Town Meeting votes, funds were not available for many of those projects.

Mr. Gill: Pave Porter Road? Next week.

Mrs. Harvey: expressed her appreciation and pride in the town's Fire Department during the recent tragedy involving one of our Junior Firefighters.

9. **Executive Session:** None

10. **FYI:** So Noted

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, November 14, 2011, Town Office, 5:00 p.m.

12. **Adjournment:** On a motion from Mr. Gill and a second from Mrs. Harvey, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte M. Collins
Secretary
/cmc
Attachments