

**Present:**

\*Lee M. Azinheira, Chairman  
Mark S. Nunes, Clerk

Manuel Branco, Vice Chairman  
David T. Hickox, Director

Carlos Cardoso, WPC Plant Manager          Steven Sullivan, Superintendent Water & Sewer Division  
Paul Pacheco, Superintendent Services & Infrastructure

\*Mr. Azinheira was absent due to a previously scheduled vacation.

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 a.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**After a motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco, it was voted two (2) in favor and one (1) absent (Mr. Azinheira) to approve and accept the warrants for the bills payable for the period ending July 21, 2011.**

**After a motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco, it was voted two (2) in favor and one (1) absent (Mr. Azinheira) to approve and accept the payrolls for the weeks ending July 1, 8, and 15, 2011.**

**After a motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco, it was voted two (2) in favor and one (1) absent (Mr. Azinheira) to approve and accept the Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2011.**

**APPOINTMENT**

**Meeting with Michael Watson, Chairman Select Board, regarding proposed revisions to the Dartmouth Charter**

The Vice Chairman welcomed Mr. Watson to the meeting.

Mr. Watson stated his reason to meet with the Board was to discuss the proposed revisions to the Charter that the Charter Review Committee is going to advance to the Select Board and then Town Meeting. He added that he did not want the Board to have any questions about the proposed revisions due to miscommunications.

Mr. Watson stated that the motion that seems to have created the most question of concern is the motion that deals with department heads and how they are appointed. He stressed that he is opposed to a Town Manager form of town government but noted for the record that an overwhelming majority of Massachusetts towns have a town manager. Although he himself doesn't believe that type of authority should be given to one appointed person, he does believe in seeking structural changes and efficiency.

Mr. Watson informed the Board that one of the items they are trying to put forth is a mechanism wherein the executive administrator/town administrator would be the agent whom the department heads would report to but would have no authority as to their appointments, hiring, firing, etc., other than his/her involvement with the Select Board. Mr. Watson pointed out that although the current department heads have an exemplary relationship with the executive administrator, there is no statutory responsibility that mandates that such so there needs to be a system in place that has a clear delineation

of what that authority is. He also stated that from a policy perspective that the Select Board or the Executive Administrator has no interest in getting involved in Board of Public Works' policy decisions.

In regard to Board of Public Works policies, Mr. Watson said that in no way shape or form would there be discussion regarding streets being paved or the method being used, or who would get licenses, sewer, or long-term capital planning, or other policy issues that the Board of Public Works deals with on a regular basis. He said the type of changes they are recommending are administrative i.e., vacation notice, payrolls, expenses, involvement with employee unions, vehicle inventory, etc. He said he does not see it as a radical change, not moving to a town manager, not a power grab but a modest shift to create efficiencies.

Mr. Nunes asked where the line of authority would start/stop under the shift to the town administrator. Mr. Watson replied that basically administrative responsibilities, i.e. payroll but the policy decisions would not change, which is clearly written in the motion. Mr. Nunes asked why the Town does not have a human resource department/person. Mr. Watson replied that he is an advocate of such but the issue is currently funding. Mr. Barnes said that it is not just a human element but also a technological element and they are currently in the midst of updating the payroll technology to time worked.

Mr. Watson concluded the meeting by reiterating that the changes are not a power-grab but rather the focus is bringing Dartmouth's government forward in a more efficient manner that creates resources.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Review of Resilient Seated Gate Valves and Fire Hydrants updated specifications**

Mr. Hickox informed the Board the specifications were revised per the American Water Works and as a result the related items would be rebid.

**After a motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco, it was voted two (2) in favor and one (1) absent (Mr. Azinheira) to incorporate the revised specifications for resilient seated gate valves and fire hydrants to the Department of Public Works construction specifications.**

### **Discussion on Water Division Articles Water Meter Upgrades**

The Director of Public Works stated that a water meter upgrade should be based on the needs and available technology for a community and the specifications should be based on such. He recommended securing an engineering company to explore the different types of technologies and finding the meter that is best suited for the needs of Dartmouth. Mr. Nunes said he would like to see a request for proposals for the engineering services.

### **New Source Approval – Panelli Well Site**

Mr. Hickox reported that AECOM's final report for potential additional wells within that watershed was completed in February. AECOM provided a budget proposal for services related to the permitting of four new water supply wells at the Panelli Well Site. Mr. Hickox believed the budget could be reduced and recommended that a more detailed breakdown of cost be requested if the Board wished to continue with the water exploration at the site. Mr. Branco expressed that he would like to

continue with well development. Mr. Nunes agreed. Mr. Sullivan noted that this is the last area with well potential.

### **Discussion on Curbside Recycling Contract services**

Mr. Hickox informed those Board members present that he had spoken to the Chairman on the item and Mr. Barnes was present to discuss some of the real costs i.e. potential Workers' Compensation claims, long-term medical costs, and pensions costs, which have been difficult to obtain. Mr. Hickox reviewed the analysis provided in the Board's informational packet. He noted the cost to provide the service by the private sector and the Town is very similar. He noted the private sector is making a profit and the Department has overhead costs. Mr. Nunes asked how the private sector can provide the service at a similar cost and make a profit. Mr. Hickox replied that due to prior mentioned costs that are not part of the analysis because the figures are not available. Mr. Barnes added that there are two costs that are not being charge back to the enterprise funds, retiree healthcare costs and future unfunded liability.

Mr. Nunes believes the service should remain in-house so long as it can be done efficiently and cost effective. He added that there is a concern regarding snow removal if the service becomes private. He stressed that he does not believe in pushing debt to the future and today's funds should be used for today's program. Mr. Nunes and Mr. Branco both agreed that the Department needs the manpower for general fund responsibilities.

Mr. Hickox continued to review the analysis noting that the goal is to provide a more efficient service without raising the base rate. He pointed out that since the conception of Pay-As-You-Throw, its budget has been considerably reduced on an annual basis. A discussion ensued in relation to both single and dual stream recycling options.

Mr. Barnes said he would like to have the opportunity to review the spreadsheets provided to him and add the actuaries. Mr. Hickox said he will prepare the articles for the fall town meeting as well as the capital project requests.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman asked those present if they wished to discuss any other business that morning.

The Board members agreed to meet again on August 4, at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. Hickox informed the Board that he would be provided a progress update on the Dartmouth Street Reconstruction Project to the Select Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.

Having no further business to discuss that morning, at approximately 9:10 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:  
Michelle L. DeFranco, Administrative Assistant

Approved: 09/08/11