

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, January 4, 2010**

Present: Chairman Wesley D. Goss, Walter F. Alterisio, Clerk and Procurement Officer and Member Kevin Welch

Meeting was called to order at 7:01PM with all members present. The board was visited by Road Commissioners Mike Martin & Tom Dumont providing their input relative to the personnel policy – Mike noting he didn't see the paragraph referenced in earlier discussion in the red-lined version. They noted they'd talked it over and suggested it be not within the jurisdiction of any other town board. Mike indicated the way he deciphers it is why bother having elected officials if they don't have a say and doesn't see where it would cause a problem to provide clarity that other boards also have jurisdiction over their own personnel. Selectman Alterisio advised that since it includes all employees, he'd encourage boards to review thoroughly.

BORC members Tom Dumont and Mike Martin provided brief update on snow removal operations.

Selectman Alterisio provided motion to approve minutes of 11/30 with little change at end of sentence saying adopted by the Board of Selectmen – page 5, 12/7 & 12/21 (already approved 12/14). Seconded and approved.

Sue inquired about the STM warrant and questioned whether there'd been an article included for the Union School windows with CPA funds. Sue wanted to get the Historical Commission's decision read into the record – discussion continued on the grant application and the reasoning for leaving it out of the warrant.

The board noted the 3 versions for the 01-25-10 STM warrant and secretary explained the differences and reasons for changes. Susan inquired whether the Selectmen were backing the purchase of the Carter property since we didn't get the state funding. Discussion continued on the advantages of provisions which would provide for affordable housing with some of the existing properties and who would act as the housing authority, especially where we don't have an inventory. Susan indicated there were probably some things that could be done in the interim.

Mail: Selectman Alterisio called attention to the most recent assessment of the Salmon Bridge noting that it appears to indicate there are problems but it's not obvious what needs to be done. Selectman Alterisio noted that we've been aware there were some

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issues. Secretary was asked to forward on to Board of Road Commissioners for their attention.

Selectman Alterisio recognized Mr. Raymond and inquired whether he had a specific purpose – he was looking into what was on the agenda.

Selectman Welch noted the correspondence from Town Clerk and the problems with relocating voting booths and equipment. Highway customarily moves the paraphernalia back and forth but with snow removal operations, etc. have encountered some scheduling problems. Selectman Welch has done it a few times himself but Carol is looking for some provisions to be put in place. Selectman Alterisio noted that one of his vans might be able to transport some of the items. Selectman Welch noted another problem is that booths, etc. are currently stored at 160, hwy doesn't plow at 160 so when an election falls in the winter, it complicates access, transport, etc.

Deadlines for letters of intent – need date from Caucus Committee – Selectman Alterisio reported that Rich has looked into material for caucus rules – not required to be adopted at Town Meeting – as long as rules are not in conflict with MGL. That's one of the issues Town Clerk had raised – some of our previous rules were in conflict of election laws. Rich will be forwarding information to Selectman Alterisio and he has spoken with Carol about sitting with Rich and him to go over the provisions which Rich has pulled together. Selectman Alterisio noted there's been a wrinkle with Carol's term ending this year.

The Board voted to approve the increase in wages for poll workers as presented by Town Clerk with Selectman Welch providing motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectman Alterisio and voted with all in favor and board signed memo confirming their approval. Original will be provided to Town Clerk and copy will be provided to the Advisory Board as well.

The board noted Town Clerk's reference to the un-sworn members of the zoning review committee and Selectman Welch noted that he'd spoken with town counsel earlier this evening and he advised that as advisory committee really didn't need to be sworn.

The board reviewed the STM warrant articles for 01-25-10 STM, with brief discussion relative to the article relative to quorum.

On another item, Jim Regan addressed the questions he'd raised back some time ago relative to what happens if the reimbursements from

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the state were reduced or eliminated, will we have enough to cover? Selectman Welch indicated for this newest one, there wouldn't be a problem but could be with the Ferrari property bond. While all could see the purpose of handling this purchase this way, there were some concerns expressed relative to bond payments in the future should our revenue from state reimbursement be reduced or eliminated. Discussion continued on the effects of reduction in reimbursement or amendment of the town's CPA participation status.

On another item, Jim Regan inquired relative to conservation restrictions on Hardman and Sears parcels delegated under direction of the Rural Land Trust. Jim questioned other options – like with Horse Hill (all of the land with quarry, etc. was donated to DRLT, which means once it's provided to DRLT, town has no further control and DRLT could sell, etc.) Selectman Alterisio noted that might be correct in that particular instance but with a conservation restriction, it's not donated, the property owner maintains ownership but the use of the land is restricted permanently. Jim questioned why land should be given to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust as a term of cluster zoning, etc. Discussion continued on the provisions of the subdivision control law which includes an option for donation to Dunstable Rural Land Trust and the advantages or disadvantages of such.

Selectman Welch drew attention to correspondence from NMCOG re: E911 program and scheduled discussions. Selectman Alterisio recollected the response from Chief Downes and the town of Groton because Dunstable is already considered part of a regional dispatch arrangement. Selectman Alterisio noted that Dunstable as part of NMCOG had agreed to participation in the research. 9AM-11AM on January 8<sup>th</sup> for NMCOG meeting on the subject – make sure space available.

Selectman Alterisio reported on his meeting with the school district – noting that Dan St. Jean and Ron Mikol were participants – purpose was to meet deadline – looking about 2½% increase. Mr. Mikol felt the 80K that Dunstable would need to come up with would be doable. Transportation cuts are reported to be reinstated to previous commitment for FY10. Selectman Welch noted that's just for this year, no commitment for 2011. Discussion continued on how towns could make a commitment without the figures from the state. Selectman Alterisio advised that if they're going to ask for more, they need to provide scenario with reasons and expectations for resolution. Selectman Welch noted that what works for this district is to come up with the number they want and then send out the appeal for an

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override. Selectman Welch explained that DOR indicates this is not the way it's handled in the majority of towns – the towns determine what they have available for schools and schools must live within it.

Common Victualler's license for Dunstable General, STM Warrant and Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:05PM after proper motions and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary

