

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, March 22, 2010

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:03PM with quorum present. Selectman Welch noted that Rich will be here at 8PM to go over the articles and then Genovese & Fincom are scheduled for 8:30 to discuss GDRSD budget request and recommendations. Selectman Welch advised his understanding is that GDRSD has suggested an override that would mean additional \$500 per year per home for this year and another override of equal size next year. Board indicated they intended to wait to hear Fincom's recommendation.

The board voted to call the caucus, with Selectman Alterisio providing the motion, Selectman Welch and signed the pertinent notice. Selectman Alterisio reported that he'd spoken with David Webber and he advised that once Town Clerk had opened the caucus, he'd be prepared to nominate David Webber as Chairman of the Caucus and he explained the expected process – with nominations, marking on white board and blank ballots.

Minutes 3/1, 3/8 & 3/15 were approved as written. Selectman Alterisio suggested taking a couple of minutes to sort out memos from Kim – 1st one is for keeping & signing the time sheet. It was noted that Town Treasurer has been putting through the time sheet for Selectmen's Secretary, etc.

Secretary will ask Kim if she could provide the language for document she'd like authorizing signatures for expenditures and the board will endorse.

The board noted the request from American Lung Association for a cross state trek and voted to approve – starts in Williamstown, through Gardner finishing in Gloucester. Selectman Alterisio signed – will be forwarded with copy to Chief Downes.

Selectman Alterisio asked to just spend a couple of minutes on where they want to be with relation to the override – dependent on value, would either support or not. Selectman Welch noted the problem with dealing with them is that historically they haven't been on the level with the towns – leaves the towns not knowing where they stand and left with the consequences. Selectman Alterisio suggested as far as he's concerned, in order to support an override, need a plan in place to address the situation and prepare to get out of that predicament; not interested in supporting a plan for repeat overrides. Selectman Welch

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noted that from what he's heard the proposal was for override after override after override, which could result in the average additional costs per household going from \$500 to \$2000 per year for the school's operation.

Selectman Alterisio noted the comparison between Greater Lowell Regional Vocational at \$32M and wondered with the increased numbers at GLTHS how do they get off the hook at \$32M. In order to go along with, Selectman Alterisio is a proponent of 2 ½ in order to support, must provide the plan to address. Selectman Welch noted that the Town of Dunstable is paying the voke at 64% foundation – target is 60%, need to get the numbers down.

Selectman Welch noted the cost per pupil at Groton Dunstable is up over \$10K – very close to the voc. Selectman Alterisio & Selectman Welch discussed the equation for the voc to our system, noting could possibly be related to the debt carried by GDRSD.

Board was basically fine with articles 1-8, need some clarification on article 9 with Selectman Welch advising that he understood that highway is going to get the old tanker truck and put a sander on it. The discussion continued on the costs of operating different departments with Selectman Welch noting that our public safety budget is over \$1M for 3000 residences. The board noted that while we have about 2-3 police officers per 1000 residents whereas most towns have 1 cop/1000 residents; it's to maintain 24 hour coverage but Selectman Welch suggested that while he fully understands how it works out, it's our job to try and manage more efficiently. The board discussed some of the options and the complications that have been suggested, noting that state police could be available if needed. Selectman Alterisio noted that along with the assessment of 911 that NMCOG has been conducting, the contract has been extended and funded for regional lockup noting logical approach would probably be Billerica. Selectman Alterisio noted that study has been extended and funded to look at regional lockup and it may provide some answers for the smaller communities.

The board continued to review the initial draft of the warrant noting the sprinkler article in there again – now have more supporting documentation for what's been spent to date for the lawn sprinklers.

The board briefly discussed article 12 – police records system requested. With Town Counsel joining the meeting, Selectman Welch inquired on the grant for the windows, etc. for the Swallow Union

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School. Discussion continued on who would be doing the paperwork, bids, etc. Selectman Welch advised they all met Thursday at CPA, everyone seems happy with the project. Rich noted there's a lot of detailed procedures that have to meet the protocol – probably will fall with Selectmen's secretary, Town Treasurer, etc. to pull together. Reports will need to be made. Rich asked whether we planned to advertise. Selectman Welch advised as soon as Rich gives the approval, we will start the ball rolling with advertisement, etc.; he'll go thru and pick up a couple of things like benchmarks, etc. Selectman Welch noted it's boilerplate. Rich's immediate concern is putting the RFPs out in basics of what they want to see – Selectman Welch noted that his plan was to have school pull together the language, etc. as they deal with this type of thing all the time.

Rich advised on appeal in land court NRLC vs. Town of Dunstable, settlement reached about 20 pages worth, court didn't give up case; subdivision approval went in early on schedule, then they ran into turtle problems which took them out of town's authority; apparently settled issue with turtles, now back with Town of Dunstable relative to tract of land, etc. and adjustments that will be made to address controversial area. NRLC was supposed to record notice in Registry of Deeds that they're holding land for Town of Dunstable – town going to record the notice which would basically get it out of land court.

The Board reviewed and signed treasurer's warrants and voted to adjourn at 8:30PM so they could join Fincom in a meeting with Superintendent Genovese and GDRSD school committee members Jim Frey & Erik Dichter re: the school budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary