

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, June 14, 2010

Present: Kevin W. Welch, Chairman, Kenneth J. Leva, Clerk and Walter F. Alterisio, Procurement Officer and Member

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. Chairman Welch referred to the bills for legal – have \$2186 left out of \$30K, could pay Bobrowski out of regular legal and town counsel's bill out of special legal. Discussion continued on how best to handle and it was decided that it should be taken out of regular legal and then transfer special legal into legal.

Chairman Welch, speaking of Rich we received large packet today via fax from the Town of Mt. Washington MA regarding changes in legislation for windmills – send over to Rich to see if we're covered. Chairman Welch noted that windmill farms are being closed down across the country because of problems with birds, etc. The most recent correspondence relative to zero tolerance for seat belt violations will be forwarded to Chief for input.

The board noted the meeting agenda for the next school committee meeting with Selectman Alterisio noted there were a number of line items questioned in the school budget & he'd encourage those things to be taken off the table first before real cuts are made. The board noted that numbers are different than represented and how frustrating it is to try to work through when you don't have the real numbers.

Chairman Welch addressed request from Town accountant recommending Selectmen vote to approve Director of Accounts to hold over deficit spending for 1895-DR-MA deficit spending policy. This authorizes the payment in lieu of reimbursement from FEMA for FEMA disaster 1895-DR-MA. Selectman Alterisio was somewhat concerned if follow-up isn't sufficient and we don't get the reimbursement but indicated no problem as long as Town Accountant kept board apprised of any concerns. Selectman Alterisio provided motion to allow direct costs incurred by Fire, Highway and Police related to the storm/flooding disaster for FEMA disaster 1895-DR-MA to be paid and reported to FEMA in accordance with provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 31. Vote was taken with all in favor.

NMCOG meeting – Selectman Alterisio indicated that individual from Devens was talking about assistance being provided to veterans and cooperation on initiative. He further reported initiative would come from Peter. He also noted along the lines with NMCOG last time talked about potential projects for grants – NMCOG picking up on Massapoag – apparently has been sold to Lowell YMCA – they own and plan to maintain as camp and doesn't look like they're seeking support from either town. On same subject, Chairman Welch noted he thought it might be beneficial

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to approach YMCA to see if could possibly explore some options for town use of the facilities. Selectman Alterisio will speak with Dave Kimpton's daughter re: possibilities.

Chairman Welch noted information from Suburban Coalition in board's mail requesting membership entry from the town noting a number of groups. Update from FEMA on map change will be forwarded to NMCOG. Chairman Welch noted Town Clerk's update on open meeting law requirements Board briefly discussed some of the options that might be available, must be town building available 24/7.

Town Clerk is asking that Town of Dunstable raise the rate for mileage reimbursement from 40.5 cents per mile to 50 cents per mile. Selectman Alterisio suggested that the board vote a rate consistent with IRS. The Board voted to adopt policy to comply with whatever the approved IRS rate is at the time.

Appointments: Police Chief has requested appointment of Tyngsboro, Groton, Pepperell officers, as stipulated as special police officers for the Town of Dunstable. Selectman Alterisio provided motion and board voted to accept the recommendations of the chief as listed in Chief's request and made appointments accordingly.

The Board appointed Mary Moeller, Jean Carpenter and Carol Vaillancourt to Council On Aging, Kim Fales as Town Accountant, Dana E Barnes as Building Inspector, Zoning Officer and ADA Coordinator, and Alan E. Chaney to Conservation Commission.

The Board approved Dunstable republican town committee use of town hall for June 22nd? Chairman Welch signed the acknowledgement of Open Meeting Law documentation receipt for transmission to Town Clerk.

Selectman Alterisio noted that we're going to have to make some provision for people dropping in, possibly take information and put on agenda for following week for action or discussion.

Chairman Welch referred to the Chief's request for advertisement for a reserve officer who is academy trained so that if at any particular point in time he were to lose an officer, has someone to step in rather than having to lose the officer and possibly be left without an academy trained officer. Discussion continued on the need and how best to handle. Chairman Welch noted right now we have 7 full time officers, Selectman Alterisio which is the minimum number necessary for 24/7. Chairman Welch indicated he's not sure that this might be the time to discuss regionalization, noting that cops grants allowed us to move to 24/7 coverage but then the funding dried up. Discussion continued on

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previous issues with Groton relative to coverage. Chairman Welch noted the coverage we're providing in the fire department world – with 2/3 of all the calls being outside town. He noted that our guys are getting sick of responding to small fires like a stove fire, etc. Chairman Welch suggested that we need to start looking more closely to coverage needs, suggested we should talk to the Chief and see if he can pull in other towns in the area and pursue the regionalization options.

Jim Tully came in and advised he'd met with Parks, would Selectmen have an objection to the signage he'd proposed at Larter Field. The board noted that signage provisions within the zoning bylaws would need to be amended at Town meeting. Jim advised there's \$10-20K of funding that the town is losing. Jim advised that he could put together the article. Selectman Leva suggested contacting some other small towns for examples of how they handled signage so it would be acceptable. Selectman Alterisio referenced the Larter trust and benefits which might be available through the trust. Selectman Alterisio suggested putting together a package with a plan and bringing it before the trust- need to have program put together and approach the trust. Jim hates to be the bad guy but doesn't want his son playing 13 year old baseball down there and the fields are gone. Cow Pond is in great shape – strong group because of experience. Chairman Welch indicated that need to get an accounting from Kim.

Selectman Alterisio noted that he's aware of a situation at the Lowell Dialysis center – staff is having a real tough time with people being treated disrespectfully, not being picked up on time, etc. they approached Selectman Alterisio and asked whether or not Board would consider approach of sending letter to Chairman of Saints Memorial and Mass Health and Senator Panagiotakos appraising of situation that has yet to be resolved – on behalf of the Board, many who are supported by Mass Health, some of whom are from Dunstable. Selectman Alterisio indicated his willingness to put letter together, would not under his name alone but felt it was an initiative the board could support. Board agreed that it was an important issue to pursue. Selectman Alterisio reported on some of the incidents he's seen and we'd basically just be bringing some visibility to the problem. People should be treated like people regardless of their status in the economic rung. Board was supportive and Selectman Alterisio will put something together for their signatures.

Selectman Leva had a question on the community green committee and incentives that are availability. Chairman Welch noted there are all sorts of incentives – windows for Union School is through one of those grants. He noted while everyone's for green movement, there's generally not sufficient cost savings to cover costs of implementation. Selectman Alterisio advised there's a project being put together in Tyngsboro in the

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area of the old Joan Fabrics plant – 125 acres – in something like 10 years expected to return like \$1M to the town from the investment. Selectman Alterisio noted the one thing Dunstable has is land, if we could find a way to finesse those resources into some form of income generating additional revenue. Have to come up with something.

Selectman Leva asked about some of the ideas that have come before the town – Selectman Alterisio not a hell of a lot – golf course which would have required a liquor license for the clubhouse. Chairman Welch noted previous committee looking for options with nothing productive brought forth. Chairman Welch noted the attempts at personnel to address grants, etc. He indicated that if we don't get a handle on the public safety budgets, our police budget will be well over \$1M a year. Chairman Welch indicated another key component on any initiative is to get schools on board. Grant filing requirements increase all the time especially now that the money's tighter.

Selectman Alterisio referenced application for waiver for Fire Chief to work through end of fiscal year when he reaches 65 noting he believed it was taken care of at its first meeting after ATM. Minutes from 6/7 were held over for the next meeting.

Chairman Welch suggested checking with Rich, ask him to review his notes and go from there. He further indicated we need to pursue grounds management, etc. with Parks & Recreation. Selectman Alterisio noted one of the things that came in some time ago for an application for lighting the field from Granite City.

The Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM after proper motions and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary