

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, July 12, 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 noted that Town Counsel had approved draft of letter being sent to Senator Panagiotakos on new Open Meeting. Chairman Welch reported that we'd sent out questionnaire to Small Town administrators group to see if it's been a show stopper for them – no response.

Mail: request from Ted & Sue Gaudette re: Korean War monument and Vietnam monument initiative and the Board indicated their support for the initiative, accepted the agenda presented and secretary will send out reply to Ted to that affect. Chairman Welch also drew attention to the meeting scheduled for this past Friday re: Rivers Edge Estates. Secretary advised that NMCOG had representation and Conservation had planned to. Selectman Alterisio advised he had a copy of the report NMCOG prepared. Chairman Welch reference information from MMA and MMPA – Board approved membership in both.

The board briefly discussed the town's membership in NMCOG approving membership renewal. It was noted that Selectman Alterisio has served as the board's representative.

The board signed the warrant for the September primary election as requested by Town Clerk.

Chairman Welch referenced proposed contract for paramedic service from Saints Medical.

Lt. Dow reported back on the cruiser training – would like to keep the cruiser, could make it work through the budget to cover with insurance. Chairman Welch asked whether they'd mentioned using their vehicles vs. ours. He indicated he believed was run by the state and minimum is run by the state. He spoke with the Chief and the gentlemen who runs the classes – basically all defensive, not relative to any sort of pursuit issues. Chief plans as we get the new cars, will come up with plan on how to cycle out – hanging on to the best of the cruisers. Policed department will assume the cost for insurance, etc.

Lieutenant Dow reported on the Massachusetts Six Shooters event held @Goss Farm over the weekend.

Chairman Welch referred back to contract with Saints Medical Center which basically sends out the paramedic support – called in for advanced

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life support. Selectman Alterisio advised that usually that group meets the ambulance enroute to the hospital.

Chief Rich has also submitted request for additional volunteer firefighter – Amanda Turcotte. Selectman Alterisio provided motion to support the Fire Chief's decision.

Selectman Alterisio provided update on ambulance service – they met with Trinity proposing a one year agreement; replacement program has been agreed; structure fire issue – language will indicate that they'll make every effort to insure one is there. Contract has been reformatted and Selectman Alterisio has presented to Chief Rich for review. Pepperell option is with their Town Administrator. Selectman Alterisio has encouraged Chief Rich to put Dunstable in a position where they can bargain for ambulance coverage – with more than one option. He indicated his concern with somewhere down the line, where do we go from there. He also indicated that he felt the Chief is looking at when he might step down due to retirement, indicating that since no one is stepping up, that he felt the Chief was leaning toward incorporating under Pepperell's Fire Department. The board noted that Police have to be in on this, as they're normally the first responders on scene, must be comfortable with relationship. There was some uncertainty as to whether all the Chiefs have come together on the best approach.

Hang up that Selectman Alterisio has with an agreement with Pepperell is that although ambulance service would be paid by users, the Town of Pepperell has a line item for ambulance budget which is covered via taxes. If we do move forward, Selectman Alterisio wants to make sure that there's full agreement on how it's going to work.

Chairman Welch noted that our number one priority in this office is public safety – need to be sure that all are in agreement and it's in the best interest of the town. Chairman Welch noted that need to keep everyone in line and work together.

Chairman Welch: advertising issue for Larter Field. Selectman Alterisio advised that he's gone through Sue Lingeman's letter and her attorney's letter, noting that this isn't dealing with billboards but generating funds to support the maintenance of the field. Chairman Welch indicated that he wasn't opposed to what Selectman Alterisio was saying, doesn't know how efficiently it's being maintained and personally he felt we should let it go and support the family. He indicated the need to make sure it's being properly maintained – Selectman Alterisio advised that Parks group is responsible for the maintenance of the facilities – Reservation is responsible for scheduling, etc. Selectman Alterisio suggested getting the parks group in here since someone has raised issue that facility isn't

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being maintained, where are they with it. If no plan, look at how it can be addressed, funding requirements, etc. Selectman Leva indicated issue is that you have someone who has an idea to help, and things getting out and kinda gets blown out of proportion. Selectman Leva noted that may be good idea but also contact with Larter family should be 1st. Selectman Leva noted that while Jimmy Tully came in a couple of times, process had gotten out of hand.

Selectman Alterisio noted primary question is, is there an issue with Larter Field and if so, what are they going to do about it. Selectman Alterisio would like to have Parks come in and have a discussion about Larter Field. Chairman Welch felt it should be both Parks & Recreation because they both need to work together, noting that Jimmy did the right thing bringing it to the Selectmen. He indicated the time has come to address the issues.

Chairman Welch noted that the board should keep in mind there's another partner in this from Groton with Groton Dunstable Soccer Club, and issues come up every year. Chairman Welch noted that he interpreted town counsel's advice to be to not pursue. The board noted the need to maintain donee's trust. Chairman Welch cautioned to keep in mind the discrepancies that have come up relative to signage.

Selectman Alterisio advised that NMCOG has written letter to District Highway. Selectman Leva addressed interest in the Zoning Review Committee and Danny Devlin's has expressed interest. Secretary advised that he'd called but indicated interest in ZBA, she'd forwarded information on to ZBA secretary.

Board addressed annual appointments – no more input but one outstanding import appointment for Town Engineer – need to appoint a town engineer but also need input from Highway who works closely with the Town Engineer. Groups who've used him primarily is Roads Commission and Planning Board and they should be represented in any discussion. Chairman Welch indicated we need to hear from Roads & Planning before moving forward with the appointment.

The Board noted Library Director's response that she no longer supports the request due to the precedent that might be set. The board discussed the issue further – noting that funds are municipal funds once donated to the town. Chairman Welch noted that Library doesn't have excess funds to support the library in the case of any minor disaster including items such as air conditioner failure, etc. Chairman Welch advised he also didn't think it was appropriate for the Board of Selectmen to sign off on funds use for something other than the purpose it was donated for – should come before Town Meeting. Selectman Alterisio's whole intent

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was to ask the Trustees – respond back thanking MaryBeth but denying approval. Chairman Welch noted that she made an excellent suggestion for use of the funds for improving handicap accessibility at the Library.

Chairman Welch provided update on Union Windows Bid advising basically had one qualified bid, and when they asked those who'd picked up packages why they hadn't bid, general answer was time limitations made it prohibitive – will be advertised again this Wednesday, July 14th.

Chairman Welch advised that Groton has combined a lot of their maintenance type services – public works, etc and been able to save by doing so. He suggested that possibly Dunstable might benefit by doing so and may – those are the sorts of things he'd like to see a member from Fincom step up to. Selectman Alterisio indicated the only problem with that approach is that every time that type of initiative has been suggested, the road commissioners have had reservations that it might interfere with highway needs.

Chairman Welch drew attention to a Cemetery payroll which showed a negative amount from Cemetery revolving which prompted brief discussion and indications that it probably was reflecting transfers from one account to another. He also noted abatement didn't reflect addresses, etc. – secretary will check with Assessors.

Minutes of 6/28: Selectman Alterisio provided motion to approve, 2nd by Selectman Leva and voted with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM after appropriate motions and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary