

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 4, 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. The board briefly reviewed the quotes provided by Fire Department for replacement windows for the Fire Station, noting quotes at \$3500, \$4615 & \$4976.15. Chief will be presenting to Fincom requesting direction on funding.

The board briefly discussed the determination from MA Farm Bureau relative to removal of material from site in preparation for agricultural purposes such as future construction of a greenhouse. Chairman Welch inquired whether there were any updates on memo presented by Building Inspector relative to zoning violations and other violations in town that need to be addressed. Selectman Alterisio reflected on interpretations of the different bylaw regulations and how interpretations are determined. Does it make sense to bring charges against some violators – do some of the regulations in place make sense, are there adjustments that need to be made. Selectman Alterisio would like to give Building Inspector the signal that BOS are 100% behind what he's trying to do. With respect to hearing would like to gather the information together and take a look at the particulars next week- what's the complaint, the process for establishing hearing, what notice looks like and how to move forward. Selectman Alterisio indicated that sometimes he hears things that if you don't support the argument, determination can be made. Board briefly discussed the process followed with the previous hearing on this parcel and subject.

Chairman Welch noted as the economy gets tighter and tighter more people are going to be bringing their business home and we're going to have to be dealing with this issue further. Chairman Welch noted that Dana knows the laws, and has been successful with enforcement.

The board briefly discussed previous cases with alleged agricultural operations, including Henry case and court determinations, etc. Selectman Alterisio indicated his point was that we ought to take a look at what he's been talking about and how to support. Selectman Alterisio would like to hear from Building Inspector what types of changes he might recommend to the zoning. Secretary to pull together items Dana mentioned, what's been issued, what are zoning violation and how to move forward from there.

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Fire Chief stopped in with photo of the Pond Street barn fire reporting how thankful they were for the tanker and rain which lessened the impact.

The Board noted that next Monday is a legal holiday, and since the board had nothing pressing, the board decided to forego meeting for next week.

During the mail review Chairman Welch drew attention to miscellaneous items in the mail including e-mail discussion re: maintenance of zoning bylaws. Chairman Welch reported bottom line of the postings is to make a legitimate effort to get information out there. Chairman Welch indicated the intent is to control the bylaws of the town which she indicates most town clerks maintain the records. Chairman Welch indicated since the Selectmen's office is technically responsible for enforcements of the bylaws, while the Clerk is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the documents. He indicated he feels we should maintain the composition of the documents and she should maintain her own copy. Selectmen have the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the zoning bylaws but it makes sense for her to be providing true attest copies of the one that's recorded in her office.

Selectman Alterisio reported that Marty Meehan will be meeting with NMCOG on October 28th and board members are invited to attend. Selectman Alterisio advised the plan is for NMCOG to keep a pretty light agenda that evening, and Selectman Alterisio could make arrangements for tickets. Selectman Alterisio advised they used to have election of officers at that particular meeting but election has already taken place with quite a few changes – new individuals ready to step up to the plate. Dunstable's Planning Board representative on NMCOG has resigned and not been replaced.

Copy of letter Town Treasurer received from Attorney General Martha Coakley relative to funds being returned to the town from overcharges made by CVS. Mailing from Bay State Roads program on various meetings and training relative to roads maintenance and issues.

Chairman Welch also drew attention to notice from Conservation on National Grid's plans for maintenance Selectman Alterisio noted that we haven't heard anything from them in sometime relative to coverage during storms, etc.

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The board approved minutes of 9/27 as written. The board reviewed and signed the Treasurer's warrants and signed the November election warrant. Selectman Alterisio drew attention to the ballot question regarding reducing sales tax to 3% and the board discussed some of the options and the effects that would or could result and numerous other ballot attempts that are proposed and have come through before.

Selectman Leva reported the shindig at Goss Farm scheduled for late October has been cancelled.

The board noted their next meeting was scheduled for October 18th and secretary was asked to pull together related materials on zoning issues our Zoning Officer Dana Barnes brought forward. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM after appropriate motions and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary