

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2010**

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

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Selectman Alterisio reviewed the items secretary needs to pull together in preparation for hearing relative to junk vehicles complaint on Pleasant Street.

Fire Chief Rich reported that one of the firefighters had his fingers crushed during extrication training over the weekend.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. Chairman Welch advised that while Fire Chief was present, discussion was scheduled for 7:15 so must wait until then. Chairman Welch noted three warrants requiring the board's signatures.

Chairman Welch noted DOR offers multiple services to cities and towns and the one that caught his eye is the financial management review. He noted there is a waiting list for the service but felt it would be very worthwhile. The Board felt it appropriate give the heads up to Town Accountant and Advisory Board that they're making the request. Secretary was asked to blow out e-mail to both Town Accountant & Fincom that the board has voted to pursue.

Chairman Welch drew attention in the mail, to changes in OML reported by Town Clerk, which eliminates the need for outside posting of the meeting notices – 24 hour requirement can now be satisfied by website posting. Discussion continued on the appropriate method for posting and whether the individual boards must actually post their notices on the website or Town Clerk's breakdown in calendar were sufficient.

The board noted the packet of information relative to Zoning Officer's memo on zoning violations reported in his 9-27-10 memo on the subject. Selectman Alterisio noted board needed to bring themselves up to speed on the issues so they understand the circumstances. Selectman Alterisio indicated upon research may uncover some inconsistencies or portions of the bylaw that need to be amended.

In both cases it's about running a business either without a permit or outside the conditions of the permit. Selectman Alterisio noted the question is should we open up to allow more acceptable provisions within home occupations. Question is whether the zoning bylaw is too restrictive for some home occupations, noting that wouldn't want a one acre lot to accommodate an operation the size of Morin's Landscaping. Chairman Welch reported that he went by Fenns the other day and that was all cleaned up, there wasn't a thing out there but Selectman Alterisio cautioned he believed that Dana still feels he's operating outside the permit. It's a sign of the times that people need to find an avenue to continue to make a living. Selectman Alterisio

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2010**

indicated he felt it would be a good idea for board to review the materials to understand.

Fire Chief Rich reported on the 10-10-10 skydiver rescue by special unit who responded to help get the gentlemen down. He's spoken with gentleman Richie Harris, who's running the specialized unit and does not believe we'll be getting a bill. He reported that he'd hosted a Chapter 6 meeting and they indicate that Chief Roschan from Westford made recommendation for a letter to be drawn up relative to the service. He also provided the board with recommended changes to the fire department fees.

Incident with new truck – stabilization sensor on it – made for a cement mixer – had to be modified. Liberty had it for 2 days – new tanker truck saved the house beside that barn. Pictures reflect the amazing factors that were in play and confirmed the importance of that truck. Great team effort with mutual aid provided.

Chief Rich reported on accident on Thorndike Street, CPR in progress on Pond Street that despite all best efforts, didn't turn out well. He indicated part of the reason is that EMTs aren't showing up, but advised are now toning fire for all medical calls which gives a little extra help. Response from ambulance service is working out very well - has been better than anticipated; most of the time they even show up without being toned.

He indicated his personal feeling that billing for assistance isn't right adding that if individuals are in the station anyway, doesn't make any sense to bill for a service that's already being paid by the community.

The board briefly reviewed the material supplied by Chief Rich. Fee hearing needs to be scheduled – send memo out to all departments with fees for their input as to whether they have fee proposals. Chief Rich reported on some of the new fees proposed and that until he got involved with all the inspections, he wasn't aware how much was involved.

Chief Rich advised that when a Fire Chief turns 65 must retire at the end of that month – he's spoken with Representative Hargraves who sent him back to Town Counsel; there's a process for a waiver but must go before the senate for approval – this coming March he'll be 64 so have a year and 6 months to address.

He also advised he had a gentleman offer to donate a fairly new weight bench and free weights to the Fire Department and he would like a letter confirming the donation and its value. The board didn't have a problem as long as substantiated the appraisal is reasonable. While there's a limit for each year based on your income, it can be forward over a number of years. Charlie doesn't see any problem but wanted to be certain the board had no problem with it. He indicated it could be kept in their new shed until set up.

## Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2010

The other thing Selectman Alterisio was a little bit startled at article in the paper on the fees being charged by Trinity – like a \$4400 charge which would have been only \$1400. Chief Rich advised that when Tyngsboro & Dracut got into discussion, it was reported at \$800 for PrideStar, \$1100 for Patriot and \$1800 for Trinity. Discussion continued on the whether charges are way out of hand and how they are being determined. Charlie advised that Westford ambulance is operated thru an enterprise fund and there is a fair amount of money to be made. Selectman Alterisio noted that we want quality service but at a level that residents aren't going to be hurt by the charges....some notation of newspaper report of an individual whose home was attached for the bill.

Chief Rich advised may be looking to make a move with portables for EMS & fire; they're on uhf and EMS is on vhf – does it make sense to combine them both on one frequency so don't have to carry two separate radios. Repeater located on Trask Lane is on private property – suggested some provisions for protection – should it be addressed or not – what if were to have lightening strike. Selectman Leva will stop in and see Charlie on the subject – has a couple of ideas on how to address.

Charlie reported that other than that thinks are doing all right – response has improved.

The treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the minutes of 10/4 were approved as written after motion by Selectman Alterisio, 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimous vote.

Selectman Alterisio reported he'd sat in on the latter portion of Fincom's last meeting and thought that advisory had given the thumbs up on the windows for the Fire Station. Librarian also visited Fincom relative to the repairs necessary for the heat & ac system.

Chairman Welch called attention to the letter from DOT relative to the status of the McGovern Wall project, approved for construction. He reported on all the efforts to bring the letter to fruition on many fronts, BOS office, NMCOG, Town Engineer, Senator Panagiotakos office.

Chairman Welch advised that he met with Chief Downes last week and noted that while the Board had voted to ask all department to hold off on expenditures until had definitive on town's financial position with schools. Chief had been asked not to move forward with the purchase of the records management software. Board must ultimately approve, though Fincom included in the budget. Chief has already ordered the software based on Fincom's approval while should have been. He reported that he'd intended to work with the Chief to see about getting a grant for the software. Dave Tully has been researching the costs for salt shed but the company has the wherewithal to put grant together so that salt shed would be paid for at no cost to the town.

**Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2010**

Chairman Welch noted that Fincom's advice has been costing the town money. One thing we asked them to address was Library utilities and they've gotten nowhere with it. He indicated we have to be vigilant with this thing to keep personnel from getting in trouble. He noted that we were very diligent and took vote to hold off on purchases until further approval. Chairman Welch advised that board didn't know that Fincom had given approval – 1<sup>st</sup> he learned of it was Tuesday morning. He noted partial bill - \$40K initial purchase with annual licensing cost of \$5k. Chairman Welch noted the importance of documentation for authority to purchase. Now the town is picking up the full cost where some pressure could've been put on supplier for grant application. The grants are out there, every other town is doing it. Give it some thought, need to be able to protect our employees or appointees and substantiate approval for spending. Selectman Alterisio noted that while Chief made purchase based on town meeting vote, done deal while Board didn't give final approval since town meeting.

Going forward, if anyone is interested with schools or anything else, Groton has again had their town manager run out and ask school committee for percentage – no discussion with Town of Dunstable. Selectman Alterisio noted there's some other concerns how are they using the stimulus money is there a strategy or plan for how it will be applied? Discussion continued on how it can be applied. Board noted that Town of Groton has a special town meeting taking place tonight. Need to talk with Joe of GDRSD.

Selectman Alterisio inquired relative to Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>, did either of the board members have an interest in attending NMCOG – both did. Chairman Welch suggested no meeting next Monday unless something comes up and the board members agreed.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and meeting adjourned at 8:20PM after appropriate motions and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary