

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, November 15, 2010

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. The Board met with Assessors Brett Rock and Bob Ricardelli & Assistant Assessor Vicki Tidman, who provided breakdown of particulars relative to recommendations for tax rate calculations.

Vicki reported that she has certification of free cash, once levy has been established, will be able to certify tax rate. She noted the new page added which shows the particulars on assessment – noting that even if you just wanted to lower the rate by 42 cents would need to raise the commercial way up – can only be shifted by 1.5%. If you have no split rate, then it's 1%. If you wanted to change residential by 42 cents would raise the commercial rate up by over \$10.00 per thousand. She recommended the board vote to concur with recommendation of assessors to maintain a factor of 1. Board signed the necessary paperwork and voted accordingly. Estimated rate is \$14.62 per thousand.

Vicki explained the information reflects changes from one year to another and noted that she'd submitted information to state for Townsend and state kicked it back indicating growth was too low. There's been one additional house constructed in Dunstable since last year. Brett reported that Patenaude's nephew has just gotten a sign off for an ANR on River Street which could possibly reflect another permit before year's end.

Selectman Leva inquired about the possibilities of assessor's information on the website – unless you know someone; Patriot's charge is \$2K to start and close to that on an annual basis. She indicated putting the whole card up is too busy but she doesn't think the cost is outrageous. The Board indicated that they felt it could cut down some work for the personnel downstairs and lessen interruptions.

Vicki reflected on the growth chart – noting that with \$165K of new growth – increase in taxes collection. Selectman Alterisio indicated it's certainly a lesson to be learned in terms of reliance on state aid – right now estimated at drop of 5-10%. Would be okay if people used it the way it was originally designed but indicated they're using it not in the way it was designed – effects the town budgets.

Growth history is now just real estate, it's also personal property but that's down 26% from last year; last year we got saved with the increase in poles, but nothing this year.

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Chairman Welch drew attention to e-mail inquiring whether the board members were receiving the e-mails forwarded from select-board@dunstable-ma.gov and there was some uncertainty as to whether they were receiving all forwarded e-mails.

Discussion continued on the bill for rescue of the sky diver in Dunstable. Board agreed that they wished the Essex Fire Chief's Association would come up with a better process and more logical billing and weren't supportive of billing the victim, feeling it inappropriate of the victim was not under the influence or clearly breaking laws.

Chairman Welch drew attention to e-mail the board received from Steven Boczenowski, a Groton resident, relative to the town participating in a meeting on November 23rd in Groton relative to Project Interface, a mental health referral service or program, Chairman Welch noting he'd have no problem with it if it wasn't going to cost the town anything, or very minimal cost. He noted Mr. Boczenowski indicates it could cost somewhere around \$7K per year, and that by combining all these towns into a region, would be cheaper. Selectman Alterisio indicated he thought cost might be based on population further suggesting that someone could go to the meeting and, if it were accepted by numerous towns, should be based on per capita rate for each town. The Board wondered whether Nashoba offered this type of service, indicating this is basically saying that if someone suspects an individual with a problem, could be connected to this group who would provide evaluation and treatment. The board, following Selectman Alterisio's recommendation that a representative participate in the meeting, decided to forward to BOH asking them to attend and bring back recommendations.

The board noted inquiry from Muriel Holmes as to location of the stop sign on the island and determined the information provided by Chief Downes confirmed placement met requirements.

Chairman Welch then advised on calls from Danny Pantazelous regarding the late night activities at the Rail Trail parking area. He noted from the information provided by the Police Department, he's apparently calling the station the next morning. The Chief has contacted Mr. Pantazelous and advised that issues can be better addressed with notification as item is occurring. Discussion continued on the numerous complaints that have been made by Mr. Pantazelous regarding the conditions in that parking area, trash, etc. Selectman Alterisio's observation is consistent to what Mr. Pantazelous is doing, not reporting what's happening. He indicated he felt the initial sin was not bringing him into the process before the parking area was installed, even though there was probably a public hearing on the whole project proposal by the environmental group. This rail trail certainly rivals and is consistent with the trails down the cape.

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Selectman Alterisio reflected on some of the terrible stories or projections on what was going to happen once the trail was open but indicated he was unaware of any major issues. Chairman Welch reflected on an instance he'd encountered when walking his dog along the trail.

The board continued to briefly discuss the activities and use of the trails. Chief Downes has attempted to contact Mr. Pantazelous and board will wait to see if he comes back with something.

The board then addressed outstanding appointments – beginning with those for Community Preservation Committee. The board confirmed that Joe Dean wishes to be re-appointed for another three year as member at large. The board moved that appointment and designated Selectman Leva as Selectman's delegate for FY11. Sue Psaledakis advised the hearing is scheduled for 29th and needs quorum; if she has herself, parks, planning board and conservation, they'll have a quorum.

Selectman Leva inquired into the zoning review committee and Chairman Welch reported that despite appointments to the Zoning Review Committee, the only member willing to continue was Joe Dean; Ms. Psaledakis suggested placing a notice in the Neighbor to Neighbor in addition to those on the town's website and cable channel.

Selectman Alterisio asked Sue, as one of the stake holders, whether she'd be interested in update on route 113 project, advising the revised drawings were brought to District 3 and reviewed by their engineer, who indicates what we're presenting would not be approved unless certain things were done – change in design would cost an additional \$20K. Original plan didn't incorporate what Conservation and Historical wanted to see. Sue noted that since we've already paid for original plan, questioning why there's an additional cost. Need Conservation and Historical Commission approval but in order to incorporate their things, will need to come to Town Meeting for approval. Sue again reflected that original plan, which was acceptable to the state, was offensive to Conservation and Historic, we spent \$6K to amend the plan. Why would we need to spend another \$20K, we've already spent \$6K to modify design to incorporate. To her, it appears that what Historic and Conservation were asking for can not be reconciled and still meet state code. Chairman Welch indicated that technically Town Engineer messed up, included crown in road; also problem with the engineering proposal – went with a t-wall and the state wants to go with a gravity wall. Sue asked, suppose you had to go back to plan a, can that happen – Selectman Alterisio issue is the straightening of the road, they normally ask for 30' roadway, what we're calling for is 22'. They're willing to submit for a waiver, down to 26'; by straightening, just taking an additional 2', still will be a curve. Selectman Alterisio's suspecting the

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curve issue has less to do with the historical endeavor, more concerned with the increase in speed. He advised the state wants to go to a public hearing in January or February, have everything wrapped up to go out to bid in June and begin construction in August or September. Dilemma is going back to Conservation and Historical, who with all good intentions want to preserve the historic and environmental characteristics of the site; Sue indicated there has to be a compromise, road's going to be straightened a little and widened a little but will be a pathway. The board indicated DOT doesn't look forward to opening up the battles at a public hearing as it will slow it all down. Right now we need stuff so the state can go through the process without complications.

Chairman Welch noted from what he understands, McGovern has indicated if we need the land, we've got it, just ask. Aesthetically need to understand that are going to be widening the wall minimally – need to bring Conservation and Historical back and make sure they understand the situation – reason bringing up with Sue is that it's her group that approved the funding for the design work to modify the plan – CPA determined that CPA funds could be used for that purpose. Selectman Alterisio wanted to make sure that everyone understands that good faith effort was put forth and town must make compromise if state is to provide any support for the project. Chairman Welch advised that wetland seems to be the major issue with Conservation, if we were to reduce by 4', Conservation wants it recreated elsewhere. Selectman Alterisio indicated that work that has been done with the culvert built by McGovern – Frost says he can work it two ways, wants to go through state historical group and environmental groups for sign off, believes he can do so with the original drawings but not with the amended drawings. Chairman Welch noted that according to Jeff Rider, will not allow wooden guardrail, state is insistent on metal. Board indicated appropriate for Conservation and Historical to discuss, along with Roads and Town Engineer.

Emergency Mutual Aid: Chairman Welch advised that he asked Town Counsel to opine on the massive mutual aid vote and would like to hold off on that vote until received.

Minutes of 11/8 – Chairman Welch noted the minutes should reflect actual vote for Colleen F. Welch to Cultural Council. Chairman Welch also reflected on last week's meeting noting that Town Engineer should have known what the state wants with projects, and any mistakes made were his not ours; as it's not up to us to put together a design that will meet requirements. Chairman Welch indicated another thing is the political part of this, if we don't move forward before we lose our support structure. Selectman Alterisio advised that he has the impression as far as Worcester is concerned, they're on board. No more action necessary

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for them, it's already on the list – approved. Selectman Alterisio indicated that he did not anticipate any problems unless we create delays that they can't approve. Mr. Frost has indicated if we go back to the original set of the drawings, they could move forward with it. Chairman Welch couldn't see what the problem is with the wooden guardrail and the aesthetic with the wall as long as the foundation and structural meet requirements.

Minutes of 11/8 were tabled until next week – Chairman Welch will work with secretary to correctly reflect comments relative to the discussions on the McGovern wall.

Chairman Welch noted need to move forward with River Street roof repair – need two additional quotes. Walter noted that issue with bridge condition on Main Street – now has had to move barrels closer to the middle of the road. Chairman Welch indicated his last understanding that Roads indicated there wasn't a problem. Walter noted that it may be time to look into the possibility of floating a bond or something to address these issues. Schedule Roads, Conservation in next week for update on where we are with the process so we can move forward.

Based on recommendation and request from ZBA, pertaining to the anticipated resignation of Lisa O'Connell as an Associate Member, and Judy Thompson as a regular member, Board appointed Lisa O'Connell as regular member term ending 2015, Judith A Thompson as Associate term expiring 2011 and Al Horton, Associate Member expiring 2013. All subject to finality of pertinent resignations and vacancies.

Selectman Leva inquired whether we'd heard anything from the Brow's as to their intent, etc. The Treasurer's Warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:35PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary