

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, March 7, 2011

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:15PM with Chairman Welch, Selectman Leva, Town Engineer Jeff Rider and Road Commissioners Michael Martin, Tom Dumont and David Crandall present.

The group reviewed the amended plan for the Route 113 retaining wall and roadway which incorporated MA DOT recommendations reflecting 1.3' difference from what the Historical Commission wanted and what the state will approve. Paved is 1.5' less than they'd agreed to.

Jeff advised that with all the back and forth we've basically used up the budget – 25% includes drawings, profiles, design report. Never officially made the submittal; have worked with Arthur, must make submittal to Boston for approval, then hearing will be scheduled. Basically comes up to about 1'4" more than is now. Arthur has signed off; next process is official 25% submittal, state will come out and hold public hearing here in town for input (Jeff noted a lot of places don't do all the preliminary that Dunstable has done); about \$28K more required to take this all the way to bid – increase due to all the re-submittals; kicked in \$6K when had to go from original design to alternate. Mike advised that all had accepted at the mutual meeting. Mr. Dumont indicated it's now March 8th and this has to be approved by June or July. Jeff advised that Arthur understands where we're at. Tom was concerned that if we're not ready by June that we'd be lost. Mike asked why couldn't we be ready? Once 25% package is done and in their hands; must schedule public hearing, review, get comments, back for next review, and then return for more changes. Jeff can control what he's done but can't control theirs. At this point, he didn't think the state was going to have much concern; thinks we've worked it through but he's also getting calls from Boston who wants to move forward.

Process includes profile, design report, cross design report – Mike asked why don't we go ahead and get it all done; indicating we're all sitting here in agreement, why don't we get the 25% going forward. He believes the only leg they have to stand on, were all in agreement at that meeting that day; if they want to come forward and fight for a foot, let them fight the state for it. The only thing that would stop them from giving the town everything they wanted was safety and the guard rail is the safety item that can't be under-designed. Group suggested he move forward, can't have the back & forth – release the 25% to MA DOT. We've given them everything they wanted – they

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got the stone wall. Conservation was okay from the beginning but wanted to try to explain the engineering behind it to Historical. The only one who explains engineering is Town Engineer. The only one who needs to explain the legalities is our Town Counsel. What do we do with securing the funds – giving go ahead. If Jeff gets good feeling that have the support, he can go back to his boss and let them know the deadlines and he was fairly comfortable they'd take the chance. Chairman Welch indicated we might be able to use some CPA funds as well. If we took it all out of CPA, would be paid for partially by funding from state as well. The group was concerned for moving the project forward – but Town Engineer advised that when asking for money must present the supporting information. Mike Martin and the Road Commission noted essentially what we're saying – Jeff a fair amount of the time not anticipated was to try to get the project before review committee before we even began to work with conservation and historical. He & the town were under the impression that we already had the go to move forward from back when Eddie was trying to work this through the state. Don't know at that point whether there will be additional issues to address. If this passes the next public meeting, but if it doesn't could be out \$100K for nothing. Even if everything is all well & good, doesn't mean it's going to make it.

Jeff explained the \$25K anticipates additional reviews or revisions which they want like a little more rebar in the retaining wall, or mossy covering, etc. Whole 25% & 75% reviews of design is standard, certain things come up during these reviews that need to be addressed – although we don't have traffic issues with lights, multiple lanes like a Route 2 project. PRC review and 6 different revisions of the cross sections – wasn't just the PRC review it was all the behind the scenes calls, e-mails, etc. went from a standard retaining wall. Full design is all in the \$28k additional; must be prepared to rationalize it all on town meeting floor.

Mike indicated he believes when the 25% review comes before the public again, they'll be back with issues. Tom asked that Jeff get a copy to BORC secretary once he submits to state. The board and Road Commissioners discussed the snow removal this year and all noted great job and comments from people coming through how glad they are to meet Dunstable roads. Dunstable roadways treated so much better than in other towns.

Chairman Welch & Selectman Leva noted need to get town counsel into the process now with Chairman Welch reiterating that he would not have used town engineer for this part of the project because he

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can't critique a project he's designed but couldn't get the Road Commissioners to understand this position. Position isn't to do these jobs; it's to oversee to insure that project is done properly. What do we do if six years from now it falls into McGovern's field because it wasn't designed or constructed properly? – something to keep in mind when it comes time for appointments.

Referenced town clerk's e-mail relative to multiple Town Hall conditions – windows, alarm system, technical issues, GIC. Chairman Welch explained some of the background on each of the items and some of the discrepancies in information. He advised the board has reviewed the GIC insurance option and requirements with Chairman Welch noting the final glitch with GIC is that town would have to provide insurance to retirees.

The board voted to appoint Amy Schembechler as a member of the Board of Registrars as requested by Town Clerk. The board also approved the use of the common for the Dunstable Garden group's annual plant swap & sale.

Chairman Welch reported that Chief Rich has dropped off applications for two more call firefighters for the team. He noted experience and training; board voted to go with his recommendation – secretary will return packet to Chief Rich.

Chairman Welch further noted GDRSD manager Fred Aponte's notification re: assessment voted for FY2012 – reduction of approximately \$100K.

Chairman Welch noted the inclusionary zoning amendment has been included in the Planning Board hearing notice and drew attention to the bylaw presented by Police Department for solicitors, will follow up with Chief on how it works. Chairman Welch back on schools – noted the projections for savings with the school union saving about \$4.6m over 6 year period with current negotiations. In budgetary season – 3.3 million over 3 years and they were looking for 1.3m override – \$800k reduction for next year on top of the \$1.169 million.

Selectman Leva noted that had a call about the scheduling for the road race as last year – Chairman Welch indicated there should be a written official request to document. Selectman Leva advised that he's also spoken with David Sweet who wants to know if there's a possibility of meeting with them during the day to discuss their position on the fees they've requested. Chairman Welch indicated it was possible but they

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need to understand that the board is going to back town counsel on this.

Expenditure report – Selectmen are in the red for professional & tech; secretary to check with Kim as to how to handle – do we need to increase?

The board briefly reviewed the 1st draft for the Annual Town Meeting with Chairman Welch explaining the process and noting the items that might be included in a Special Town Meeting warrant. STM warrant draft will be prepared for next year.

The board discussed the different approaches for funding the additional engineering costs for the Route 113 retaining wall. Chairman Welch will be in contact with Town Engineer tomorrow for an update. Chairman Welch suggested scheduling their meeting for 6:30PM on the 21st.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary