

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, April 25, 2011

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present and the board immediately moved their meeting to the Grand Hall to participate in the Fincom Budget Hearing. The board returned to their regular meeting @7:50PM. Brief discussion ensued amongst individuals present relative to funding for some of the money articles and additional personnel.

Jim Tully advised that the soccer backstop that was built by an Eagle Scout was falling apart.

Minutes: 01/10 approved as written; 4/4 & 4/11 and a number of others still need to be approved.

The board was visited by David Kimpton, advisor and Trevor Frey who presented his Eagle Project proposal for a pole barn at Larter Field which would provide shade & shelter for people watching games, etc. for the board's approval. Four posts will be bolted into concrete sonar tubes, 16' X 20'. No more permanent than swings, etc. Walter referenced family concerns for the structures, etc. on the grounds. Selectmen suggested consultation with Parks & Recreation as to location – he'd like to build it the last couple of weeks in August. Jim Tully asked who would maintain the roof structure – Ken indicated if Parks & Recreation approve the location, they can take on the maintenance. Discussion continued into the maintenance of that and other structures on site. Mr. Kimpton inquired whether there might be any funding available for the project. The Board unanimously voted to endorse the project. Now Trevor will take it to the troop and counsel for their endorsement and report back to the town before moving ahead. An appeal will be placed on the town's website for donations.

Jim Tully presented a photo of trash, etc. at Larter Field. Jim advised that somebody had the heart to bring the bag, but nobody takes care and no funding available for trash removal. Alan Chaney reported on the damages up on top of Blanchard Hill – broken picnic tables, etc. He indicated he thinks they're coming in from the back on motorized vehicles – have to be good sized individuals to do the type of damage. Alan wants to get some mulch hay up there and spread it out.

Chairman Welch confirmed the board was comfortable with Annual Town Meeting warrant and board signed same so it could be posted.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, April 25, 2011

Kevin noted request from Police Chief for commendation for Officer Papageorgiou for pulling over burglary suspect from Westford. Dan Devlin inquired whether it was appropriate for such a request. Board concurred with recommendation of the Chief...secretary will advise the chief that Board concurs and inquire how he'd like it handled.

Jim Tully indicated he'd like to see a reduction in the percentage of health insurance paid for employees noting nowhere does the average individual get that percentage of their health insurance paid. The board noted that at this point there's only one union in town – the police union and the discussion continued on the options available. ... at the end of the day, that's how you compensate for little or no pay raises. Kevin noted while GIC might be the answer in a lot of communities, if we were to go to GIC, would have to start paying for retiree health insurance and it would be a huge hit for Dunstable – like \$160K for this year alone. Kevin further advised that schools went with GIC but they already provided retiree insurance coverage anyway and saved huge in the 1st two years, now has leveled off. He further indicated a lot of the unions are trying to go for a one year contract, hoping that economy is improving and things will turn around. States on paper are doing better, but actually are doing worse – this year 2012 none of the communities are getting a penny in stimulus money. Discussion continued on the limitations of towns and cities for raising funds and appropriations.

The board indicated no update on the road project – last we talked are waiting for public hearing to be scheduled by MassDOT. Kevin advised that he'd spoken with Arthur Frost several weeks ago and he indicated things were moving forward. Secretary advised on communication just received on the Salmon Brook bridge reminded of safeguards needed to protect the public. Discussion continued on the McGovern wall and the process – oversight necessary and the complications that evolve without it. With an all volunteer army, it's difficult. Jim Tully indicated if you reached out to Bob Crishnall, he guaranteed that he'd step forward. Discussion continued on the empty positions on boards, committees, and lack of interest.

Discussion briefly turned to the need for affordable housing, start-ups and retirees. Mixed Use District – as an option, discussion continued on the construction attempts and the decisions and 40B contractors and developers – some good, some bad but haven't been able to get developers in to develop the Mixed Use District. Dan Devlin indicated that Town of Dunstable isn't exactly attractive to many developers.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, April 25, 2011

Kevin will follow up on the communication from MassDOT on Salmon Brook bridge – and suggested that the Board very se Secretary was asked to run the Water Commission cost allocation agreement before Town Counsel before the Board indicated their support.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary

