

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Present: Selectman Kenneth J. Leva and newly elected Selectman Daniel F. Devlin; Selectman Walter F. Alterisio in transit but delayed in traffic

The meeting was called to order at 9:07AM with quorum present. The board was visited by Town Clerk who advised she need some form of answer relative to her access to Town Counsel. The board noted that the Board has previously put provisions in place for said access and Selectman Leva suggested maintaining the same process as laid out by the Board.

Town Clerk advised besides her submission of bylaws to Attorney General and town meeting report, there's another issue with the open meeting law, that while there are ways to fix it, if we can't post to the website because the website is inoperative, then needs backup – Rich has helped her with this. She indicated when she needs him, she needs him. She advised she's willing to go through other channels first, but when repeated when she needs him, she needs him – can't be left in the lurch. The board indicated they'd basically maintain the same procedure as with Kevin and will speak with Selectman Alterisio to confirm he's willing to act as main contact for that purpose.

The Board reviewed the mail noting police general orders and notations of events in Conservation Commission minutes.

The Board reviewed and signed the Treasurer's warrants, and approved brief minutes of 5/12/11 and Selectman Devlin provided motion to suspend their open meeting & enter into executive session under provisions of MGL. c. 30A, §21 (a)2 to conduct Police union collective bargaining session, and to return to open session upon completion. Motion was seconded by Selectman Leva and roll-call vote taken with Selectman Leva voting yea and Selectman Devlin voting yea – open session suspended at 9:32am.

The board returned to open session at 11:25AM with all members present. The board's first item of business was election of officers – nominations made as follows: Selectman Alterisio as Chairman, Selectman Leva as Procurement Officer and Selectman Devlin as Clerk. Vote was taken with all in favor.

The board then discussed their plans with recommendations by Chairman Alterisio that the board bring together a consensus of what the board would like to accomplish this coming year. He referenced the importance of respecting the townspeople's decisions in their

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election of officials. He indicated as Selectmen, the board's authority is limited to signing warrants, appointments and hiring professionals but other than that don't have authority. He noted his idea is to identify the boards that can provide assistance in matters which need to be addressed and work with them.

Chairman Alterisio further indicated the other item he'd like to address at the beginning is to clear air in hurry relative to appointment of Town Counsel & Town Engineer – would like to get issues sorted out up front. He noted he was a firm believer in the need to arrive at consensus on policies. He advised on concerns with Articles 32 & 33 regarding lack of confidence with town counsel on specific issues necessitating the use of expertise where needed. It was suggested that main problem is sometimes people can get hung up on certain aspects which add to confusion. He reminded the board that this office is merely the cheering section and should encourage other boards to take on initiatives within their realm and be ready to provide support when needed.

Chairman Alterisio and Selectman Leva publicly congratulated Selectman Devlin on his new position and both pledged their support.

The board confirmed all had reviewed and signed the Treasurer's warrants, noted next police union negotiations session scheduled for 6/14 @9:30AM and the meeting adjourned at 11:45AM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary