

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, June 6, 2011**

Present: Chairman Walter F. Alterisio, Daniel F. Devlin, Clerk and Procurement Officer and Member Kenneth J. Leva

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. The board met with Fire Chief Charles H. Rich Jr. in reference to transfer request to cover cost of replacement window at the Fire Station. Chief Rich reported on the damage explaining particulars and advised he'd spoken with Selectman Welch before his term ended relative to the incident and how to cover. Selectman Welch suggested the Town of Dunstable pick up the cost as thanks for assistance Groton provides whenever needed.

Chief Rich also addressed the radio communications indicating he'd like to transfer the Emergency Medical over to Pepperell alleviating the need to carry an additional portable and reception problems they're having with existing portables. He indicated he's already spoken with Chief Palma and Pepperell's Dispatch Chief Frank Quattrochi, both being agreeable. Chairman Alterisio referenced the dispatch survey being completed thru NMCOG and recommendations that might come out of it. He explained Dunstable is participating in the study with understanding we're not committed to any action, etc. although he referenced earlier issue about items that may have come into it relative to possible limitation in grants due to Groton via dispatch region with Dunstable. He further indicated he would like input from Chief Palma to insure he's comfortable with Chief Rich's proposal. Chief Rich will make arrangements for meeting between Dunstable, Groton and Pepperell on the subject.

Other items addressed briefly were the earlier issue with reimbursement for EMT training, and Chief Rich's request for mutual aid approval with the board indicating basic support for the approach but concerns relative to impact on Dunstable; further research to be completed.

Alan Chaney stopped in presenting a demolition permit application for the structure on the Beagle Property for authorization. The board reviewed and signed where required.

The Board of Road Commissioners requested permission to speak with personnel counsel relative to the advertising and hiring of their new employee, including specifications for the new position. The board provided their authorization and board secretary will convey contact information to their secretary. Road Commission Chairman Mike Martin then addressed concerns relative to easements needed for the McGovern Wall project, indicating that town counsel hasn't completed this necessary requirement. They referenced Historical Commission's recent letter of agreement which has been submitted and indicated everything is moving forward – need the

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easement signed. Commissioner Martin cautioned the public hearing is scheduled for 6/9, then site visit, need easement squared away by meeting – 2 easements. Board secretary was asked to contact town counsel urging his attendance at the meeting and attention to the easement requirement.

The Road Commissioners further referenced most recent correspondence from MA DOT relative to the Salmon Brook bridge on Main Street indicating the state wants the town to come up with like \$35-38K for barrier they're recommending. Commissioner Crandall questioned why we can't use another type of barrier and indicated the BORO would like to meet with individuals from the state to see whether there's another way to address – what will they accept. They noted the plastic barrels didn't work as they were being stolen. The Selectmen wholeheartedly approved the concept of setting up meeting with MA DOT to see if something can be worked out and BORO indicated they'd invite the Selectmen to participate once date is set.

Chairman Alterisio then referenced the request for endorsement on grant application for FEMA requested by Emergency Management Director Bill Ahern and the board noted issues that might erupt for continued funding, confirming the need to be ready to step up to the plate to support. The board discussed the outstanding victualler's license for Convenient Mann II and secretary was asked to check with Nashoba Board of Health to determine whether those licenses & permits are in place.

Chairman Alterisio then addressed the Police Chief's request for appointment of regular and reserve officers noting the issue with filling shifts, indicating his understanding that the only way it's being done is if regular officers fill the shift at time and a half. He advised he understands that no reserves are stepping up to fill shifts and Chief's other issue that can't have a reserve on alone. The board briefly discussed other options at filling shifts – more reserves, etc. and whether there's another way to approach that's workable. Board will meet with Chief Downes on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Alterisio then briefly addressed appointments for the next fiscal year, noting some are via recommendations from committees and the board has always liked to see those recommendation. Selectman Devlin inquired whether there'd ever been the need to post some of the positions such as Town Counsel, Town Engineer, Electrical, Gas & Plumbing, Building Inspector, etc. and other paid appointments. The board discussed other areas of appointment suggesting letter advising the Board of Selectmen are in process of reviewing appointments, need some response, if none is received by a particular date, will assume individuals have relinquished interest in that position. Need some language to strengthen that the Board is looking for a commitment knowing full well that if the individual

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committees don't take the position seriously, the Selectmen must take on the responsibility.

The board then reviewed some of the initiatives the members would like to pursue in the coming year: Selectman Leva indicated he likes the possibility of selling water to Tyngsboro noting it's a good idea to research any options for bringing income into town. The board noted that while Water has the authority to pursue, BOS can lend their support – could be one of the things BOS wants to buy in on. Chairman Alterisio advised there's going to be a lot of things intertwined with this whether it be Tyngsboro or Pennichuk reflecting on occasion with Charles George Landfill and federal involvement for cleanup. It was suggested that the board reach out to water with letter offering Board's support noting we should be looking for sale of water as opposed to creating a water district.

Selectman Leva further suggested investigating other feasible funding and revenue possibilities out there like cell towers, etc. Chairman Alterisio suggested looking at forming a committee to look into what's out there. Selectman Devlin further suggested revisiting the Master Plan for what options are out there. Chairman Alterisio advised we'll probably have to call for another committee to be formed, look at master plan and at options for creating some form of revenue for the town – want to make sure that we have something that makes sense.

Selectman Devlin noted states are pushing for regionalization and indicated concerns as to where that's going to take us, but appears state is going to continue to emphasize advantages in joint endeavors and the town needs to be proactive.

Chairman Alterisio indicated his primary objective in the coming year is to address governing – noting we're not set up to govern very well, doing things the way they were done in the 60's & 70's – which worked well then but not as well in current times. Need some sort of professional support, whether it be Town Administrator or Manager. Need to move forward to look at structure of organization. While DOR financial review has been delayed for a month, Chairman Alterisio is aware of college that will do an analysis which could be used as a baseline to be put in place here as town. He indicated will need to be participation by all and analysis will include how to best operate and why. He indicated there are not many municipalities that run without them, noting in initiatives by other towns – relationships being taken care of by Town Administrator, Town Manager and it's cumbersome to deal with Dunstable because it has to be the Board of Selectmen at open meeting. By restructuring and putting a municipal professional in place, Board of Selectmen can also benefit. Must come in at

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that level – have analysis – time is now for analysis at operational standpoint, clearly going to be a lot of changes but good timing for everyone. Chairman Alterisio further advised he had contact thru NMCOG to find out what school is, would get a grant, wouldn't cost Dunstable anything. The board voted to authorize Chairman Alterisio to move forward with the study.

Selectman Devlin advised another issue he'd like to pursue is putting together something with over 55 housing with Chairman Alterisio providing the background on the Mixed Use District and the town's attempt at developing the parcel for affordable housing. He reported on the background of negotiations, etc. noting the funding limitations and economy played a heavy role in the lack of results. It was noted that process would need to be begin again with RFP, etc. to resurrect. Chairman Alterisio will contact Steve Joncas to see if things have turned around to point where there may be interest advising the board has agreed to move forward at resurrecting the Mixed Use District project. Another issue addressed was safety issue – lack of cell coverage in town, need to do something in the town that makes it available for people in town. Board indicated need for another committee to explore possibilities and make recommendations. The board briefly discussed more ideas for increasing revenues and will work next week toward dialogue as to how to handle counsel & engineer and put together joint meeting.

The minutes of 5/23 & 5/31 were approved as written. Selectman Leva addressed the question of airing Selectmen's meetings and questioned whether that could possibly be incorporated into the service provided by Virtual Town Hall.

Chairman Alterisio noted that tonight's meeting ran a little longer than norm but indicated if the board was committed to do this, it may be the norm. He further indicated he would like to see more support for Library suggesting it was unfair that their hours need to be cut down as much as they have been. He suggested moving forward the 1<sup>st</sup> question that should be asked in the budget process is what needs to be done in the coming year and noted professional people could come in and help boards to prepare their budgets.

The Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 9:10PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary