

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, July 11, 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. Chairman Alterisio advised he'd had a couple of conversations – one with Sean Ready for Dog Officer and appointment as Pound Keeper as well. Selectman Leva made motion to appoint Sean Ready to those positions for FY2012, 2nd and voted with all in favor. Chairman Alterisio confirmed everything was all set with those appointments now in place.

Chairman Alterisio further advised that he'd spoken with Dana relative to the questions regarding validity of operations at Goss Farm and he has prepared a letter acknowledging compliance. Board was satisfied as long as Dana was satisfied, but upon reviewing draft of letter from Building Inspector, board preferred letter had no indication of possible future violations, confirming total compliance. Chairman Alterisio will work with Building Inspector for amendment. Chairman Alterisio advised if there continued to be an issue, he would have had board review related provisions of MGL.

Board discussed the interest in appointments to zoning board of appeals and Chairman Alterisio explained he'd spoken with Al Horton who advised normally when there's an opening on the zba, the associate is asked for interest and moves up; new appointment would be as associate.

Chairman Alterisio also addressed NMCOG appointment explaining the process and involvement – Chief Elected Official gets a seat, along with an alternate and Planning Board gets a seat. Chairman Alterisio has served as BOS representative in past years – seat is available, has no problem with continuing to serve unless another member would like to take it on. He advised that for the 1st time Planning Board hasn't appointed their representative last year. Next NMCOG meeting is most likely scheduled for September. Motion by Selectman Leva for Chairman Alterisio as NMCOG rep and Selectman Devlin as Alternate – so moved.

Chief Rich advised the department had recent training at Dumont Corporation on Lowell Street – started around 9:20 Sunday morning and adjacent resident came out complaining about the noise – he indicated he'd be informing the Selectmen about his concerns.

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Chairman Alterisio – another thing he had a note from Jay Donovan from NMCOG – Community Housing General Bylaw adopted at town meeting has raised concerns – why was it developed as general bylaw and not a zoning bylaw. If zoning bylaw would be under the Planning Board but to Chairman Alterisio's mind, assumed that worked with housing consultant so it can comply with LIP program. LIP program is where developer and town make agreement – as we move forward, will need to get handle on bylaw, what it means and how it's going to be processed and whether it will have any impact on our mixed use district (MUD). He reported that Jay has a copy of the bylaw because he got it from DHCD ... Chairman Alterisio would like to talk with him to see what he sees as a problem ... what BOS could see as problem is how right it is for Dunstable. If it stands as a general bylaw and it comes under direction of Selectmen, they can control the process but don't want to be in conflict with Planning Board and make things more difficult.

The board reviewed requests for end of year transfer from BOH dues account to BOH wages account in amount of \$318.75 and another from Town Clerk – motion by Selectman Devlin, 2nd Selectman Leva and voted with all in favor.

Chairman Alterisio noted memo from Town Clerk relative to unsworn members of Personnel Board and Zoning Review Committee from last year's appointments. Chairman Alterisio indicated the zoning review committee would come into play ... Town Clerk is requesting determination whether these are vacancies.

Letter from Mr. Cohen from Charter Communication offering any assistance the board might need with understanding the contract. The board briefly discussed the contract, the board noted no changes except to include provisions and Selectman Devlin provided motion to renew license with Charter Communications, 2nd and voted with all in favor.

Motion made by Selectman Devlin, 2nd by Selectman Leva and voted to appoint David G. Sweet II as Alternate Electrical Inspector, Alan Chaney to Town Forest Committee and special one time appointment of Kevin W. Welch as DLS Financial Review Liaison.

The board noted resignation from Thomas A. Mann from his position on the Commissioners to Expend Proctor & Parkhurst Trust Funds and discussion ensued on how best to handle vacancy and whether absence of member would create an issue in the case of a tie vote.

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Board agreed to work on minutes of the 20th. Board discussed their initiatives outlined in those minutes. Chairman Alterisio advised he would like to take on governance review and Mixed Use District as he has some familiarity with MUD and has contact @UMass Boston for the governance view. Selectman Leva will take on cell phone communications as his project, and Selectman Devlin will assist wherever necessary with cell phone project as well as taking on the Master Plan project. Secretary will point Board in the right direction for materials. Cell phone issue: Chairman Alterisio referenced information from the last time issue went around noting articles which authorized certain things, may have already received authorization and don't need further – but need to check with Town Counsel.** Will also need to determine what type of committees are needed and understand that as members of Board of Selectmen are authorized as ex-officio members of the committees. All meetings will need to be posted, once we put together committees will want committee to elect Chairman of committee and Secretary who will keep minutes of all meetings. Chairman Alterisio stressed BOS must also impress on committees that it's imperative that with open meeting laws and ethics that do all these things – need to put an effort to do it right from the beginning.

Selectman Devlin noted the communication from NER... and Selectman Devlin will follow-up with Chief Downes to see if we're a member and if not, whether it makes sense to do so.

The board was visited by Patrick Murphy and Jim Tully and the board reviewed briefly some of the initiatives they're putting forward. Jim stopped in to see the board to review his plans for using the sheriff's department personnel for to take care of some Parks maintenance projects. Jim gave background on some of the issues that need to be addressed.

Discussion proceeded as to how much more beneficial it would be for boards to work together and problems with personalities. Boards are held accountable by the people who elected them. Jim noted there's no forum except for meetings, but unless people come in, there's nothing that can be done. Discussion continued on best process from allocating expenses for use of the town common to the users whether thru donation or whatever to keep the costs that Recreation and Parks have to absorb for maintenance, etc.

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The board discussed the item in the warrant for special legal and how the funds are used – noting that any use of special counsel must come through Selectmen. Chairman Alterisio explained the role that Selectmen play with elected boards.

Fincom reported on their meeting and stressed the need to start broadcasting news so that people can see from week to week. Every other town is doing it; if could get someone to video tape it and put it on the web and on the cable channel – start meeting in the big room, if you start broadcasting, will start to get more people in and have more participation. Two things need to be done: need to look at current equipment and what will it take to make it happen.

All agreed these are big issues which aren't going to be over by August and the more you get community input and awareness out there, more participation you'll have. Selectman Leva advised it's all in the works with the new website, refuted by board secretary who advised that while that option is available thru Virtual Town Hall, it hadn't been included in the contract agreement but is being researched further for inclusion. Chairman Alterisio noted that representative from Charter indicated they have the resource and are willing to work with us to get something going. Chairman Alterisio reported the reason the Board stopped broadcasting meetings was the continual problems with equipment, had to keep stopping the meeting, to restart the equipment, etc. Dana advised that obviously can't be broadcasting live, need to record, review and transmit. Must be available to the public to watch ... will find people who wouldn't necessarily come in... need to be turned around, this is not the Dunstable board show ... it must be the Dunstable community...all boards should be broadcast, all part of transparency. Board indicated they'd be checking with Technology Committee and brief discussion continued on how best to handle.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:40PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary