

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, August 22, 2011

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with quorum present. Chairman Alterisio advised he noticed on BOS schedule we have no meeting next Monday and the following Monday is Labor Day – could meet on Tuesday after Labor Day or wait until the following Monday but with nothing pressing could we hold off until the 12th. Chairman Alterisio reported on the progress with Steve Joncas and indicated he had nothing further to report just yet, advising that infrastructure for those types of things may not be available for some time. The board agreed with nothing pressing, next meeting will be held on September 12th.

Selectman Devlin noted with Convenient Mann gone – creates a bit of setback for the master plan.

The board noted request for appointment of Lisa A. Gervais to the Historical Commission based on recommendation from the Historical Commission. Chairman Alterisio to accept & appoint Lisa – voted with both in favor.

Chairman Alterisio asked how Selectman Devlin felt the hearing went for the MSR special permit and advised he'd taken a no position based on not having information on the permit; main interest is in what's going on the property not necessarily what's going on with the business. He has an interest in what's going on ... like maintenance of vehicles and what's going to need to be overseen. Selectman Devlin advised, having known that MSR has done pretty much what the town's asked him to do, all in good faith, he feels parameters will be set by the Planning Board and overseen by Building & Zoning Officer and everything should work out fine. Chairman Alterisio indicated the parameters will be set, and while there may be some disagreement with the vote at Annual Town Meeting, the vote is the vote; now need to focus on permit and how it's administered addressing environmental conditions and protection. Selectman Devlin warned if town doesn't approve, Raymond will continue suing the town and nobody wants that expense. Chairman Alterisio advised he believes role of Board of Selectmen is to just focus in on the permit and its conditions but need to be sure that Zoning Officer will be comfortable with it.

Chairman Alterisio reported at NMCOG meeting, he'd pressed the issue of the Corps of Engineer's permit requirement and the commission voted that at the 8/23rd MPO meeting, their support of that project will be voted on. Letter was prepared by NMCOG to DOT asking where we stand. Money was officially moved to the next funding period which means that won't come up for this September...gives opportunity for this MA Works grant which might fund some portion for infrastructure for affordable housing project. Chairman Alterisio advised he doesn't have a problem with it getting pushed back a year but with the process were being forced to use. Other thing that came out was the regionalized analysis of dispatch services has come to a point where they're willing to propose some probable options available to subject communities; goes from options of doing nothing or proposing regional for whole area with state & federal funding. He indicated the 2 part report talks about analysis and how they arrived with recommendations. Bottom line is, if all communities participated, talking about a \$1M savings. Dunstable's would be about \$53K savings. We'd drop from \$52K to \$19K per year. Chairman Alterisio explained there were some areas of the report that he didn't like; wasn't enough clarity as to how it would work, and was uncertain how supportive the 2 Chiefs would be, but things he liked about the report was the technology to keep everyone right up with latest equipment. All personnel would be consistent as would things like the management information system that we just invested in, whereas at this level it's done for you and you're tied into everything that's happening. Hands on stuff would have to be made to happen. He recommended each of the board members get a copy to review as well as Chief Downes & Chief Rich to look over and provide feedback. From there, we'll all be in a better position to make a decision as to whether it makes sense...not all or nothing, can be minor consolidation of major overall.

Chairman Alterisio advised he wants to be cautiously optimistic to options available; the down side at the chiefs level is any loss of control for them wants determination whether staying

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level makes sense where there's conditional provisions that might make it work. Heavy hitters are Lowell and Chelmsford. Secretary will make and distribute copies for the board members and Chiefs.

Chairman Alterisio indicated there was some conversation about possibility of closing Main Street for the project, he had idea that neither Road Commissioners nor Chiefs had problem with it. Chairman Alterisio would like some form of impact statement on what the affects would be from the diversion of traffic noting fair amount of traffic that comes down that road that would be looking for another route. Term could run around 2 years; must be sure we make an informed decision which is best for the townspeople and the project. Chairman Alterisio would like to have some conversation with Chief of Police and will float this over to the Chief to get his take and position, need to be prepared with a plan to mitigate issues that residents may have. Maybe folks from Nashua, Brookline & Hollis will find another way to go but don't know.

Minutes of 6/20 were approved as amended by Selectman Devlin. Minutes of 8/8 will be tabled until next meeting on the 12th of September for full board approval.

Secretary will research how we might move forward with absence of Town Accountant.

Selectman Devlin advised he had a call from Sean Ready about the dogs, he told him to get everything together, come up with a number. Selectman Devlin told him to pull together his documents and figures to establish. Chairman Alterisio indicated that, unless the bottom has fallen out over the past few months, he wondered how we got in this position so quickly.

Selectman Devlin reported that the Police contract negotiations have finalized and contract will be prepared for signature. Board briefly discussed some of the items negotiated and positions addressed.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 7:45PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary