

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, September 26, 2011**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 with quorum present. Fire Chief Rich reported on the scheduled burn last week. He further reported on his attendance at AECOM presentation at NMCOG on Thursday. He indicated that personally he was uncertain that it's going to come down, made up different scenarios. Manager from Westford indicated the only way will be savings is if all towns participated. He noted multiple grants included in the scenarios – what happens if grants dry up. Has spoken with Police Chief and they're both against it. Indicated if you enter this and aren't satisfied, how do you get out and what will the implications be. He doesn't see that it will work – putting people out of work. He reported on process they've been using with Pepperell Fire and Groton Dispatch for years, they're familiar with the town's needs, roads, etc. Board agreed that benefits don't appear to be worth the costs projected and possible negative impact. Noted AECOM's 1<sup>st</sup> implication was that Dunstable was better to stay with Groton. Chief Rich indicated that he felt that if they'd taken all the money invested in the study and divvied it up amongst the towns, could have been used to upgrade individual department's equipment.

Chief Rich advised he knows that Groton Police Chief is trying to look into further combined dispatch. Discussion continued on how related layoffs would affect different individual and communities, union negotiations, etc. and arguments and discussions that came up at the presentation.

Other thing, two that talked about a while back, new Chief's position as his term ends, whether it be for the end of March per his birthdate or the end of June via special act of the legislature to permit him to stay on until June 30th. He'd like to see move forward with that initiative, whatever needs to be done, also need to look at new fire station – public safety complex. Secretary advised have learned that while the Board had submitted documentation to the Senator's office for the special act of legislation, turns out that needs vote of town meeting to authorize Selectmen which would require Special Town Meeting.

Alan Chaney advised he'd received bids on the sale of timber from the River Street parcel from Hopkinton Forestry, CCM logging and Monadnock Land Clearing with Hopkinton Logging bid the highest price at \$15,857.25. Alan reported on the procedure done for public sales

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and how he'd handled his own. Hopkinton Forestry came in at 167 per K, and 225 chips total bid should amount to a little under \$16K. CCM offered \$14,616.75 and Monadnock \$11,493.75. Alan advised it will be a chipping operation and discussed previously because it looks nice and after a few years will still have plenty of big pine that will grow faster. Alan will inform tenant of what's going on. Selectmen should expect to get contract in mail shortly for signature. Will go thru state forestry and Natural Heritage ... market is not strong, given the way market is, market down, pine. He advised that CCM & Hopkinton probably gave a little more than the market because it's a good lot with good accessibility. Gross is a little under \$16K, supervision, marketing costs come out of that so town should realize around \$13K.

Town Clerk, Carol Skerrett approached the board advising she'd been given document to sign and apply the town seal – addressed to Gerry Simmons as E911 coordinator. She advised that she's reluctant to sign it as there are numbers that she can't yet verify. She questioned the origin of the appointment, etc., and will ask for more clarity from Verizon. She'll call Verizon tomorrow. Question going forward is will this be an appointed position going forward or how is it established.

Jim Tully stopped in looking for Alan Chaney re: use of Conservation garage for equipment. Selectman Devlin provided motion to appoint James Edward Tully to Recreation Committee and Charles W. Tully Jr. to another term on Agricultural Commission and as Surveyor of Lumber. Board voted in the affirmative on all three appointments.

Jim Tully stopped in and addressed questions relative to permits, fees, usage fees – noting there aren't any fees in place. He addressed the banner requests that Dave Nicol puts the banners up for free noting when he was in Sudbury; any type of sign required a fee. He asked what would the town do, if didn't have access to Dave Nicol, indicating a lot of people use the common and there's nothing that comes into the town; should be some proceeds to the town for the usage, not even enough coming back to cover light bills. He advised every time there's fund-raisers, etc. something should be put aside to help cover operating costs; summer concert has their own budget, committee they just formed but don't pay any bills. He indicated they generate enough revenue to kick it back into general funds, shouldn't be going there; should be something coming in to cover the costs. A lot of cities and towns have realized that it only makes sense to charge to cover costs and it's time Dunstable did the same. Selectman Devlin suggested checking with other towns as to what they charge and Jim Tully noted the types of uses and costs need to be covered and for

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profits could be charged more. The board again recommended pulling together a fee schedule and bringing it forward. Jim continued to explain his point that Recreation would or could do more, but no-one will step forward if there's no funding and can't get it without charging. Discussion continued on how best to approach. He noted there were plenty of donations – 25' sugar maple from the garden club. So if the Church generates money off activities on the common, and yes it's a non-profit, but no-one gives back to cover the costs. He reported on his attempts to generate the funds to supplement costs of operation. No urgency, not anyone to move forward and take care of it. Jim – not a lot of money but need to offset. If it freed up an extra \$1000 per year, could be available to do some projects. Jim further reported on his attempts at support for snack shack, etc.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:20PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary