

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 17, 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. The board briefly reviewed items that came up within the police department during Chairman Alterisio's absence.

Sue Tully stopped in and presented documentation of Historical Commission's annual designation for the CPC – Tim Joyce as in past years.

The board discussed the AECOM dispatch analysis and future discussions scheduled by NMCOCG on the subject.

Chairman Alterisio addressed the minutes of 8/8 & 8/22 which had been tabled advising he has reviewed both and would entertain a motion: Selectman Leva provided motion to approve both, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Devlin and voted with all in favor.

Minutes of 9/12 – Chairman Alterisio advised he'd reviewed and Selectman Leva presented motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Alterisio and voted with both in favor; Selectman Devlin abstained as he hadn't been present for that meeting.

The Board agreed the time has come to pull a committee together for search for Fire Chief. Chairman Alterisio noted if a new Chief hasn't been selected before the end of March, the Board can appoint an individual for the interim period.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes: Selectman Leva provided motion to approve minutes of 10/3, 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted with both Selectman Leva & Selectman Devlin in favor. Chairman Alterisio abstained as he'd been absent.

Fincom Chairman Dana Metzler stopped in confirming all members of both Fincom and Selectmen have received Chief Downes budget request – noted what he'd submitted included a lot of data which is nice but will request it in the same format as presented to the town. Chairman Alterisio advised that position of the Board is that they, the BOS should go in to present support for the Chief's budget. He advised that the BOS will be setting up a session with the Chief soon to go over a number of items, including the budget. Dana advised he didn't think we have any major concerns at this point but will be checking further with Town Accountant to get input. Since Dunstable hasn't used stimulus money to fund operating budget, shouldn't be in the same dire straits as some other towns are because of reductions in stimulus. He indicated that GDRSD operations seem to have improved and isn't expecting huge

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impact from them. Chairman Alterisio inquired on the contract negotiations and Dana suggested checking with Kevin Welch, their negotiations representative for update.

Chairman Alterisio referenced discussion on report from Town Clerk relative to discrepancies with the Advisory Committee bylaw. Chairman Alterisio referenced the project with University of MA., and indicated he will research the process further for expectations in progress. Chairman Alterisio further advised he wants to make sure that everyone is still in the boat – earlier indications were everyone agreed with the concept now need to determine continued support for the project.

The board discussed the police union contract – will follow up with Kevin Welch on that as well. Secretary was asked to schedule Kevin for next week for report on whatever he can discuss with regard to school negotiations, police union and the DLS Financial Management Review.

Chairman Alterisio advised about conversation with Town Counsel this afternoon, another piece of property under estate agreement, will call for property to be divided, existing house and access to it will be separated from the back property which will be given to Dunstable Rural Land Trust. Proceeds from sale of house and lot will go for educational fund to be disbursed by the town. Will was probated recently. Are a number of items that counsel has had to work on – Dunstable Rural Land Trust was misnamed in the will – needs to be corrected. Sale of the property has been handed over to the executor. All involved are in basic agreement that there's. With the type of commitment, it appears incumbent to step back and take a look at all of the trust funds and how best to address. Additional terms of the gift appear to be that the proceeds of the investment be expended year after year. A look at the Babcock group as to how put together would be pretty good guideline.

Generally from year to year a member of the Board of Selectmen sits on the Babcock scholarship committee – Chairman Alterisio advised his term is up in 2011 and he would like to recommend Selectman Ken Leva for a one year term. He advised it's been tradition that the Chair is the one who sits. Chairman Alterisio made motion to appoint Selectman Kenneth J. Leva as representative from the Board of Selectmen to the Babcock Scholarship Trustees....secretary will send note to Babcock Trustees to that effect.

Chairman Alterisio suggested the board develop their plans to set up some time with Chief Downes to take a look at 3 areas, not necessarily 911 but regionalization in general, as to whether there are any opportunities with that; budget; and basically some philosophical approaches to some issues that have been questioned – where is the

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department going, people issues as well. May address one of the situations where it was perceived that Dunstable Police Department is good ole boy network and if you know an officer, either in favor or beware. Have never seen it and hopes it isn't true. Have to set up a time – go thru individually their thoughts, have brief discussion next week and then set date. Would like to have focused agenda – with points that board wants to address, very specific items want to discuss. Chairman Alterisio indicated he's always seen a common theme with the Chief when he puts budget together and wants to differentiate between the department and the community? Board members indicated they want him to focus on other side of the wall. Chairman Alterisio indicated uncertainty that Chief has understood or that position was effectively conveyed, indicating there were some discrepancies with position of the Board which may have hampered interpretations.

Chairman Alterisio noted the information from MIIA on cost savings through the program as well as the pricing and information from Virtual Town Hall on video streaming – board agreed on member's hopes to pull something together for Town Meeting to present for consideration.

Selectman Leva had on his list police chief; fire chief search committee; school; Chairman Alterisio reported last year board sensed mismatch of perception and requested both Erik & Jim to come in. Once or before budget process gets started, and BOS has some priorities we'd like to extend to school committee before they begin their budgetary process, would be helpful to both. Selectman Leva reported he also has a couple of people interested in Cell Phone Study Committee was going to include Karl in the committee. Chairman Alterisio noted the Board of Selectmen had been authorized at an annual town meeting to investigate possible locations for cell tower on town property but just wants to make sure it's a standing authorization. Once get RFP, it's where the cell towers go, although technology may have moved forward so that doesn't require placement on hills, etc.

Chairman Alterisio advised that one of the things that are still hanging out there is the posting for Town Accountant position, while the Board awaits input from DLS review before moving forward.

Selectman Devlin noted items in the mail relative to adjustment of state primary, in addition to other items mentioned earlier. Board confirmed that the Town Clerk was not taking any position on the initiative, simply conveying information per request. Discussion continued in the mail to earlier communication from Town Clerk and secretary was authorized to circulate the information to town employees relative to collection of signatures within public buildings.

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Selectman Leva advised he'd had some calls from individuals with concerns about school bus situation earlier in the school year, concerning routes reversal, etc. and would like to address those questions with the school committee for their position.

The Board noted interest in appointment from Jon Crandall as Emergency Management Director and the board voted to appoint for term to expire June 30, 2012 basically since the other candidate may have interest in appointment as Fire Chief and board felt it made sense.

Selectman Leva provided motion to appoint Caroline Schwetz for 3 year term to the Cultural Council expiring 10-2014 per request from Cultural Council Chair.

The Board reviewed Banner request from Karen Nichols for the Groton Homecoming Tour. Board approved as to content and will be forwarded on to BORC for their approval.

The board discussed and decided to cancel their meeting on Halloween but agreed to schedule a special meeting should something urgent arise that needed attention.

Selectman Leva forwarded the updated open space plan to Chairman Alterisio for his review.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:17PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary