

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 24, 2011

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03PM with quorum present.

The board briefly discussed expectations from report as they await DLS recommendations from the financial management review. Kevin provided update on the police union contract and the school teacher's contract – both coming to close.

Former Selectman Kevin Welch reports on grants available over the years referencing his discussions with Dave Tully Jr. re: salt shed noting he'd asked him to research with distributors/suppliers and NMCOG as to where other towns got their grants to build their salt sheds.

Discussion continued between Kevin and the board members on how the budget operates and all agreed they hoped to hear from Melinda from DLS sooner than later. Kevin indicated he thought this was going to be one of the easier ones for all.

The board reviewed their recollection from previous discussions relative to the Salmon Brook bridge referencing the recent report from MA DOT. Chairman Alterisio noted he'd requested traffic survey/count by NMCOG once school resumed and Selectman Devlin indicated he'd be checking with Road Commissioners Mike Martin or Tom Dumont tomorrow to see if they have anything to report. Chairman Alterisio noted he was aware of some optional plans.

Chairman Alterisio reported on his attendance at 2 meetings last week, one being the annual NMCOG meeting, speaker was Secretary Gregory Bialecki from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development who presented disk of projects for next year. Chairman Alterisio indicated he needs to pull off projects, determine which affects Dunstable to insure we're on the list. He further noted surprise with the attendance at the meeting advising this year there were only around 70 in attendance where in past years it's been around 125-200.

He advised the other meeting was the final presentation from the survey for regional emergency response centers – went in with idea not a lot of interest but came away with understanding that initiative is probably going to move forward. He reported in Maryland there are only 23 dispatch centers whereas in Massachusetts we have 240; looks

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like Billerica, Lowell and Chelmsford who have the equipment required with the upgrades would be in the driver's seat. Selectman Devlin advised he'd heard that Middlesex County Sheriff's Department was also looking into option of providing that.

Chairman Alterisio noted were talking about full service – having one center that deals with some of the things Chief's evaluation didn't get into. He indicated the chiefs main concerns seem to deal with protection of relationships in place but when big things come up, as example was Munson with the tornadoes, wiped them out – analysis is looking at those types of emergencies. Point is, even though being handled by central agency, all chiefs need to insure needs are being met by autonomous group. As of July 1st 2012, had better be 2, with one for emergency medical dispatch. Under the projections, Dunstable would save \$53K...sounds like bureaucracy that's going to happen. Chairman Alterisio advised looking at evaluation of Groton's facility, dispatch center doesn't fair too well.

Information Chairman Alterisio got handwriting is on the wall – final report is being assembled and will be presentation for each community and request for decision. He indicated time chart indicates determination of government solution by 12/2011 – agreement by 6/2012. Discussion continued on how it might play out – the training, equipment upgrades, etc.

Chairman Alterisio asked if Selectman Devlin had a chance to get into the police budget to see where the chief's at – looks like he's pushing for another officer. Discussions continued on budget request, with board members acknowledging their understanding that many public safety departments think they have a blank check but Selectman Devlin indicated he felt it's commensurate with the lack of crime, etc. Police budget projected at 6% increase across the board 2% cola for personnel, to insure retaining good people – with Chief noting we've lost to other departments who pay higher rates. Selectman Devlin advised on position he & Selectman Leva had –can't see correlation commensurate with requirements. Chairman Alterisio advised needs to support where 2\$ comes from – need to come up with specifics; wants to come back with # plate scanner as article – it's dead. Board needs to look at and present priorities for what can support – get a lot of little hidden glimpses that others don't – board members have to come up with position and give to the Chief.

New Emergency Management Director Jon Crandall stopped in and announced at Captains meeting and– his 1st thing is to get ahold of

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Emergency Management Plan. Chairman Alterisio advised the quicker that gets done quicker he'll be off the hook. He also suggested Jon's best bet was to lean toward the 2 Chiefs if needs assistance. Chairman Alterisio explained EMD background advising that EMD is supportive role to Chief Downes and Chief Rich.

Jon also indicated to the board that something needs to be done in town with home occupation permits, advising you can't have some who can and others who can't. Discussion continued on how things got out of hand in a number of situations throughout town in multiple categories, unaccepted roads, deficient septic systems, etc. takes time to tackle them all. Jon was mostly concerned about home business ones, have electricians, carpenters, etc. who are allowed to operate, whereas Stevenson is served with letter for operating outside home occupation permits where another individual up the road doing the same thing is permitted. He suggested that zoning is a big part of it, lot of self-employed people who own their own businesses. Discussion continued on how things are handled in other towns and need to review present rules and amend to make sense for this time.

Alan Chaney stopped in and confirmed agreement was in order for Hopkinton Land Clearing – forester already has deposit as required within the contract. He explained the process indicating property will look better than before it was done and should be complete by 3/15/2012. Selectman Devlin provided motion to approve, 2nd and approved and Chairman Alterisio signed with secretary as witness. Alan indicated he'd get up there and let Dave Nicol know to expect activity.

Alan Chaney and Bill Moeller then advised the board they'd come up to discuss MUD and National Heritage. reported understanding that Conservation Commission wouldn't do to study unless developer has filed intent along with plan. Alan advised 2 things come into play, wetlands laws and Rivers Act – then have endangered species. Alan explained they have to look at region and determine whether map identifies as endangered species territory noting blanding turtle and wood turtle threatened. Chairman Alterisio advised the Board of Selectmen has decided to move forward and open negotiations again for senior housing; not interested in changes to development proposed, but may be revisiting senior center within it. He reported that all funding mechanics from past are gone but replaced with others – another program Mass Works would fund via grant for infrastructure – CTI is re-interested in project but our timetable says probably 3 years to be viable. He further reported that Steve Joncas said show

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stoppers could be the National Heritage study at around \$60K which could be a real show stopper. Bill & Alan advised the board that Conservation Commission is not that authority when it comes to MESA, Conservation has a role but isn't the governing factor. Alan reported that very rarely do you have a piece of land that can't be developed because of MESA but may limit or impose conditions.

Chairman Alterisio questioned if in 3 years, time is right for MUD, where is NRLC project? Alan suggested Town of Dunstable could always buy, it's up for sale and price keeps dropping. The board reiterated that we're in need of housing for elderly residents and senior center but not NRLC parcel.

The Board re-endorsed their earlier support for NRWA and the Scenic & Wild Rivers Study. They also updated appointments of Community Emergency Response Coordinators Fire Chief Charlie H. Rich, Jr. and Emergency Management Director Jon N. Crandall to NMAEPC Regional Emergency Planning Committee with Brian C. Rich as alternate.

The Board approved use of the Grange Room by the Dunstable Republican Town Committee on 10/25/11 and questioned whether it might make sense to schedule a special session for a Saturday morning from 9-11AM where individuals could get assistance in completing their Ethics & Conflict of Interest requirements. Decision was made that the Board would send out one more e-mail as reminder advising the Board strongly impresses the need to have this done and will be checking with Town Clerk 3rd meeting in November for update on status.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 9:12PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary