

## Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, November 7, 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. The Board was visited by Judy Larter, Alan Chaney, Susan Psaledakis, Leah Basbanes voiced their concerns relative to the unreasonable removal of the branch from the "hanging tree" on Thorndike Street by tree crew during the cleanup after this past weekend's storm. Jim Dow advised that state of emergency, second it occurred it, he was there, it was gone and immediately notified the Chief and the Selectmen. Jennifer Mackenzie advised her family lives adjacent to it and her husband had gone out and taken pictures the day before. All expressed concerns that a 300 year old tree should be so haphazardly cut. It's a tragedy, we all agree; just via here say that it was done by an out of town Michigan Tree crew. On that street, it was cleared, Asplundh guys were there Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. The board noted the difference in stories – some have said it was a Michigan crew and discussion continued on all the activity. Chairman Alterisio advised that he'd asked police to become involved in some of the activity as there were multiple trucks lined up on Pleasant Street conveying his concerns for safety. Amount of damage was so extensive that couldn't cover everything and get the job done. He listened to story that someone was rambling down the road, felt it was in the way and didn't know how they could get thru. Leah advised it was no easy task for them to cut it down – indicating there are a lot of historic trees in town – sign should mean something to people. She presented a picture which had been e-mailed to her just a couple of days before the branch was cut off.

Chairman Alterisio – work under auspices of National Grid – no authority from the Highway Department or our Emergency Management, town can send some correspondence to let them know that the townspeople are very disappointed in this occurrence. Sue advised that it's a trend with National Grid whereby they prune or remove whatever they wish .. advising on her previous experience with them. She indicated there was some wonderment as to where the arborist from National Grid. All expressed concerns that there was no hazard connected with that tree, only two years ago arborists from National Grid brought forward a list of trees that they felt needed to come down yet never targeted this one on that list. Chairman Alterisio indicated he felt it was just a rogue event with no malicious intent. Alan disagreed noting that the power company does it all the time. Judy noted it's important that everyone sitting here feels the same way – can't cut a tree. All agreed at the very least we need to send a letter to National Grid, while we have a shade tree ordinance. Discussion continued on options that might be available with Chairman Alterisio advising that we're fortunate our representative happens to be on committee that deals with public utilities – Chairman Alterisio will call Sheila Harrington a call and advise we're a bit upset, want to make sure they understand how important this type of thing is to insure doesn't happen again. Judy advised that the 113 tree is a perfect example that if there hadn't been someone there to stop them from cutting it

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off, that would have been destroyed as well. Chairman Alterisio will talk with Sheila to see if there isn't a way to get the message across – he explained problems with maintenance with National Grid & Verizon over who was responsible for maintenance and how definition of responsibility has become blurred recently. He'll talk with Sheila for clarification on that as well as we move forward.

Chief Rich asked if there are any other limbs or trees that departments should keep the lookout for. Leah noted we've had power outages that have lasted 3, 4 or 5 days before and have always gotten under and past it. The vehicle on 113 was hit by a vehicle @legal limit.

The Board was visited by Leah Basbanes, Joanne Antonelli, to appoint new Trustees, David Kimpton and Lauren Chenelle to the committee, unsure how to make it happen. Chairman Alterisio advised must be a vote of the quorum of the committee and BOS customarily supports their recommendation. BOS needs in writing (attached) that a vote was taken by the committee and they've recommended ... secretary will send info to Joanne. Chairman Alterisio further advised her that the minutes of that meeting. Board will acknowledge recommendation and Board will send letter to Clerk for their appointment.

The board was visited by members of the Board of Road Commissioners and Chairman Alterisio referenced the letter for DLS re: state of emergency for October snowstorm. As long as Town of Dunstable is exceeding its snow removal budget in this emergency, DLS approval is required as snow budget was reduced this year. Estimate of overage is necessary but don't have a clue as to what amount to put in. If were to put an amount in there that deals with the recoup, discussion continued into the possible avenue to put together the projected costs and all for the fire department, police budget, tree warden, etc. overages as a result. Try to make an estimate on what's over and above the normal. Police Lieutenant James E. Dow advised he'd done that for a couple of days, has talked with David as well, putting together all of the slips, etc. Highways estimate is \$50K not including getting rid of all the brush. Main question is whether we're going to do the same thing that was done before – people are moving brush to road sides. Mike Martin advised that this is not included in the reimbursement from disaster funds. A lot of roads have been done, and now people are moving the materials to the roadside – questionable as to coverage for that removal. Mike questioned why people moved it to the edge of the road – Chairman Alterisio indicated that it was because that was what happened in 2008; Jim Tully indicated that he knew that contractors from National Grid had advised individuals to move to the side of the road.

Mike further advised problem with it is when he asked David about it today, we're not responsible and can't put it on FEMA. Will have to get them to move to one general area – like piling it in the parking lot at Larter Field – will cost some \$6-7K to get the pile in the yard @Highway Garage chipped.

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Asplundh is doing Hall Street right now – leaving on side of road, but town's not responsible to get rid of it. Chairman Alterisio need to do 2 things – 1<sup>st</sup> unfortunate that David wasn't here tonight; need interpretation with what's going on with the number check with Dick Choate. Tom Dumont advised they have a tree crew working and questioned can town incur the cost; going to be an on-going process with hangers and everything else. David is going to come up with number.

Other item is the memo sent to BOS and Library regarding budget cuts and the responsibility for snow removal costs at the Town Hall and Library. Mike advised it was done seriously but isn't going to take place – has served its purpose. Fincom are elected officials and have a statutory responsibility outside the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Alterisio explained the role served by Fincom and the Board of Selectmen – decisions for budgets are by department. Final decisions are made at Town Meeting on town meeting floor and departments have the opportunity to request changes at that time, although it can certainly create chaos in the meeting as to how to move forward. Jim Tully asked, because Fincom is elected does that mean voters have limited time to address their recommendations, even though they're also required to have a hearing on the budget and warrant articles, which the majority of voting public doesn't attend. Road Commissioners advised that everyone who has been serviced under snow removal in the past is going to continue to be serviced. Chairman Alterisio indicated he's not enthusiastic about rattling cages as opposed to laying the cards on the table, discussing the issue out and come to rationale decision before moving forward. BORO agrees but that isn't the way it was. Chairman Alterisio advised the problem is BOS hearing only one side of the story – Mike advised that BORO sat the table, discussed with them, decided and thought it was set and then all changed without notification. Fincom had issue with how BORO bought the truck without Fincom's support – Mike continued to explain that every time they went, the truck came up – their way was that it didn't raise the tax rate for anyone in the town and if the state were to give us \$0 Chapter 90 money in the future, have covered the bill for the truck. He reported that Fincom didn't feel it was appropriate and for every time they went to them, they brought up the purchase of the truck – never ending battle. They tell them one thing and then they look around and see everything happening throughout town except for DPW and personnel in Town Hall...that explains the memo sent out by BORO to Selectmen and Library. His personal opinion is that the Highway Department does a great job including the shutting down of Main Street for a day, which saved the town \$38K. Mike reported he'd spoken with Sarah Bradley from DOT to advise while they were upset that we hadn't put up barriers, it was because we didn't have the funding to do so, she spoke with DOT officials and they provided majority of materials to make repairs on the bridge. Chairman Alterisio noted that Highway did an extraordinary job during the recent emergency and BORO indicated that Dave did excellent job. Another thing that's going to need to be addressed – the white car in bad shape, may need replacement possibly a pickup.

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Jim Tully asked whether there's a benefit with Fincom being elected vs. appointed and whether a change might be recommended. Chairman Alterisio advised that DLS review is expected to provide some recommendations for better management for the community. Jim noted that Groton doesn't seem to have the struggles that Dunstable has – hatred in this town.

Mike Martin noted that when the construction begins on Salmon Brook bridge, road will be shut down for 4 months – Chairman Alterisio indicated need to look at what the impact is going to be on the streets used for the detour and alternate routes taken by commuters. Collectively need to come together and decide the strategy to handle during that period of time. John Crandall advised he thinks that for townspeople it won't be that bad, it's the New Hampshire residents, etc.

Chairman Alterisio reference one other issue – just lay on the table, incident this weekend with Goss property and another event held there over the weekend. He reported he'd called counsel later today as to appropriate action to take. The advice from counsel was to gather information on previous meeting, discussion and agreements made and intent by property owner to gather information to support agricultural exemption and present. Chairman Alterisio noted that Assistant Building Inspector and Zoning Officer, Harry Cullinan from Pepperell was also present at that meeting and can also play a role. Event there which is believed to be outside agricultural exemption – Jim Dow gave Wesley a call and he said he'd turn the loud speakers down. Chairman Alterisio advised that event was originally scheduled in August and it didn't come about and obviously Wes has come to decision that he's going to do. Discussion continued as to whether this type of operation falls within the agricultural exemption. Mr. & Mrs. Gurecki will be invited if it's placed on the agenda for further discussion.

Emergency Management Director Jon Crandall thanked the Highway Department for their cooperation. He also advised that National Grid and the tree crews did an exceptional job. Jon was thanked for his assistance and dedication – his 1<sup>st</sup> week on the job. He advised a debriefing meeting will be scheduled to review what went right, didn't etc. during the October snowstorm and its aftermath.

Kevin Welch appeared before the board to report police union contract is basically all set – got e-mail back from their attorney Diane Byrnes that they're all set. They'll be ratifying before board signs it.

Other item was the power issue, Kevin reported he's spoken with a ½ dozen individuals from National Grid who gave him the run around. He advised he ended up talking with Sheila Harrington, reporting on conference call with her, Eileen Donoghue, National Grid and other politicians around the state who've encountered same problems – law has been passed because of it. They're not paying overtime – not conducive in state of emergency.

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Whatever they have to do to keep costs down, that's how they operate. He reported Government Aid group for attorney general's office hooked Kevin up with people relative to utility. Selectman Leva reported he'd also spoken with Senator Eileen Donahue and government affairs, and when he got ahold of Senator Donahue's office, she immediately contacted National Grid who immediately contacted Dunstable Police. Sheila was going to get back to them early Friday morning but didn't. Chairman Alterisio advised he'd spoken with her Friday – had a conversation and yet to finish it. She's trying to figure out ins and outs of the past few months and how to best address. Kevin indicated it can't keep happening – Chairman Alterisio agreed difficult situation – going where there's the biggest bang for the buck – difficult to move through the town with that kind of damage and protocol that National Grid has that don't do trees, do wires – need to get trees out of there 1<sup>st</sup> – once tree crews come in were able to move forward. Kevin indicated that part of their responsibility is to maintain the wires, including cutting trees back to eliminate exposure throughout the year, not only in emergency situations. Chairman Alterisio will continue the conversation with Sheila to further address.

Board noted some suggestions that it might be best to look to what other options are available for electric service with Chairman reminding all in attendance that the town is never going to be any smaller than it is now. The board will make an inquiry with Groton Electric and/or Littleton Electric. The board discussed items that might come into play to proceed, noting the Town might need to buy the infrastructure as it is assessed on that particular date of purchase. Selectman Leva questioned, if it's so attractive, why the town hadn't been approached by Groton Electric. Board members agreed they have to approach because it is a reasonable approach to pursue for the town not just because of the emergency. Discussion continued on the different approaches, the calls, frustration from all involved and the concerns expressed in the process, stories and special concerns for communication. It was noted that while most knew that police & fire were getting 3 hour updates, there were many personnel who didn't know what was going on; indicating the need to put some additional steps in place to make sure contact people are informed.

Dana Metzler stopped in to insure snow removal memo was discussed and Chairman Alterisio reported further discussion needs to move forward to improve understanding on how to best approach in the future. Dana suggested an additional meeting with Fincom, Road Commissioners and Selectmen to insure better understandings and move toward smoother operations in the future. Chairman Alterisio related that there may have been some side discussions that created the misunderstandings. Dana advised, while there are differences of opinions on what was the best choice – each feeling their position is the appropriate one. Differences of opinions are going to happen as we move forward but need to be prepared. Debt reduction from GDRSD – there really is a reduction of excluded debt – will be

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adjusted for the next 2 quarters. Dana has to check with Dick to see how it works moving forward now.

Motion to approve minutes of 10/17 by Selectman Leva, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10/24 as amended with insertion of speakers name from NMCOG meeting (Secretary Gregory Bialecki from Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development) – Selectman Devlin made motion to accept minutes of 10/24. Board voted approval of both.

Request for use of town hall by Groton Dunstable Youth Hockey for their parents meeting on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> was approved. The board also reviewed the request from DYAA for use of Town Hall for their meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, confirmed no conflicts and approved.

Chairman Alterisio reported took quick scan over the burn sheet – at 33% looks like in good shape. Chairman Alterisio advised he's looking at having some sort of debriefing on what went on with this last snowstorm – suggested best for all to be participants.

Discussion continued on plans for meeting with Police Chief re: budget request – some concerns with approach and where is it going. The board noted some basic issues of communication that need to be worked on, specifically in budgetary nature. Selectman Devlin questioned whether Fincom is supportive of Board's fiduciary concerns. Selectman Leva inquired into the types of training Police Department requires compared to other police departments.

The Board approved request from Chief Rich for use of structure 160 Pleasant Street by Pepperell's Fire Department next 3 Tuesday evenings for smoke training. The Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:55PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary

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### HELENE MORGAN BABCOCK AND ALFRED BABCOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Meeting Agenda October 13, 2011 Town Hall

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm

Members Present: Joanne Antonelli, Frank O'Connell, Kim Terwilliger, Dave Wallace, Jim Frey, Leah Basbanes, Jayne Girouard

- 1) Minutes Volunteer – Kim Terwilliger
- 2) Chair Volunteer – Joanne Antonelli
  - a) Thank you Frank O'Connell for your dedication and hard work over the past few years. The Babcock Scholarship and everyone involved were lucky to have you.
  - b) Thank you Joanne for taking over for Frank. We have the utmost faith in you and know you will be a gracious and tireless leader!
  - c) Joanne will need to arrange access to Town Hall for our meetings (amendment to our original minutes as of 11/14).
- 3) Payment Updates
  - a) All students have been paid except for Nate St.Jean and Emily Russell. Those checks are in the mail.
- 4) Trustees 2012
  - a) Reappointment of existing trustees
    - i) Frank O'Connell, Lisa Towle not continuing
    - ii) Joanne Antonelli agreed to another 3 year term.
    - iii) Walter Alterisio (or other Selectmen) will fill the Selectman's seat for another year.
    - iv) Jim Frey agreed to another year.
    - v) Jayne Girouard agreed to a three year term.
    - vi) Leah Basbanes agreed to another year.
    - vii) Kim Terwilliger agreed to another year.
    - viii) Dave Johnson's current term expires in 2012.
    - ix) Dave Wallace's current term expires in 2012
  - b) Identify trustee candidates for open seats
    - i) Committee feels that it is important to get members willing to commit to a 2 year term.
    - ii) Jim to call Dave Kimpton – accepted
    - iii) Leah to call Lauren Chenelle – accepted
- 5) Financial Report – Dave Wallace
  - a) Received the UBS Client Review – profile as of September 30, 2011
  - b) As of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, assets at \$485.8K, YTD return around -8.65%
  - c) MUST expend 5% (this includes viable expenses and scholarship monies, does not include service fees)
  - d) This past cycle we did not expend 5% so we pre-paid several students in order to meet the expectation of the Trust instrument. In mid-April, we will need to project out our financial numbers to determine if we may need to add another recipient so we cover the 5% expenditure.
  - e) Finance sub-committee: Dave W., Kim and Jim will comprise the 2012 committee
- 6) Development of 2012 Calendar of Events will take place at our next meeting.