

## Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, November 14, 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 quorum present. The Board of Road Commissioners visited the Board. Chairman Alterisio reported on his meetings with David to establish funding related to expenses during October snowstorm and came up with a number of \$143K. He advised are expecting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> go around – getting all the hangers and possibly picking up brush along side of the road like in 2010 ice storm – put in amount of \$35K and another 14K for details. Anything recouped from FEMA and/or MEMA will come off the \$143K. Kinda what the number means.. in terms of if we run short in any particular area, doesn't think the town would find our measures as lavish, Chairman Alterisio wouldn't have a problem with proposing an override to cover expenses related to storm stuff – whether this particular storm or for other storms. Tom Dumont advised that David's figures come in a little higher – we should also be recouping the costs for operating the machinery, etc. Chairman Alterisio advised the number of \$143K is put into a letter to DLS to allow town to exceed the snow budget by that amount. David looked across the table from him and said he didn't understand where Shirley came up with \$500K. Any amounts that are recouped from FEMA or MEMA comes off the \$143K. Mike advised that if we have \$100K out should get \$75K back, and should be able to overspend snow budget by the excess and be safe. Chairman Alterisio advised we want to make sure we keep a real good handle on the difference in actual bills compared to what was come up with as an estimate; will need to have to substantiate difference. Mike indicated that if the Board wants the town to pick up and chip the downed branches, like many other towns have done will need to pick up the overage. Chairman Alterisio advised he'd looked at what other towns were doing, some having residents bring to transfer station or a specific drop-off point for the town to take care of it. Unsure that approach is realistic to Dunstable with regard to the volumes of damage – also there are a number of elderly in town who probably aren't going to be able to handle it. Chairman Alterisio advised that he's had some e-mails from people who were unhappy that they'd already taken care of the problem with no assistance from the town.

Dave Crandall questioned why town would feel it imperative for the town to pick up yard debris. He's already taken care of his. Selectman Leva wondered whether it made sense to assess whether it was too much. Tom Dumont indicated he knew town doesn't have the resources – Chairman Alterisio advised the only reason he suggested was because David had indicated that were going to be going up and down the street anyway to take care of the hangers. Tom suggested coming up with a location for individuals to bring it to, and they'd assist handicap seniors,

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etc. who didn't have the capability. Road Commissioners suggested putting a message out advising of the location and arrangements, etc. possibly through reverse 9-1-1. Need to quote what's happening. Discussion continued over some of the options that might be available for addressing some of the bigger stuff with Larter Field given as a suggestion for small stuff. Leah Basbanes suggested she might have possible location for depositing materials shoveled from the culverts noting that Conservation could allow them to deposit it up on the Amos Kendall parcel – former Henry Tree Farm location. Many areas She advised that Conservation is meeting tonight and could look at an alternative site for depositing chips, brush, etc.

Chairman Alterisio – on other storm related stuff, he's been trying to get ahold of Sheila. Basically initial word that she got, and initial conversation with her she understood that Dunstable was happy with what went on – Chairman Alterisio clarified that crews did job well, were intent on getting job done but issue was with the assignment of the crews – from broad prospective, upper echelons is where the problem came in. National Grid is a large out of state operation who is looking at the cheapest approach possible. Alternative to underground service is to maintain lines, etc. and they don't want to spend the money. The other issue is, and it's already stated, where they go and who they get moving is wherever there's the biggest bang for the buck. Clearly demonstrated, Dunstable was last one up as we have the smallest percentage of users. Dunstable isn't big enough to be important to anybody – we're just as good as anyone else. Selectman Leva advised that Kevin has scheduled meeting with at Groton Town Hall with Groton Electric – Chairman Alterisio had no problem, thinks have Kevin enough passage with negotiations – Chairman Alterisio has no problem with Kevin's intent and enthusiasm but does have a problem with any inference that town is interested – needs to come from the town. Chairman Alterisio concerned with Kevin wheeling & dealing as a representative of the town – no problem with a fact finding mission. Chairman Alterisio just wanted to make sure that no one in Groton is misled to think that Kevin is representing the town.

Chairman Alterisio noted the article in tonight's paper relative to Groton's solar farms – suggested that if there was an investor out there that wants to develop the credits – we have a fair amount of space but not a lot of money to invest in technology. From what Chairman Alterisio read, sounds like Dunstable could probably do at least 10 times the areas reported there. Development in Tyngsboro, up behind Joan Fabric, estimated would save town \$1M over ten years. However on flip side, and one that Chairman Alterisio would want to be careful of, is initially that's where it's at, but in 15 years from now and maintenance needed, etc. who's on the line for that responsibility. Need a win-win agreement.

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Chairman Alterisio continued to report on the progress with the solar installations – Dunstable could be still on the ground floor. Chairman Alterisio reported the option for Munroe Christmas tree farm, indicating most people can't see it, except from the air. Another perfect location would have the NRLC site on River Street.

Chairman Alterisio inquired whether any further response had come in from Goss or the Gureckis re: mounted shooting event. Chairman Alterisio spoke with Wes who advised the event was a private affair, wasn't held under his agricultural exemption.

Chairman Alterisio referenced items he's outlined for a sit down with Chief Downes to focus in on his budget proposal, department development and thirdly what are we doing with department people skills. Chairman Alterisio indicated interest specifically in leadership skills for both the chief and the lieutenant who are outside the position of the union contract. Would like to include budget – recommending cost of living increases outside union contract; stipend which are already covered within the contract, as far as his narrative and his budget – don't know that need to get into explaining. Selectman Devlin wondered whether it might be prudent to get a prospective from Fincom as well. Chairman Alterisio suggested that once contract has been finalized, are held to it, advisory board must understand and look to how to fund. Things like a new vehicle are outside the contract. Must come up with way to fund contract; questioned whether Chief is trying to justify what he's asking for – is he requesting additional overtime or trying to justify. Chairman Alterisio would like to see where we're going with what we gave him for this year. Some uncertainty as to the approach; Selectman Devlin noted we're hiring these guys with the idea they can be entrusted with police responsibilities but don't want to use them for that purpose because could be outside their realm – some discrepancy in approach. Chief reporting cost savings of \$14K if brought on another officer – need to understand where he's coming from. Chairman Alterisio noted talks about turning over equipment, needs for facilities maintenance and improvements. Talking about a 6% increase overall for the police budget – talking about the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest budget we have – approaching \$1 Million. The board noted there a lot of reality factors that have to be taken into account – with times the way they are. Selectman Leva and Selectman Devlin indicated that they think he'll get it. On the development side, coming down on the regionalization applications – need to take a look at what's being proposed – how could we position ourselves to realistically approach what makes sense for the town; wants him to take a look at the whole picture – not taking the approach that lose the individuality of the town and it's needs. Chairman Alterisio will put the outline together and get it to him, he suggested setting up a time during the week. He asked

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board members to look over and let secretary know if they come up with anything else they'd like added.

Minutes of 11/7/11 – Chairman Alterisio noted he'd reviewed, Selectman Leva requested emphasis on page 5 of the minutes, that when he got ahold of Senator Donahue's office she immediately contacted National Grid who immediately contacted Dunstable Police. Motion was made, seconded and Board voted to approve as amended.

Chairman Alterisio advised he had a brief discussion with potential candidate for governing project that town has underway – 1<sup>st</sup> part being the Financial Management Review – Bill Ahern is a likely candidate.

Mail Review: Selectman Devlin referred to notification received from National Grid re: foliage management plan; secretary will scan and put on town's website for resident's reference. Selectman Devlin also referenced e-mail received from Jennifer MacKenzie re: hanging tree and Chairman Alterisio advised that he'd be attaching it to letter he's preparing for Sheila Harrington on the subject. He also referenced update received on property manager on GLTHS renovation project.

Selectman Leva advised he's been in contact with Karl Huber re: his contacts for cell tower placement and Selectman Devlin has set up to meet Frank Schmidt from Charter re: equipment for broadcasting meetings.

The board discussed their expectations and plans for proceeding with

As far as the committee for Fire Chief, Chairman Alterisio suggested meeting with Chief Downes and Emergency Management Director as to how to best approach. Chairman Alterisio referenced the past Fire Chief approach – were some internal problems and group felt best to address internally before considering going outside.

Tax Levy Hearing scheduled for Free The 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