

## Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, November 28, 2011

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with quorum present. Chairman Alterisio opened the Tax Levy Hearing @7PM; Motion was made by Selectman Leva to continue the hearing until 7PM Monday on December 5<sup>th</sup> as there are some outstanding requirements which must be completed before the hearing can proceed; 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted with both in favor of continuing hearing.

Minutes from 11/21 were tabled until next week. Chairman Alterisio advised that there were a couple of changes in the letter based on upon recommendations from Emergency Management Director Jon Crandall to clarify information.

Chairman Alterisio reported he'd attended meeting last week which was comprised of mostly town administrators and town managers relative to proposals for regionalization of E911. He indicated are clearly hearing that Lowell, Billerica, Tewksbury appear to be in. Westford is getting some resistance from their chiefs – communications for Westford is separate – one for Fire and another for Police. He advised the state is going to be looking to move forward with project and looking for commitment from communities. He reported Tyngsboro's still pretty much on the fence – Chairman Alterisio sensing probably not because relationship between Tyngsboro & Westford tight. He noted it seems with core of Chelmsford, Lowell, and Tewksbury – where does Dunstable fit in. He felt that NMCOG should still present the findings and give our emergency team an opportunity to listen and understand proposal; Ayer, Pepperell & Harvard looking at concept as well, uncertain whether Groton has been approached. Chairman Alterisio advised from everything he's heard so far an rationale behind not sure that majority of departments have latched onto concept or purpose for state investigating this option...clearly because operations can't be afforded the way they're going. Chairman Alterisio felt the issue with the fiefdom that everyone has to have their own thing, needs to be addressed. He felt that towns like Dunstable that doesn't have the funds to support the requirements. Appears that one of the reasons state has to try to link to lockup – may not be Billerica but are looking at other areas – like U Lowell @ Lowell line. Lowell and Chelmsford seem really interested in getting in on it. For Dunstable, if we were to become involved, Groton wouldn't need to do the update. Seem to be linking the two projects together, and clearly the clout.

Chairman Alterisio advised he'd given his copy of the DLS report to Bev Woods @NMCOG and under the grant that they have can assist with the bylaws. Chairman Alterisio hasn't established date for 1<sup>st</sup> session – will

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be talking with Frank Antonelli who he felt would be a good resource. He reported all the individuals he's approached are excited at the options for the project.

Chairman Alterisio inquired what had happened with the meeting over in Groton-discussed legislation that have attempted to pass for years – dependent may have some opportunities. Chairman Alterisio wondered on legislation – noting approach that has to buy out assets that already exist may have been loosened up a bit; – sounded like Groton was excited with fact that would allow them to update Old Dunstable Road at the same time - definitely something of interest. Board hoped recent letter relative to National Grid's emergency response would generate some response and allow for further discussion of process.

The board noted the bills forwarded by the Road Commissioners for detail officers related to the storm. Selectman Leva was concerned that need to have conversation with Chief Downes – Road Commissioners question why the Highway Department should be charged detail rates when the police department maintains such a large overtime budget that could cover. Issue will be pursued further with police department.

Board noted quote from RW Brown for the annual audits and decided to pursue interest for competitive quotes for the town audit based on recommendations in the DLS Financial Management Review report. The board further noted documentation provided by Building Inspector Dana Barnes on USI.

The Board met with Steve Boczenowski and Alice Lenderhaut. Mr. Boczenowski presented handout on Project Interface. He advised that two years ago his son Jeffrey died from untreated anxiety that led to the depression that took his life. He reported on the spontaneous meetings that followed his son's death; reported on forum in Groton and recruiting a couple of subject matter experts as result, one being Dr. Marjorie Camboretti and another expert who provided what the parents needed to address the issue. He advised they'd realized later on that the get help part is really challenging. He reported on the stress related to having a loved one tormented with these types of issues – it grows over time and at some point you realize what's happening. If kid has a soccer injury, you can talk about it whereas when it's a mental disorder. They ran into this organization Project Interface and determined it was needed in our community and formed non-profit organization TAZ – (teen age anxiety – purchasing contract for project interface – will bring. He explained the items in the packet, the need, study made (on slide 2 from BCBS MA) which reflected not only a shortage but difficulty matching need. While there are lots of therapists, hard to find the one that matches your need. He explained the process of providing the match for the need. Project

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Interface knows who's taking patients, match insurance to specialties, etc.

They continued to explain the benefits of this project for the towns of Dunstable and Groton. Mr. Boczenowski reported that as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, people from Groton and Dunstable will be able to call with questions, providing an interchange for parents and children with experts in the area. They're building database and will work directly with the families. Access to care is part of providing care – will follow-up with families to make sure they've received the assistance needed.

Intention of project interface is to just be a referral service but people who need immediate help can be provided needed assistance over the phone. The value is that they are trained and can screen on the spot whether it's an emergency situation that requires immediate attention – they're able to triage over the phone the attention required and follow-up as required.

Project Interface began in Newton as part of grant and has spread out from there. In January 2011, Westford came on board, Chelmsford beginning July 2011. TAZ is picking up contract for Groton and Dunstable for two years – cost of \$10K. Have met with Groton Selectmen, Superintendent Mastrocola, Groton Board of Health; hopes that at end of those two years, public funding will take over the responsibility for the cost. He's really passionate about it and hopes that it moves forward – basically taking the first step to put a program on line. Chairman Alterisio asked what steps need to be taken immediately to convince school district and parents and initiate the process. Chairman Alterisio indicated his awareness that there a lot of things that are happening but asked what efforts are this group putting together to bring attention to all the residents.

Alice advised that they're planning a campaign to insure that residents are aware of the service and the advantages of having it in place to inform parents of what to look for and how to best address. Their intent is to not only provide the service but do some very aggressive marketing to bring the message across. She reported on her background as a provider, noting that she's frustrated that a student can be going home for summer when he/she isn't ready to be taken away from therapy – service needs to be made available. In the mental health field, you're provided with a list of therapists with no breakdown of which field they specialize... very important to the patients support. She advised this service would provide residents with a source to assist parents. Chairman Alterisio clearly infrastructure professionals are being made available but essential to make sure that people recognize problem and prepare to step up to it. Problems that affect the parents bring pressure

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onto the children who are observing issues that family is addressing. Information forums scheduled for middle of December – 12/15/11 with guidance counselors at High School, Police, Fire, EMTs, clergy, etc. from both towns. Invitation was sent out via e-mail to public service groups. Has invited both police chiefs to training on the subject and Chiefs have invited him to be on the 911 television show. He related to the stigma that can be associated with suicides and the importance of sharing the experience to assist others. They'll report back in a few months with statistics. Further information is available on Project Interface by visiting their website at [www.projectinterface.org](http://www.projectinterface.org) or on Teenage Anxiety & Depression Solutions (TADS) at [www.tadsma.org](http://www.tadsma.org).

Chairman Alterisio reminded board of meeting scheduled for 1:30 debriefing Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> at the fire station and advised representation from National Grid has been confirmed by Chief Downes.

The board noted ad for Town Accountant has been prepared; Dick is taking a look around to see of any individuals who might fill the bill...approached accountant for Ashby but she has no interest. Dick advised on another individual who might be a good fit; once we've received applications and resumes, will set up interviews.

Selectman Leva drew attention to invitation received from MA Tree Warden's Association relative to Chapter 87 New Section 14 - Utility Vegetation Management Plans ... secretary was asked to float out invite to David Tully, Bob Bacon and Jon Crandall. Secretary will follow-up on preparation of letter re Senate Bill #1033 requesting elimination of surcharge from bill.

Chairman Alterisio will follow up with Chief Downes after 30<sup>th</sup> meeting re: budget issues.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:15PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary