

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, December 12, 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. First order of business to execute police union contract - Sgt. Darrell Gilmore and Officer Erik Hoar visited the board for the sole purpose of endorsing the police contract for FY2012-2014. Jim Tully was in attendance as well. Chairman Alterisio advised that basically the contract reflects the time and conditions we're in and extended support for the police department and to acknowledge former Selectman Kevin Welch for the work he'd put into making this happen – most of the heavy lifting was his. Sgt. Gilmore indicated they hadn't reviewed final after it was amended; noted correction being made, marked accordingly and endorsed by all. Secretary was asked to send pdf copy to them so they could provide to Diane Byrnes, union representative & counsel. Officer Hoar & Sgt. Gilmore will obtain Diane's signature & return signed copy for the board's file.

Alan Chaney stopped in and advised that timber cut on River Street has begun, most of it has been cut and contractor will be trucking logs out this week; he advised there's lot of junk there, lot of butt rock too.

Minutes of 12/5 were approved as written. The board noted the renewal information for the Dunstable Gas & Convenience common victualler's license has been completed, and after motion to approve by Selectman Leva, 2nd and vote, the board signed the license accordingly.

Chairman Alterisio referenced correspondence received from individual as follow-up to earlier incident with police officers in September and response he's prepared, noting it's being reviewed by counsel before release. Board plans to finalize next week.

The board noted there's been a bevy of interest in the position of Town Accountant in response to the ad. Board suggested setting meeting on 12/27 to whittle through responses we've received. Bonnie, Dick & Dana Metzler will be invited & asked to review the submissions in advance. Board decided to forgo meeting the 1st week in January with their 1st meeting in the New Year scheduled for the 2nd Monday in January, unless something comes up in the interim that requires their attention.

At 7:30PM the board met with Bill Ahern, Brian Reynolds, Frank Antonelli, Susan K. Psaledakis and Catherine Irzyk who have agreed to serve on the Governance Committee. Motion was made, 2nd and voted to appoint all five to the new Governance Committee. Chairman Alterisio advised that the committee will have to be sworn in and elect a secretary & chairman; he provided them with an outline of the charge. He also advised on the

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issue of ethics and conflict of interest training requirements. Basically want to reflect on report completed by the MA Department of Revenue – asking committee to focus in on the recommendations and changes suggested and come up with consensus as to how could be best addressed. Looking for their recommendations; once ready, will meet with other department heads and proceed to implement. He advised that NMCOG has resource that may assist with bylaw changes, but left to committee to make recommendations. Final pass will be to town counsel, who also has copy of the report. Not going to be longtime process for committee – long term will be the implementation. He noted that incumbent official's terms stand pat until effective termination – probably about a 3 year process for all the changes in office. Chairman Alterisio asks for some urgency with some of the things that are up close so that if there are implications to the budget process for 2012 can be in touch with advisory board so they can figure into the budget if at all possible.

Sue questioned whether she'd understood that we had buy-in from Fincom, Chairman Alterisio advised that have buy-in in that this was the thing to do. Looking at this as objective, trying to be objective and stay away from, not preload. Chairman Alterisio indicated direction is appropriate with ultimate goal to become more professional, more efficient and if we do it right, he thinks will get more volunteers in that people will step back and see the benefits of being involved. He felt that this process will categorize a lot of the jobs & functions in town so people will have a better understanding. This is just a start and hopefully this group will cast the die for the future. Chairman Alterisio advised he'd like to convene the 1st meeting and get the election of chair and secretary out of the way. The board agreed to hold their 1st meeting on the 21st @3PM here at Town Hall. Chairman Alterisio advised the board wanted to make sure they understood that they have the full support for the direction from everyone they've spoken to. The group moved across the hall to be sworn in by Town Clerk.

Chairman Alterisio advised the other board members they are free to attend and provide input, while not voting members of that committee.

Jim Tully asked the board if he wanted to move forward from Parks and Recreation to get a little more allocation for their budgets. He wondered if he goes to them, knows that budget was chopped not sure exactly when it was changed. Chairman Alterisio felt the issue was when he came to them regarding the condition of the fields, needed to understand exactly where things stood and how it came about. What Jim is looking at is how to fund the needs of the Parks & Recreation departments are going to be looking for a lot and wasn't sure whether it was best to bring to Selectmen 1st & then Fincom or combined presentation. He stressed the need to look at funding mechanism, problem is everyone that comes,

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it all comes out of the same pot. Jim was uncertain whether it makes more sense to get support of each of their boards, the Selectmen before going to Fincom. Jim at this point there's not a lot for the children, not a lot to develop recreation programs. Chairman Alterisio felt presented correctly, could be very successful. They were just looking at one piece of playground equipment like Groton has and it's \$25K. He presented the board members with transcript of some ideas he's put together. He reported they have a revolving fund that they want to use for recreational programs but don't want to use it solely for maintenance.

David Tarr from Lake Circle questioned where things are getting tight for everything, has any consideration been given to regionalization of those services. Jim advised we were & suggested the fact is actually we need funding for part time help.

The board noted the recent correspondence received today from John Chakmakas relative to NRLC Performance Bond from their previous gravel permits requesting release of the bond. Secretary provided background information. Also noted were copy of Charter 's petition to FCC relative to rate control; letter from Town of Erving requesting the board's support for a bill relative to district votes. Mr. Tarr questioned whether this might provide more proportional electoral district coverage. Discussion continued on how their recommendation might benefit the communities.

Mr. Tarr asked about last week's meeting reviewing potential process for Fire Chief Selection and Chairman Alterisio reported on the consensus from that meeting. He advised he's a member of the fire department is willing to serve on search committee if they needed him but not as representative of the fire department, looking to serve community and look out for what's best for the town. 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