

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, December 27, 2011

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM with quorum present. First item-Chairman Alterisio advised he'd convened Governance Committee @their 1st meeting – Chairman is Brian Reynolds and Cathy Irzyk is the Secretary. Have set a fairly aggressive meeting schedule...hopefully will be ready to present by end of February. Deliverables expected were review of report and rationale for items to be considered. They'll make their presentation and then is responsibility of elected officials and appointed committees to make things happen. This gives them the opportunity to say we're here, need to get there and how to do. Each one of them is going to have to pull it off....saw a lot of positive things with that group. So far, everyone he's talked to has said it makes sense in the scheme of things, problem is in the detail of how to make it happen. In principal and in concept, everyone has basically bought in on the need to get it done – details for moving forward will bring the attention to transition. Changing from personnel policy to bylaw; process for changing elected positions to appointed – will need to put together plan for amending those. Board noted uncertainty as to how enterprise group works into change. If looking at a public works situation, what happens with Water.

Minutes of 12/19 tabled until full board in attendance though both Selectman Devlin & Chairman Alterisio indicated they had no problems with them.

Chairman Alterisio reported the response to Hardy Street went out as is – town counsel noted specific challenge to how things were addressed making last paragraph necessary.

Chairman Alterisio referenced update from Commonwealth of MA re: continuation of MassGIS. The next item referenced was the dog issue on Thorndike Stree: Chairman Alterisio advised he's been here for some years, seems like each time deal with dog issue, it's really not about dogs. Chairman Alterisio reported on information provided by Chief Downes on the calls advising he's looking @2 issues – yes the dogs did get out – our bylaw is a control law. Need to respond to owners to remind them of the bylaw provisions noting appears has been some attempt to address the issue by keeping the animals contained but have been able to escape on a couple of incidences. He advised he's a little concerned with last report from police which referenced calls to animal control officer – Rose Russell came into station to complain about ACO's attitude. She was advised that she still needs to call police when an incident like that occurs but must contact Selectmen relative to ACO's attitude. Chairman Alterisio indicated it may have been aggravated by

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his frame of mind that he's inadequately compensated for the service provided. He indicated may need to get Sean in here. Of the amount appropriated for the service, he takes 1/12 out each month but wasn't aware that wasn't solely for his salary but was for everything. He'd always interpreted that as his salary for the service with expenses being separate – Chairman Alterisio advised he has talked to him before and advised that must put together a program and bring before Fincom for their support. Board continued to discuss the background and their discussions with Sean relative to the position and requirement. We've got clear the air and send off letter to the Dumonts reminding them of the bylaw provisions relative to dog control. Then need to sit down with Sean and look at dog officer program, what's in place and what's needed. Dan noted discussions with Chief today, need documentation for requests made. Board will put together response to dog officer, copy Ms. Russell and will set up session with Sean as well.

Walter noted letter from Suburban Coalition recommending membership – suggested he'll call around to a couple of towns to see if it makes any sense to join – what are the benefits.

The board noted response from Marcy from National Grid relative to board's communication on the response received from National grid during the October storm. Chairman Alterisio noted the historical nature of the Town of Dunstable reflected in historical books where there wasn't an abundance of trees, mostly open land, etc. Also in mail nominating report and forms for MIIA's annual vote of officers;

Next Board meeting scheduled for 9th @7PM but board members will stop in next week and sign warrants. Chairman Alterisio noted meeting scheduled tomorrow to review applications received for Town Accountant and narrow down for interviews. Chairman Alterisio noted will also have to look at clerical requirements and how to handle best.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 7:42PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary