

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, January 9, 2012

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. Chairman Alterisio, referencing communication from Chief Downes on subject, reported he'd noticed a bunch of kids on the ice @Woodward Pond and some open water; spoken with Police Chief who advised they'd chased them off earlier in the day & raised issue as to whether it made sense. Primary concern was, while these were all older kids, if little ones saw them on the ice might think it was safe and be put in jeopardy. In the old days, Ed Fahy used to get out there and check conditions, if was safe, light would go on but now need to look into what to do about it. Chief has responded with letter no clear policy – looking for guidance as to how to handle – if we posted rules. Fundamental question is once post and start doing, accept some liability – question is how much liability. Look into what other towns do – what kind of policy issues in place, what route do we take. Lieutenant is here to provide history – used to get calls as to whether ice was safe or not – can't deem it safe because if something happens. Chairman Alterisio further advised he'd had conversation with Chief Rich over the weekend – rocks in there, have had people there, Massapoag, Mill Street pond. Police will go down and suggest for individuals to get off the ice, if they believe it's unsafe. First pass can take a look at how other communities handle it and if something that can be communicated to residents. Noted concern for non-stop throwing them off – once you throw someone off, they're right back on there. Usually toward the end of the season, it isn't abused, but since we haven't had any snow, it's presented an attraction. Board members will check with a few communities to see what they do. Board discussed the technicalities with liability exposure – will check with neighboring towns as to approach they use to determine our best approach to protect the community.

Chairman Alterisio briefly discussed the subject with Brian Locapo, being present, since he lives on the lake, as to types of problems the area residents encounter there with individuals on the lake.

The minutes of 12/19 & 27 were reviewed. Selectman Devlin made motion to approve minutes of 19th & 27th, 2nd and voted with all in favor of 19th and one abstention on the 27th.

Selectman Leva provided motion to grant common victualler's license for Dunkin Donuts @238 Pleasant Street. The board approved and signed accordingly.

Chairman Alterisio reported on interviews of 4 Town Accountant candidates by himself, Town Treasurer & Tax Collector Bonnie Ricardelli, temporary Town Accountant Dick Choate & Fincom Chairman Dana Metzler. Chairman Alterisio provided background on the four. He advised that group is also looking at another candidate who had expressed some interest but was reluctant to commit. Group will be meeting again on Wednesday and hopes to make decision on how best to proceed. Issue is what to do with background checks – CORI, if don't have a process, time to include one. All agreed, town should get professional references as well as CORI. Chairman Alterisio will ask for references, get CORI, Selectman Devlin & Selectman Leva indicated they were pretty sure has to go thru Chelsea. Police Chief is authorized to do for within his department but uncertain whether he can do for Town hall personnel.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, January 9, 2012

Chairman Alterisio addressed outstanding response to Mrs. Russell, advising he has the police records relative to 4 instances between July & December regarding issues with 2 dogs owned by her neighbors. Chairman Alterisio read from the beginning of the dog control bylaw – but indicated one thing he's having a little problem with is the fact that there's a common drive, how do you determine property lines. Dog Officer has been out there a couple of times but police have been out there more. One problem that the board has to speak with Sean about is comment that the town isn't paying him enough to do what's expected, clearly can say it to us, but not to a resident. Moving forward, if he isn't able to continue with this position as it stands, town needs to understand what's expected and cost related and address. Two issues need to be resolved: one whether there are any problems with common drive, bylaw says beyond the confines of the property, issue she raised is that has people on horses, if horse rears up due to dogs, someone's going to get hurt. Selectman Leva asked if police report indicates Chief has followed up with Sean and how addressed. Chairman Alterisio read context from police reports. Chairman Alterisio will research further and prepare letter. He advised 1st call was on 7/15, with subsequent 10/7, 10/12 & 12/16 reports. Chairman Alterisio noted need to eliminate mixed signals where police say need to speak with dog officer and dog officer telling them to call police. In any case, going to have to write something up and send it out, referring to bylaw, if there's a complication with common drive, will try to address.

Recreation Commission members Jim Tully and Brian Locapo met with board where the board was given copies of the City of Revere's RFP for the circus event – Selectmen. Jim advised that Fincom's opinion was it wasn't a good idea, they want the money in the general fund. Dick Choate & Fincom's opinion was that Selectmen could allow them to go ahead, in view of the money approve. Selectmen would be willing to grant entertainment license. He indicated we have to come up with something similar, whether it's an RFP or some other document; if you use terminology Revere uses, should be all set. Chairman Alterisio suggested that would also need confirmation that CORI's have been done. Contract must designate who's responsible for what. Everything within town must be addressed by the town. It's a learning curve, Fire Chief, Police Chief and Water Commission are all in favor. Recreation will be in contact with school for possible use of their facilities for Recreation events. Jim referenced the folder he'd provided with model from Circus Smirkus – they give us the model which must be followed. They provided templates and everything – gave them everything they need for tickets, sponsorship, etc. They wrap their playbill with ad-book; Recreation has been contacting individuals within town soliciting volunteers. Board provided their general support – go ahead and put together program to implement...need to be sure we've done everything inside the law to make sure all avenues are covered. Brian advised that from what he gathers, there's a real big senior citizen draw. They'll need five or six committees – opportunity for repetition best case scenario could bring in \$25-40K in a year. The group discussed contributions coming in for concert series. Jim inquired if we were limited to the 2' X 3' sandwich signs or whether town might be exempt from the sign restrictions of the bylaw. Board was supportive and looked to this event as something that people could look forward to as residents had looked forward to in past years.

Next issue, Chairman Alterisio referenced recently noticed damage to Grand Hall, after discussion was determined best option might be to ask Building Inspector to take a look at it to see if he can assess damage origin and provide some recommendations. Secretary will contact.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, January 9, 2012

Chairman Alterisio reported he and Selectman Devlin had reviewed budget with Chief Downes – referencing burn sheet – used as indicator as to where we are – noted doesn't seem to be a lot of benefit in returning money at end of year – having all that money tied up – Chief seemed receptive, has reduced amount and will rework budget and resubmit. Discussion continued on the items reviewed and Chairman Alterisio felt the logic they'd provided at meeting was accepted well by Chief and moving forward will be coming back with amended budget.

Chairman Alterisio reported on meeting he had today with Mark Haddad & Chief DePalma in Groton on the issue of the research into the Regionalizing 911. Meeting scheduled for next week when NMCOG will present information – Groton officials were invited to attend. Chairman Alterisio noted some concern that state is looking at Maryland as example – concern is that state might come in and decide too expensive and has to be undertaken under their conditions; don't want them coming in saying you're not big enough, you'll have to join another, need to be sure the service is being provided adequately for the constituents. He indicated it isn't going to happen right away but must be prepared to move forward at some point – looking at a minimum of 3-4 years out to administer. He wanted to make sure that Groton understands that Dunstable isn't looking to pull out because we're dissatisfied, or anything like that, need to do due diligence to investigate all the possibilities. He advised this process provided the discovery that the state has provided sizable funding to the Town of Groton for the dispatch service provided. Chairman Alterisio noted that at some point will need to address equipment disparity. Groton understands where we're at and will be attending next Monday's NMCOG presentation.

Chairman Alterisio referenced the MMPA research into Police & Fire Chief salaries. Need to look at whether the town is ready to consider full-time Fire Chief. Town needs to decide whether full-time chief is a necessity, or what other alternatives might be available. Chairman Alterisio indicated, looking at that range, and the communities depicted, we're not in that bad shape. For the fire, part of it will need to include benefits, etc. We'll need to look at what we need – have basically experienced fulltime chief – need to evaluate what that has provided and if we were to continue, how do we would the town support that. Regionalization option was briefly discussed and the elements necessary for making the determination as to what is needed. The board noted the response during recent house fire and relative support.

Alan Chaney stopped in and reported on the timber cut @91 River Street – has been completed – win/win for all – forest is better and netted the town around \$12K.

The board referenced previous information provided by Town Clerk in late November on the subject of provisions for remote participation in public meetings by board and committee members, with the approval of Chief Executive Offices (i.e., the Board of Selectmen) as recently approved by the Attorney General in the latest revision of the Open Meeting Law and their discussion relative to adoption of remote participation. The Board took the position, because of technology necessary to make remote participation effective, the town is not prepared to adopt at this point. All members agreed. Town Clerk will be notified of the board's decision.

Selectman Leva addressed questions relative to Goss Farm and discrepancies with Zoning Officer, and wants to know where we are – is Dana on board – Chairman

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, January 9, 2012

Alterisio referenced last position where Dana & Wes were going to look at whether he qualifies under agricultural exemption. Need to qualify where it stands – need to come to some sort of agreement with Dana & Wes as to where we stand. Board would like to hear from Dana whether qualifications have been or will be met to continue agricultural exemption. Need to come to some sort of agreement as to where it stands. Board asked secretary to schedule Building Inspector on agenda to address recent zoning questions.

Emergency Management Director Jon Crandall stopped in to say hello and report that the President has signed legislation relative to October storm. Chairman Alterisio indicated last number he'd heard was that could expect reimbursement @high 70% of expenses for that emergency.

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

