

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, May 7, 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 reported on items on the agenda – hearing for electrical permit fees; run thru on warrants; Town Accountants recommendation;

Electrical Permit Fee Hearing was called to order after Chairman Alterisio advised notice duly posted; Alternate Inspector David Sweet Jr. represented his Dad – want to keep up with surrounding towns on fees and other items asking for reimbursement for emergency callouts – indicating that if they were able to keep all the fees, it should cover. He reported the fees were comprised to coordinate with surrounding towns. Chairman Alterisio asked on being called out – for emergency – could be 3 hours, could be 10 minutes, no way to predict. Chairman Alterisio advised he'd had some conversation with Dave Sweet Sr. earlier and his preference was for 100% of the fees to be turned over to them instead of keeping 20% for the town. Chairman Alterisio – issue is whether the 80./20 rules was appropriate – something like 15-18 permits this year which accounted for \$1800 – with 20% being used to defray administrative fees. Issue is whether \$400 is compensating administrative for the year; looking at the numbers – dependent on number of permits. Selectman Devlin indicated he'd spoken with Dave Sweet Sr. earlier who was comfortable with the fee increase and maintaining the 80/20 arrangement. Chairman Alterisio indicated the question still standing was whether the rule is a good number or a fictitious number – need to look at both Electrical Inspector, and Plumbing & Gas – if change for one, should for both. Chairman Alterisio referenced comparison to others being called out for emergencies – police and fire are compensated for call outs for emergencies. Chairman Alterisio suggested no action on that portion of the request until we've researched the information so we have a full picture so they can make an educated decision. For what it's worth, Chairman Alterisio indicated he's of position that until it's qualified what the 20% does – he's not in position to make decision on releasing it. If 20% was intended to cover the cost of administering the program – issue of compensation, ought to be coming up with some sort of statement on callouts – like Police & Fire do. Once that statement has been made police & fire will understand the compensation expected for the emergency service.

Public comments & questions – Dana Metzler asked whether we had a couple of ideas on what they were called out for – David explained

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with the ice storm, some services were pulled down and National Grid will not hook up service until they clear – underground they have to declare safe before Mass Electric will hook up. Ron Mikol asked when last time was the fees were raised – he advised that as an electrician, he indicated that most electrical fees are higher. Chairman Alterisio would like to make decision from statistical information provided – permit fees from other towns are most likely to support department that works full time, which isn't the case here.

Chairman Alterisio indicated there were no prescriptions that this is their shot for the year. Rich noted, as he'd done in the past, that on the proposed permit fees list – work done without a permit doubles the fees – is not enforceable. He asked if they could show a rationale that because did something without permit, it requires more work. Dave indicated that it means more work as they have to go out additional times. While homeowners can do their own work – pull their own permit, but often isn't done properly – if they go there and it's wrong, have to keep coming back – not worth their while to keep going back & forth for one permit fee. If someone comes for a permit, they don't look at the site beforehand – just because they see a permit pulled, can't just walk in and instruct individual to do properly. Re-inspection fee is different from double visits. Hearing no other questions, the hearing was closed after motion by Selectman Devlin, 2nd and vote will all in favor. Chairman Alterisio advised the Board has the option of taking under advisement or move forward – have to basically come back with the deal of the issue of being called out by the town for emergencies. Selectman Leva move to accept the fees as presented- 2nd and voted with all in favor.

Chairman Alterisio addressed the proposals received from auditing firms as requested by the Town Accountant, Andy Gould – and their recommendation – Chairman Alterisio questioned where the town accountant had gotten the impression there was a problem with the audit prepared by the previous auditor. Dana noted some issues with the timing of the last audit and indicated the bid wasn't qualified; and where we'll be going to yearly, it's appropriate format to go out for multiple years; should be requoted every three years. Dan St. Jean indicated the last audit report was somewhat on the thin side. .. not as complete as it should have been. He noted that Andy has indicated that he saw little added value on report for 2011; comfortable moving to audit on 2012, and making – recommendation to select Roselli, Clark & Associates – accept Town Accountant's recommendation – Fincom hasn't discussed and will discuss next week and provide recommendation to the board for a decision.

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The group then discussed the warrant articles for the STM – Peter indicated the number of veterans are climbing – thinks it's a very good idea – up until now we have not had to provide benefits – most of our veterans are in a giving form not receiving. Set up with the feds – common written information, the Town of Dunstable veterans are currently receiving \$47,000 a month for their benefits from the government. Chairman Alterisio's point is preparation for full understanding – Dana advised that Fincom has looked at it – Pepperell is looking at \$90K funding. Fincom is trying to be prepared so that there is a fund to pull from should it be needed. Will backfill during course of year. Joe advised that additionally there are about 112 veterans who are aging and may be needing assistance. Peter will present the motion.

Lengthy discussion on the outstanding town engineer bills. Discussion continued on the other articles – the article for the PEG grants will be take no action. Chairman Alterisio will take Article 15 under the ATM which is relative to combining the Treasurer-Collector and changing to an appointed status. Chairman Alterisio indicated are looking at a Special Town Meeting sometime in the fall to address some of the other items in the DLS report. Chairman Alterisio will give background on plans for addressing other items in DLS.

Issue on town engineer bill is the bill is presented – uncertain a lot to be gained by getting into that on town floor; it's not a good idea -- issue is where is the money coming from.. all have learned a lot. Board has learned that need to take a really good look into the town engineering services. History of the town engineer has been helpful in a number of issues.. however some of the things experienced over the past two years, have brought questions. Dana will sit with Andy and try to get a retrospect of what's happened with these bills.

Selectman Devlin advised he'd spoken with Berta Erikson who's spoken with Dave Nicol, and he's agreed to switch off the banner for Book banner when the Memorial Day Parade banner comes down on the 29th – their banner would go up. Board approved.

Minutes of 4/30 were accepted as written. 4/9 & 4/17 are still outstanding – will be resolved no later than meeting of May 22nd.

Chairman Alterisio noted, looking at the sample ballot there are a number of positions that require write-ins, if there isn't anyone elected to those positions – the BOS will work with that particular board for a

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recommendation to fill the vacancy. Board hopes there won't be a long list to deal with but will if needed; any that will authorize or expend funds before July 1st will take priority over those that do not. Selectman Devlin noted most prominent one that jumps out is the School Committee.

Selectman Devlin noted notice from MA State Lottery Commission of their intent to install a Keno monitor at the General Store – any objections must be filed. Every lottery agent store that sells lottery tickets has Keno. Members noted that can play now – this will just provide for the monitor where you can see it come in. All general stores have them – most every lottery location in the state has a monitor – some discussion on the size of the store; neither Selectman Leva nor Selectman Devlin had any objection to the monitor, wouldn't want to impede the stores business – it's quite common. They have lottery, monitor won't make that much difference. The board will take no action except to confirm they have no problem.

Chairman Alterisio noted article in Beacon re: house vote to double CPA funding – which appears will be releasing more funding to CPA, but noted caution with extending flexibility – hate to see program go off in another direction – has worked so well. Facilities use request for the Town Republican Committee meeting was approved.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:35PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary