

**Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, July 9, 2012**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with quorum present. Chairman Leva read thru the scheduled agenda items.

Selectman Alterisio suggested deferring the minutes until the next meeting with a full board. He advised his 2<sup>nd</sup> item relates to meeting earlier in the day with Town Engineer, and based on discussion he's ready to move to appoint Jeff Rider as Town Engineer for FY2013 – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Leva and voted with all in favor. Chairman Leva reported on the board's meeting with Jeff this morning and discussion of issues, indicating board members were comfortable with his understanding of what is expected and acceptable. Selectman Alterisio noted different groups have individual focuses and needs and Town Engineer has to understand what is needed. He indicated he thinks the big change is whenever anything comes up, Jeff would prepare RFP and RFP would be brought back for approval – would be his responsibility to work with the boards appropriately. Discussion continued on what's expected. Tom Dumont questioned with the salt shed, how Jeff could be working for Cuoco & Cormier designing the project as well as overseeing the project. Selectman Alterisio clarified that project would go out via RFP – while Town Engineer might review RFP's, but it will be the Board's call as to the firm who will do the project. Selectman Alterisio felt administratively there are some things that can be fixed and clarified, and on the other side, there's the benefit of Town Engineer's understanding and background with the town and its operation and decisions; noting that the board felt things could be fixed outweighed the negative items with the benefits brought into the mix. Discussion continued into the impartiality that could be expected, including impartial evaluation of the bids received, even where Cuoco & Cormier is one of the respondents to the RFP.

Selectman Alterisio noted letter from Chief of Police recommending the appointment of five (5) new candidates for reserve police officer. Selectman Alterisio offered motion to appoint Matthew K. Tully and Louis Berard of Dunstable, Shawn R. Drinkwine of Pepperell, Jeffrey D. Swift of North Billerica and Matthew J. Sech of North Chelmsford per the Chief's recommendation; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Leva and vote was taken with both in favor.

Water Commission Chairman Karl Huber appeared before the board relative to the discussions regarding the water line in the area of the McGovern Wall project advising he believes Road Commissioners, Water and Selectmen were included in the e-mail trail last week – he noted his discomfort with the number projected by DOT and spoke with Anne Sullivan, Utilities Project Engineer at DOT and as he kind of suspected the number of \$67k was basically dry pipe number – part of average cost they dole out and work with. His number does include some of the pressure testing; at the end of the day he said to Tom if were to look at LF number \$130-140K was a safe number – service ready and Tom agreed. \$140K is for 427 lineal feet – still leaving 2000LF of pipe that will need to be addressed at another time. Jeff Rider had suggested that Tom would be capable of putting the numbers together but shortage of time, makes it necessary to say that Dunstable Water Department is not in a position to move forward at this item with that project – don't have \$140K & can't move forward with a revolving fund load; doesn't make any logical sense – except for based on project timeline – may make sense, if something happened with the old pipe – would need to repair. While opportunity is there, the funding is not. He indicated he wished he had some of the funding that was just provided at Town

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Meeting for another use, but he doesn't. We're going to always come back to a number like that for a complete service project. Once done will have 12" modern pipe with all the necessary connections – dealing with ½ mile or 650' lineal feet coming from a 2" on Lowell Street. Dunstable Water Department is going to have to spend money at some specific time to upgrade the distribution system to 12" throughout. Mike Martin suggested when put elderly housing on the land, could be tied together with it. Karl cautioned once do that pump station has to be modernized, Pond Street facility will not handle 20 additional users, but it's a step we're going to have to take anyway at some point. Affordable and/or senior housing will have an impact on the system if within the system, and will need to be handled at that time. If going to go for funding, going to go for the ½ mile; current system services 102 users and main customers on the connection are Town Hall, School, Church, Police & Fire Stations, general store and then all the homes.

He reported from June to present are running on Well #1 because don't have a fall back and further addressed other headaches with flow rate reports. Selectman Alterisio noted making investment into system that is just marking time, and repairs to pipes doesn't mean anything; if the two pumps go, will need a long range program to address the issues with a vision to improve the system and establish at what particular time it will pay for itself. Karl indicated they have to show due diligence that they are able to manage their infrastructure since, if are unable to meet requirement, Commonwealth of Mass will come in and take over because are a utility. Karl reviewed costs that must be paid out to maintain the tanks, monitoring, etc. and best approach for operating; advising costs just start to pile up for one section of repairs – could happen at any of the many locations – at the 6", at the hydros, at the pumps. He reported that Dave Tully and he now have a system where they know the best steps to handle the challenges that keep coming up. He advised that everything's getting higher because of the complications, etc. He advised on the challenges from this and other towns in addressing. What do we need to do to improve conditions of what we have today and what's involved in upgrading the system. He thanked the Board for their support and understanding and related on the importance of closed circle. Chairman Leva asked how Dunstable compared to other towns – Karl continued to provide info on the research they're continuing to pursue and importance of communicating the needs. Selectman Alterisio noted some criticism at the Special Town Meeting relative to the mixed use district and why it hadn't moved forward, and indicated discussion continued on the complications involved in any development of that size – water needs, etc. and the impact of tying into existing system, etc. Karl went on to explain all the particulars of the projects, details on connection and impact on the system as it stands and what can be done – such as storage tank. Selectman Alterisio noted a bit piece of the puzzle is the application to MassWorks to get \$700K pipe put it but that doesn't solve the whole problem; are additional upgrades that are necessary in the system to support.

Karl further reviewed the steps, exercises and evaluations for each and its impact – no sense going back & forth every time, without all the answers for the delivery system. He reported on the background with well #2 and the steps taken to insure compliance, distribution system is the item that needs to be corrected. \$10,000 expense was totally unexpected – readings went askew and had to address. Concluding at this point that unfortunately does not have the funding to proceed at this point for 421 lineal feet of pipe. Will continue to pursue any grant opportunities and research possibilities – can't go outside the realm of what they take in.

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Karl further reported that he has talked with the tank transport companies who are interested – it's a bulk rate. Chairman Leva asked whether he has ever seen private companies work together with a community. Karl advised that he spoke with Poland Springs, Belmont Springs and Crystal Springs as to resource that we might provide but are sufficiently handled at this point. They've been looking into all the options – cell tower where the well site is – but their only concern is the presentation at Town Meeting. Chairman Leva indicated that this location seems like the ideal location for a cell tower.

Karl continued to explain that even if he went from 102 connections to 109 what would the impact be. He indicated he's had numerous individuals approach him with interest in water at their residence, discussions with numerous individuals on the benefits of expanding the water system. He reported on Water Commission's research into filling the vacant position on their Board.

The Board reviewed information provided by Fire Chief Brian Rich requesting approval for adding Stephen McClure as a probationary firefighter and supported Chief Rich's approach.

The Board reviewed plans for their summer schedule deciding on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup>. The board will schedule additional as required – for working sessions.

Selectman Alterisio advised he was looking to schedule a strategy session with Tim Goddard – wanted to get a sense of whether or not the outline would make sense – need clear understanding – needs to sit and talk with Tim as to his recommendations.

During the mail review, Selectman Alterisio drew attention to Water Commission's Presentation to Selectmen for FY2012 [WaterReport2012](#) and public hearing scheduled for ZBA on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> re: administrative appeal filed by the Gurecki's.

The board noted the need to sit with Police Chief, former Dog Officer Sean Ready and Animal Inspector at some point relative to needs, etc. and how best to approach. Discussion continued into the situation with the dog officer and how to best approach at this point – Selectman Alterisio suggested revisiting with area towns to determine whether they might have some interest.

Fincom member Dana Metzler stopped in and reported on budget projections - where they were at present – hopes to close out by end of this week. He also reported they were working with the bylaw amendment and may want to meet with the board on the governance financial boards – Selectman Alterisio advised he approached Tim Goddard who is Town Administrator for Carlisle, has known him for number of years; has a fairly wide breadth of experience and understanding and knowledge in how these things fit together and on hands experience doing them. Tim has agreed to come and sit with number of boards and committee to talk about what's best for Dunstable – what needs to be done. Will allow the town to move forward – will give the town some direction on how to best move forward. Selectman Alterisio indicated he feels the relationship and guidance for putting together budget and planning component can be included in this consideration. Selectman Alterisio further indicated that putting together the budget hasn't been problem – where we fall flat is with the long term planning. Short term manage to handle – Dana

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indicated town has had capital planning committees etc., so have been working with a long term plan in Fincom; so there is long term planning going on, but just doesn't appear that way on the surface.

Dana after talking with Rich Larkin on a couple of issues, that he called him about, think the power lays right here with the personnel policy and policies, and can be done without major change. Visitor indicated she'd be happy to help in any way to provide assistance – Laurie Pistano, a new resident. Selectman Alterisio concluded that he hoped to have that forum put together before summers end.

Selectman Alterisio drew attention to annual request from Chief Downes for appointment of special officers from Tyngsboro, Groton and Pepperell – moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Leva and voted with both in favor. Board endorsed the appointment request.

Outstanding appointments: Selectman Alterisio referenced the NMCOC representative, noting no meeting for July.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:10PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary