

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Tuesday, October 09, 2012

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. Chairman Leva noted minutes from 9/17 to approve – expecting report from Karl Huber @7:15. Minutes of 9/24 outstanding – Selectman Alterisio will submit.

Selectman Alterisio reported from mail regarding concerns with utility company line conditions & issues – meeting held with Chief Downes, Verizon and National Grid who took list to look at and address –e-mail today that process is moving forward, Verizon has been out here for two weeks and have concurred with issues brought forward also noted areas where issues must be addressed; we haven't heard from Charter as to their response. Process is moving ahead – in course of the research are identifying areas of concern. Board applauded the response – Chief Rich and Emergency Management Director Crandall also participated in the meeting –hopefully will eliminate issues before winter season moves forward.

He further noted letter from Building Inspector regarding junk and unregistered vehicles, and after brief discussion was decided that board would send preliminary letter and copy of the bylaw to provide the property owner(s) option of voluntarily taking appropriate action without necessitating hearings, etc.

Chairman Leva reported on meeting he'd had Thursday with Fire Dept., Police and Fincom members on potentials for construction of a public safety building. Attempt was to devise a committee to proceed with a study – will be moving forward with a feasibility study into items that need to be addressed within the town so that can evaluate. He reported that David Tully had been present as well and presented some of the needs for the water department. At that point the board moved forward to presentation by Water Commission Chairman Karl Huber on the conditions and needs of the water department beginning with [water profile](#) with Karl noting much included in the feasibility studies – priorities town's going to need to be spending money anyway – when Pond Street goes, and it's going to be a very costly repair. 101 water takers will be without water – it will have to be fixed, regardless of any other projects the town might want to address. Infrastructure improvements would require \$375K – report includes the costs, breakdown of items, etc. whether the system were to expand or remain the same infrastructure for water, fire, police, Highway, Library, etc. No matter what else the town is to do, it must address water system – repairs, upgrades, etc. that are ongoing costs of the town water service. Karl continued to detail all the pending water department repairs, getting the infrastructure ready for growth, etc., without extending the service area; just to service properties within current users (see [Water-BOS-Presentation](#).) Karl outlined the items constantly on his radar screen as Water Commissioner to address repair needs, infrastructure complexities and improvements or growth. Selectman Devlin noted while there's a cost for

maintaining the customers, would the expansion be worth the cost? What is the gain vs. the loss? Selectman Alterisio noted the former discussions, responding to the level of frustration seen from Karl that have a water system at some level that are currently up to date, portions that need attention to stay within boundaries of acceptance and areas that are at risk. Issue of need to spend this for this reason and question of why would the town step up to the investment for 102 customers...must be responded to in dollars and cents as to the complications for the town due to failure, etc. Selectman Alterisio indicated it has to be put in terms of why it's important - Karl out of the 102 customers - what about the main customers such as school, church, Fire Department, Police Department, Library, Town Hall, and fire hydrants for fire support. Karl advised fire hydrants are bagged because, with the system as it presently stands, the distribution system prevents them from opening up the fire hydrant - surge would impact the remainder of the water takers - can't use hydrants unless we were able to hook the two distribution systems together, etc. Karl continued to explain how the addition, upgrades, etc. might affect the town, referenced in his report. Selectman Alterisio suggested that stating the facts in terms where can be better understood is essential - Karl indicated all available on the town water website. All in feasibility study - helps immediate infrastructure with storage.

Chairman Leva indicated we now need to look at where the priorities are - safety is #1 - need to bring down to common sense for the townspeople so they know what the implications are. Karl advised that what he thinks helps is that he's not the only one recognizing the issues, Board of Selectmen are coming on board and understanding; thinks would be good to bring others together so they can understand. Selectman Alterisio continued to note the importance of conveying costs for providing water in the case of breakage - town is at risk, need to come up with the number and mission statement for moving forward to address. Selectman Alterisio suggested entering into discussion or plan to fix or bring forward potential cost for emergency repair. Karl reflected on the potential impact by or on highway project on 113 by McGovern Wall. Selectman Alterisio indicated the issue now is of stabilizing what we have right now and take away the risk and then having professionals come in and put together recommendations so town can investigate the options for remedy. Selectman Alterisio indicated those who understand the total picture are supporting, those that don't are misinformed. Right now there are limited resources at the commonwealth - in Selectman Alterisio's opinion; Dunstable is a very attractive project for consideration with programs available. Karl wants Dunstable to be on the radar screen as a community that's trying to address their issues and are easily funded as the cost is so low in comparison to other communities. Karl will do anything and everything in any point in time to keep process moving. Selectman Alterisio noted need to put together comparison of what's at risk - cost of addressing and costs of correcting upon failure. Karl right now worried about the main heartbeat of the infrastructure, like the Pond Street tank facility - pull together numbers for next town meeting.

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Selectman Alterisio – most immediate is to have something together to address the issue so that town can step up to it. Then moving forward, as to where we go with expansion, etc. Karl advised Water has done the study. Selectman Alterisio advised that listening to the information Karl's provided regarding Pond Street facility, no way we can move forward with the MUD project. Karl suggested instead of eliminating action of MUD, incorporate Pond Street infrastructure into it.

Karl indicated that everyone gets so worried about improvements to the system opening the town up to growth, additional costs and limitations. Karl encouraged people to come – tells everyone he talks to – Westford Street residents, High Street residents to attend meetings and better understand options. Chairman Leva indicated that along with meetings regarding public safety buildings, etc., water system has to be included in the package. Karl will put something together and would like to get together with Fincom as well – all agreed that it needs to be brought up as a priority. While there's nothing currently in the budget which provides for these improvements, issues, etc., need to look at the complete picture to know how to move forward, emergency plans, etc. Selectman Alterisio noted, looking for some numbers with the plan, how to move forward to fund, etc. Karl reflected again on the numbers he'd presented to the board this evening (insert link); in Karl's business, doesn't mind restating or addressing multiple times would rather spend more time talking about it than having it fall on deaf ears – suggests anyone with questions come to the source so he can further explain. He explained how service connections are costed out – how cost is absorbed or calculated.

Chairman Leva inquired whether Selectman Alterisio has talked with Rich on Town Administrator position; Selectmen Alterisio reported hasn't recently but is also working with him on the inspectors as well – Selectman Alterisio will get an update from him and schedule if appropriate. Selectman Alterisio noted, as side note on inspectors, beyond him as to why we're in this position – not paid until he submits his budget for the coming year. He advised that inspectors have been advised that can submit application for payment as the year progresses, monthly, quarterly, etc.

Next week will be meeting with Police Chief as to policies & procedures – will set up monthly updates with him as well as the Town Accountant.

GLTHS-SBAB Maintenance Project – Selectman Alterisio reported he understands that towns have to agree – Lowell vote via city council, for Tyngsboro and Dracut much larger numbers but with Town of Dunstable cost would be minimal. Things have been documented – can break down maintenance or address as a major project. Town will be meeting with GLTHS, and from what the board members are hearing, Dunstable doesn't really have to hold a town meeting for this issue. If things were ever to change for

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Dunstable, i.e. disengaging from the agreement, etc., the town would have to come up with the amount all at once.

Selectman Alterisio advised next meeting of NMCOG on next Wednesday and reviewed briefly his suggestion for five components.

The Board noted request from Dunstable Republican Committee for use of meeting room on October 16th approved by Board after motion by Selectman Devlin and unanimous vote.

The Board signed multiple copies of the State election warrant for November 6th election and will return to Town Clerk for posting arrangements.

Selectman Alterisio noted he didn't understand where the search for a new superintendent for GDRSD was at this point but felt BOS ought to expect invitation for a member to sit on the committee, as has happened in the past. Chairman Leva will contact Jim and see where it stands moving forward, inquiring did they have a plan. Selectman Devlin thought he recalled an e-mail to that effect recently.

Selectman Alterisio indicated dialogue is set – need to answer question in our own minds, as to what the alternatives are – where are we going to be in 2 years, 5 years, what's the decision going to be and what are the alternatives. Will there be people in place who are in the position of assuming the responsibility to respond. Need to be ready – if staring us in the face that there is a problem, must be ready to move forward – have a central coordinator who can talk one on one with another individual with authority to address. Most town managers don't want to work with towns where they have to come to the board meetings, etc. to make a step forward. Selectman Devlin – much like Karl's indication of the problems in conveying the issues and understanding the predicaments.

The Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary