

**Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, November 5, 2012**

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

Before meeting began, Road Commission Chairman Mike Martin provided the board with report on the meeting with District 3 in Worcester on Wednesday regarding the McGovern wall project. Was surveyed last Friday, and trailer is expected this week. Mike will talk with Brad, the project manager tomorrow about signage for the project – forewarning, etc. of the project. Selectman Alterisio noted there are 14,000 cars that travel the route every day.

Mike Martin noted the Road Commissioners had two bids for the garage roof and will follow up with bidders to make sure the bids are still good. Board gave the Highway department the authority to pursue.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present and representatives from Helene Morgan Babcock and Alfred Babcock Memorial Scholarship Trust including Joanne Antonelli, Lauren Chenelle, Jayne Girouard and David Kimpton presenting names of two new members for the committee: Luis DeLoureiro of 553 Forest Street and Kellee Wilson of 497 Forest Hill with terms expiring in 2015 and proposing extended terms for Kim Terwilliger to expire in 2013, Dave Johnson and Dave Wallace to expire in 2015. Selectman Alterisio provided motion that the board accept the recommendations of the Babcock Scholarship Committee; all concurred and vote was taken. Joanne advised they're very excited about their next meeting and asked permission to use the Selectmen's meeting room rather than the Grand Hall for their meetings.

Discussion continued on the program associated with the Babcock Scholarship.

Chairman Leva noted the great job with the hurricane thanking publicly the individuals who provided the support for the police department and the CERT program. Selectman Alterisio noted he thinks a lot of it is connected to the great progress that Chief of Police has done with utility companies.

Selectman Devlin provided update on the McGovern wall project – noting it's ready to move forward MKM construction from Tewksbury is the contractor and from the information provided at the meeting last week, they do not anticipate lane closures – but residents should expect some delays during the project. He reported they expect to place the construction trailer some day this week. Town Engineer will be working with state engineers to insure that follow the plan maintaining the historic integrity of the wall, etc. ??? Construction Company, highway engineer, town engineer, Project Manager Brad Chafely and highway department will cooperate with Police Department, to insure the project moves along smoothly.

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Brett Rock stopped in again and addressed the issue of Constable – uncertain which is the best move for Dunstable – Selectman Alterisio felt it would be status quo until next town meeting because it is a one year term. Selectman Alterisio leans toward having it appointed which would insure the individual wants to do the job – need to be sure support is there – resources, etc. Kind of ties in to recommendations from the state...is bonding issue connected.

Minutes of 9/17 moved by Selectman Alterisio, 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted with all in favor; minutes of 9/24 approved by Selectman Alterisio & Chairman Leva, Minutes of 10/9 – Selectman Alterisio to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted; 10/15 Selectman Alterisio to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Leva and approved by Selectman Alterisio & Chairman Leva; 10/22 approved by Selectman Devlin & Selectman Alterisio as they were the only members present.

The Board discussed the presentation by Greater Lowell Regional for the funding for the project. Selectman Devlin noted we'd indicated we'd be getting back to the Voc – Selectman Alterisio advised that he'd spoken with Mr. Tully and advised that the Town was in agreement with the need to bring the facility into compliance with SBAB funding support. There is no reason to disapprove the initiative and thus no need to call a special town meeting.

While still on the school, Selectman Alterisio indicated may have bumped across an article in the Lowell Sun – over the years this issue has come up a few times before and is generally brought up by someone who doesn't understand what it's all about – many, many years ago, was looked and decided it was a good thing. If the agreement wasn't in place, would probably not be as favorable to Greater Lowell. Selectman Alterisio advised the issue continues to come up when someone decides to make political points – when agreement was written it was a good agreement and continues to be a good agreement.

Next item on the agenda 7:30pm is presentation by Ed Cameron, representative from Community Teamwork Initiative. He noted that Dunstable is within their service area – serve many communities. His day job at CTI is working with low income people but is very active City Councilor with the Town of Newburyport. He provided overview of CTI – around since 1965 – a community action agency from President Johnson's attention to the poverty.. started focusing on Head Start – children from low income families and getting them off to a good start; community action programs, job training, housing, CTI is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Massachusetts. Largest piece of their program is Section 8 program – families needing assistance with housing – Section 8 picks up a portion of the rent for low income families. Nice thing about Section 8 is people are able to move on into the work force. Mostly in Lowell, Lawrence & Salem, but are a few in Dunstable. Another portion of the housing is Section 8 housing projects – about 450 employees – most in classroom teaching programs. Are in greater Lowell, a little bit in Dracut, have emergency family shelters – families are screened by state and then placed in shelter. Because homelessness is such an issue for families, they

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have been placing them in hotels as shelters and apartments, etc. are full. Most of the families are so poor they don't have vehicles, etc. They provide a lot of services for homeless families. Also focus on homelessness prevention, help individuals who are behind on their rent. Have a program called a raft program, help families with their mortgages, sometimes with money, sometimes with the lender – making special arrangements. They're sometimes able to get response for the clients whereas individuals are unable to do themselves. They provide fuel assistance, etc., helping individuals with cost of heating oil, gas costs, etc. Money has decreased but assistance is there – lot of elderly with restricted income. Also have a weatherization program where they do an audit and can work with homeowner to find contractor for rehab windows, insulation, etc. through their program. Other program is the child care – for middle & low income families. He provided materials on the modification program – from here to Lowell to Seacoast, down toward Saugus, Peabody. Modification is to the home where homeowner gets a loan for modifications to allow the individual, seniors, etc. to continue to live in the house. Loan isn't payable until the property is sold, etc.

They have some great stories on the assistance they've been able to provide through this initiative...he provided a couple of moving stories on how the program has aided individuals who needed home modification. He advised it's a great way to help out families – mainly geared to land-owners but have worked with landlords. Work with Council on Aging to provide assistance. Selectman Alterisio indicated that every Wednesday, the seniors meet at the Library and are always looking for programs to assist the seniors. Selectman Alterisio noted that a lot of time he feels residents don't feel they qualify, but many do short term. Selectman Alterisio noted that Dunstable had a previous relationship with Steve Joncas – time has changed. If Dunstable decided to move forward alone without state & federal money, CTI would still be interested – big item would be the formation of a housing authority and their group could provide assistance in that venture.

Search for school superintendent – Selectman Devlin has stepped up and is willing to serve on the committee. Selectman Alterisio in support of his being representative as long as he understands the commitment necessary; Chairman Leva supported as well. Selectman Devlin will advise Jim Frey.

Selectman Alterisio advised he'd sent by e-mail a starting document for the town administrator job description – has sent it over to Bill who is working on it. Will review and then sit down with other boards for comments, etc. Town employees have a stake in it as well. All will need to understand how they would work with the administrative position. Chairman Leva confirmed that the last page, descriptions, etc. took into consideration items from the other towns. Selectman Alterisio advised it basically took something from all they'd looked at MMA, Town of Chesterfield, Bolton, Carlisle, resonates there may be some understanding that this would just basically be a grant writer for the Selectmen, but has to be something more than just that. All agreed

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it basically addressed the items and issues that are called out in the DLS review, etc. The board indicated that a lot of the issues are the items that we're not in the position, nor have the expertise, to address.

Selectman Alterisio noted he'd happened to pull out copy of the audit, seems to Selectman Alterisio that are giving us fairly high makes - Selectman Devlin agreed, fiscally pretty sound. Selectman Alterisio indicated we're always commenting negatively about investing for our community - that don't have the ability - this gives some real good talking points that hopefully BOS & Advisory Board move forward with some discussions on the investments that need to be made in the town - like the water infrastructure, safety, etc. Chairman Leva noted need to look at the basics - and protecting what we have.

Chairman Leva addressed the request for some form of policy regarding closing of Town Hall in state of emergency - Selectman Alterisio indicated that Dunstable has always kind of rolled with the punches. Chairman Leva advised that's pretty much understood. Selectman Devlin suggested that might implement something in the interim - like Chief of Police, Chief of Fire, Emergency Management, get together and put something together - but the idea of Town employees and what to do as far as Town Hall employees, seems like could be simply addressed with the policy presented.

Chairman Leva noted invitation from Groton Dunstable School Committee for members to participate in their budget process - meeting takes place on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30PM at the Prescott School in Groton; Chief Downes report on meeting with Neighborhood Captains; Town Clerk has asked him to remind public of Election Day hours, etc. Polls open from 7AM-8PM at Library. Results will be posted on the Elections page of Town's website.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 8:20PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary