

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2013

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with quorum present by Selectman Devlin. The board then met with Treasurer Bonnie S. Ricardelli for review of options available for health insurance coverage in the next fiscal year. Bonnie advised if we made no changes to program will go up 5% for coming year. Three options – 1st would be to double mail order only – bringing down a little; 2nd to increase copay to 20, increase Emergency room fee and mail order double, and 3rd with 25 copay, 100 emergency room and double mail order would bring it down a little less than what we're currently paying. Board recalled the same type of discussion last year, but a little too late in the process. Selectman Alterisio recalled issue raised by MIIA representative earlier this year about raising copay alone could make a huge difference. Police Union opted to stay with current plan, if we were to increase, police union would require opening the contract. One of the issues was even if all the families spent more than their normal copay would it come up to the \$8K. Argument this year is do we really think that the town would make up the \$8K. Have some time but need to look at whether the adjustments could be made without undue hardship on the employees. Discussion related to savings to many towns thru the GIC program but somewhat confusing and difficult to follow, in terms of the relative cost – thinks it probably stands the same hasn't heard of significant changes. Selectman Alterisio's opt would be not to go down the GIC route. Bonnie noted one of the reasons for looking so closely at the options available outside of GIC – with MIIA presenting plans that are workable – very minimal changes to plan. Bonnie advised it's an excellent plan and employees are very happy with it. Selectman Alterisio would like to filter this information back to the police union and let them review – BOS looking for a decision from the Police Union by April 1st if possible – Bonnie and/or the board secretary will also direct to employees of the town for their consideration. Selectman Alterisio suggested copy to Police Union president, and maybe a blurb to be sent out to other employees of the town so that they might review.

Minutes were held for a later date for full board approval. Selectman Alterisio noted that he has put together a charge for the Capital Planning Committee looking at preparation of a 5 year capital plan, not including the schools, looking at growth and its impact, etc. He indicated a 3-5 year plan was the suggestion, since if look at too far out, can start to crumble. Basically the charge advises that must select a chair person, secretary, keep minutes, subject to open meeting law. Minutes at minimum would include attendees, subjects discussed and any votes taken. Encouraging them to solicit input from all agencies in town – but from all that input, group would make selection as to what projects have

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the highest benefit, impact, etc. Committee will be asked to prepare written report identifying each recommendation and steps which need to be taken to move forward. This report will be the basis for the advisory to review and extend their decisions on impact on funding, etc. He indicated we'd also be encouraging committee to look at available state & regional technical resources for support. If no major holes, would like to put the committee on agenda for next meeting – agreed and secretary will contact Ron Mikol and ask him to contact other members so can have discussion with proposed committee.

The Board then met with Tina Livingston, who reviewed the information in her packet which included [a cover letter](#), report, and informational packets on lyme. She advised, as a business owner, mother and resident of this town, she's really concerned about Dunstable, and noted [recent special commission report](#) on lyme disease in Massachusetts & called attention to its map, noting Dunstable is one of the most endemic in the state, adding that almost everyone in her neighborhood has or has had lyme disease.. She has it, her husband has it and her four (4) children have it. She reported she has been working with people across the state that want to do a lyme walk, etc., but needs to make sure people are aware. She provided background on the disease and how it has affected her – after 6 years she finally tested positive – now has to do a drip for lyme and has two children who are autistic, and that too is probably lyme related. She noticed there isn't one pamphlet about lyme on the table in the Town Hall and asked permission to place some there. She reported she does a support group in Groton and further advised that Governor Patrick has declared May as Lyme Disease Month and noted there are [CDC notices](#) that could be posted @Larter Field and at entrances to Conservation areas, etc. Ribbons across America – do in Sturbridge, the cape, etc. on April 10th at Dover Town Hall are holding a meeting on lyme disease and methods to protect your own personal property – lot of recommendations – one is for highly endemic towns to seek funding for prevention – recommending bow hunting be allowed within 150' of residences. Selectman Alterisio agreed it is a public health issue, advising the town has a Board of Health which is pretty active and are members of Nashoba Board of Health...Selectman Alterisio indicated his support of bringing to attention of Board of Health and encouraging them to get together with her and put together a public informational session. Selectman Alterisio confirmed his awareness that Dunstable is endemic noting he was unaware that he too had it for some time before it came to his attention. He agreed there are probably a lot of people who have it, don't know it and would be doing a great service to townspeople to bring it to their attention. The Board commended her for her work and noted support for her efforts. She advised that she had contacted Sheila Harrington, but hasn't heard back yet; but has heard from Eileen Donahue who is looking into options that might be available for

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requirements for insurance coverage, etc. for treatments, but she was in Groton this evening so was unable to attend. Lyme is a silent killer – while it isn't the final cause of death, it kills organs which weakens the victim and makes them susceptible. Selectman Alterisio recommended advocating Board of Health to take the lead on this and work with the state and Nashoba Board of Health to bring a program forward for awareness, along with signage, etc. to bring to everyone's attention to the risks and exposure. Rail Trail is under department of environmental resources. The board gave permission to display ribbons during the Month of May but would prefer the Board of Health take the lead on this project. Board preferred to formulate thru the Board of Health. She advised that Anne Paquin from the Neighbor to Neighbor will include information. Board supported as a worthwhile endeavor but prefers it be under the direction of the Board of Health.

The board noted the e-mail from Water Commission Chairman Karl Huber and hadn't taken action on Town Clerk's memo re: fees as understood they needed to hold a fee hearing. Secretary will research requirement relative to fee proposal for next week's meeting.

Selectman Alterisio advised he'd stopped in with Advisory Board and given them a number for the Town Administrator. Job description has been issued??

Selectman Alterisio advised that they'd reviewed the budget request and he'd reported to Advisory. Selectman Alterisio has also spoken with Town Counsel about housekeeping items with Annual Town Meeting warrants and items more appropriate for special town meeting

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 7:55PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary