

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2013

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 board noting item relative to Fire & EMS dispatch had inadvertently been carried from last week's agenda.

Minutes: the board reviewed the 12/27 minutes Selectman Alterisio provided motion to accept, 2nd Chairman Leva and voted with all in favor. Minutes of 3/18 noted that Capital Planning Committee requires a certain process – Capital Project – motion by Selectman Alterisio, 2nd and approved as written.

Prior to opening the hearing, the board discussed with Town Counsel his recommendation for converting the positions of town treasurer and tax collector from elected and combining two. To make the conversion to town collector requires a special act of the legislature. In the meantime, since the last time he's approached legislature about a number of things it was unsuccessful. Therefore, probably better to go with articles and ballot vote to fill the need in the interim. Rich noted if we went this route, no problem with getting the articles on the town meeting warrant and the ballot. The way this works, if there were an elected term to be filled out, that would stand until expiration of term. The point is if the articles and the motions are at an annual, can follow up with election on Annual Town Meeting. Then, don't know how urgent it is to appoint town collector person, we could do that as well. Rich will research that option further, but noted a problem that had been averted because our community has under 5000 population, in that he'd be getting two checks. Back to conversion to appointed town collector and town treasurer. Rich advised it would be wise to put them all on the ballot – Selectman Alterisio questioned whether there could be confusion in the minds of parties that there might be a conflict between collector and treasurer. Rich will prepare articles and options. Board was good with moving forward with that. It was noted there will be two ballot entries in language prescribed by statute.

The pole hearing was opened at 7:20 PM- Chairman Leva read notice and the board met with representatives from National Grid who advised they would like to install pole between two existing poles. Selectman Devlin asked what # pole from the intersection – Selectman Alterisio noted that drawing doesn't identify any driveways, etc. and inquired whether it would be in line with normal pole setting – Jim Regan inquired if the driveway were to be widened would it be in the

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way. Selectman Alterisio noted that property owners have also been notified of the hearing, which is the purpose of the hearing. Pole was requested by Verizon who may be running additional cable, etc. Installation would be put on the National Grid schedule and coordinate with Verizon – most likely within 3 months. Board being satisfied, Selectman Alterisio provided motion to concur with recommendations of National Grid and approve the pole location voted with all in favor and the hearing has been closed.

Selectman Alterisio, not reflective of the hearing, drew her attention to the leaning pole at corner of Pleasant Street, much like the one that the town fought so long to have taken down, which even escalated to the point of a citizen's petition for its removal. She advised that they've been working with the people who own the abutting property but have been unsuccessful at an agreement. In order to get a better lead on the pole, have to go further back for anchoring, etc. Selectman Alterisio suggested that if she could put something in writing relative to what is necessary to rectify the pole, the board would be happy to approach the landowner to see what can be done to correct the issue.

Selectman Devlin reported that he's been in touch with Electrical inspector and will get together with Plumbing, Gas, and Building Inspectors to come up with an agreeable amount for emergency callouts. Selectman Alterisio noted the main issue is that the fee has to be based on some rational – has to be a public initiative...i.e. police, fire, utility company that calls them out and documented. Can't see where there might be one for plumbing except for maybe leaking gas, etc. Selectman Alterisio noted that it hasn't happened often and makes sense. Jim Regan voiced question on if it's a utility, who would pay the fee? Issue that they were called out...town would pick up the fee, if on personal property becomes property owner's responsibility. Jim remembered going back and forth on gas issue when he was on the Road Commission. Selectman Alterisio advised there'd also be a conversation with the advisory board that intends to abandon the process for paying inspectors for service. No reason that the town's budget couldn't reflect what was received – but for right now put in some nominal amount to cover ½ dozen calls. How they're paid is no longer going to be on an annual basis. Town Counsel asked if anyone has spoken with the Town Accountant about it and Selectman Alterisio indicated he has and feels should be some form of contractual arrangements...really convoluted the way the payment of the inspector's portion of the fees has been handled. Jim Regan

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questioned whether it might not mean a double hit to the town where the inspector. Rich questioned whether that might not mean a revolving account, can't pay anyone without funding being appropriated. As far as that goes, last year just defined a number to be put in place.

Jim Regan inquired as to the charge for the Capital Project Committee – Selectman Alterisio advised to take a look at long range projects dealing with vital need projects such as Housing, Highway, Public Safety, Water, etc. Selectman Alterisio noted the town has an approved housing plan and project and all those items should be taken into consideration when looking at capital projects.

The Board noted request from Town Clerk, Carol A. Skerrett for appointment of Barbara E. Martin to the Board of Registrars –for term to commence April 1st 2013 to expire March 31, 2016. Motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to appoint.

The Board originally indicated they would adjourn the meeting to participate in Fincom's meeting but later determined that Chairman Leva and Town Counsel could handle on their own and would call for other members assistance if became necessary. Selectman Alterisio referenced recent manual presented to the board members by NMCOG relative to regional services available. Secretary confirmed that the office had a copy and she had put link from town's website to the document on NMCOG's website.

Secretary will confirm with Town Accountant whether there is a need for a special town meeting before the annual or the items can be rolled into the annual town meeting warrant and report back to the board.

Selectman Devlin commented on the Fire-EMS dispatch arrangements briefly noting that arrangement with Groton dispatch could be more economical approach for the town and a good match. Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 7:55PM after appropriate motion and vote. Chairman Leva will stop in and sign the warrants and the pole hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary