

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, April 8, 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 quorum present. Chairman Leva noted light agenda – minutes 2/4, 2/11, 1/28 and 4/1.

The board noted correspondence from Selectmen of Dudley MA – motion to accept minutes of 2/11, 2/4, 1/28 – motion to approve by Selectman Alterisio, 2nd Selectman Devlin and voted with both in favor, 2/4 Selectman Devlin & Selectman Alterisio to accept, 2/11 motion by Selectman Devlin, 2nd and voted with all in favor. Motion for 4/1, 2nd Selectman Alterisio and voted with both in favor – Selectman Devlin abstained as he hadn't been present. Secretary will confirm that are now up to date. Selectman Alterisio apologized for delay in minutes.

The Board reviewed the latest draft for ATM, noting that need input from Fincom on article 17; Selectman Alterisio noted his understanding of the building limitation bylaw that if that clause was ever challenged, it would be difficult to uphold. Solar bylaw basically says if people want to do it, they must go thru the Planning Board – Selectman Alterisio's question is whether the Planning Board is equipped to monitor this type of development – since the town has never been involved and at some point we'll run into alternative energy and if someone wanted to come in with large scale project is the Planning Board prepared to deal with it or will they need to bring in some outside assistance...definitely want to waive the reading of article 31 and possibly article 32. Selectman Alterisio questioned where town counsel came up with the language for a term not to exceed three years"; questioned why it would be necessary and indicated with the present Treasurer and Tax Collector, he wouldn't have a problem if her grandchildren came to her retirement party. If there is no particular reason to have it there, could just state appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Alterisio noted he also wouldn't have a problem if the contract combined the two positions together – doesn't necessarily have to but would like to have the option.

Selectman Alterisio noted while there's no meeting scheduled for next week would like to meet with counsel for his input. Earliest can schedule – Thursday – to walk through it – any proponents of the articles should be available. Fincom, Planning & Conservation – Selectman Alterisio noted to Ted who stopped in – that board was reviewing the warrant and want to have better understanding of how it will be defended and/or administered. One major article about solar – copied from another organization – question whether we're prepared to deal with it. The board is looking at scheduling a meeting with counsel, town moderator, Fincom, Planning & Conservation – Selectman Alterisio noted there may ; Ted is available on Thursday – counsel, advisory, conservation &

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representation from planning. Board provided copies to Town Clerk, and another to Alan Chaney. Earliest it could be held is Thursday, at 7PM. Board indicated they would continue to review.

Alan advised that George McGovern has been doing some work for Conservation on the triangle piece – doesn't know who has authority for the town on the two lots that were set aside for open space – would like a vote at some point from the Selectmen giving Conservation the authority to oversee its maintenance, etc. Alan asked that at some time, if the board doesn't object, to give the Commission the authority. Selectman Alterisio noted a discussion that town hasn't had with the McGovern in some time – where he maintains the field and then reaps the alfalfa off it. The deed doesn't have any restrictions on that parcel, etc. Selectman Alterisio indicated that if in fact the town wanted to expand parking, etc. or recreation uses into that area, the town has the authority to do so. Alan suggested it might be good to have some sort of arrangement for two years prior notice, etc. He recalled some discussion about expanding the recreational uses, could be a couple of more ball fields. Selectman Alterisio recalls there was some conversation at one time that the McGoverns would be making a sufficient investment in the preparation of that land and wouldn't want last minute notice that he's out.

Ted advised that ZBA has been meeting quite actively in the last few months and a number of things that have come up with administrative appeal of a decision – operating when shouldn't be – Selectman Alterisio noted 31 along Pleasant Street – maybe BOS and Zoning Administrator should schedule to meet with individuals taking a serious look at the violations. Only takes a couple of bad apples to create a problem. Dana is kind of reactionary – does send out letters when comes to his attention. Selectman Alterisio advised that Selectmen did attempt to take a look at overlay, etc. which would establish permitting process, parameters, etc. – falls into revising the Master Plan but Planning Board is reluctant to follow special permitting process. Ted noticed that it might be time to look again into zoning – center overlay, etc.

Ted, on another issued, more in the area of spring clean-up – suggested it might be time to send people notes to get rid of eyesores, etc. Selectman Alterisio noted just along the corridor there are 31 and there are others as well. Town Clerk noted that anyone who conducts business in the town is required to file a business certificate but home occupation permit doesn't work along with it. Town Clerk would like to see it work together – when there's a problem with a business, Dana doesn't even know that there is a business because he isn't notified. Town Clerk has to give them the business permit but building inspector doesn't have to issue permit, if application is made, if it doesn't meet the provisions of

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home occupation permits. Ted thinks it's a very important subject, because the town is so small we don't want it to go in wrong direction.

Secretary will take care of postings, etc. for the Board's scheduling of meeting for 7PM on Thursday for review of the warrant articles.

Board of Road Commissioner Chair Mike Martin stopped in to inquire about report of an insufficient RFP relative to the salt shed. Mike also inquired whether had heard any more from NMCOG relative to TIP meeting and whether Senator Donoghue and Representative Harrington got involved re: delay on repair of Main Street bridge.

Board continued to discuss the conditions of Main Street bridge with narrowing down and blocking bad area are fine for now but don't want another state agency coming in and closing the road down because of conditions. Selectman Alterisio and Mike noted the concern have is don't want payback to become involved in this issue – also don't want to put people in danger.

The board reviewed the inter-municipal agreement for Town Accountant services through the Town of Townsend and executed same.

Selectman Alterisio questioned whether we're done with the Minuteman Vocational payment – always comes up at 11th hour. Road Commission provided update on the snow removal budget – about \$15K – mostly because of David Tully and his management. Most complaints received were relative to too frequent snow removal on the roads.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary