

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, April 29, 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 all members present. The Board was visited by Senator Eileen Donoghue who provided an update on recent legislation, etc. She noted the board has a busy evening ahead of them – have a few more facts to bring them up to date. Presented [handout](#) – going back to December and house & means agreements for revenue – FY2014 budget projections, and deductions – original budget reflected 7.3% and 1.3M tax increase and governor's recommendations for raising taxes and reductions. Reason she's not spending a lot of time breaking down the governor's proposals – not accepted by the House nor expected to be supported by the Senate. House has put forth their budget, senate will now take it up and budget hearings will begin. She knows it's very important to the towns and cities – when will we know the number we're working with. Joint revenue plan the house & senate have been working on represents about 5.2M increase for transportation. She reported on the tax increases that have been put forward and additional items being taxed in the new package.

Other component is Chapter 90 – house acted on last week and hopes it will be processed this week in Senate. She reported for most cities and towns, it's good news with 50% increase; great awareness that cities & towns need to know what to expect in Chapter 90 and receive as early as possible.

Idea behind taking it out of the overall budget is to provide the information as early as possible on the areas that can be moved forward. Because there was a lot of attention to the governor's budget and differing formula for local aid, chapter 70, etc. including GDRSD chapter 70 increase of \$64,900 for FY2014. She continued to present [formula interpretation and breakdown](#).

Walter commented briefly and expressed board's appreciation for all the hard work, looking at what he's read about transportation – seems to be geared more toward public transportation that serves a large amount of people – but with things on the horizon like aging citizens, who can no longer drive but still need access to grocery shopping, doctors, etc. He noted that presently Dunstable supplements the transportation for their residents but uncertain how long that will be possible.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, April 29, 2013

He noted that with regards to Chapter 90 money, Dunstable isn't able to do major projects at all, have been forced to seek assistance and intervention of our state legislatures for projects such as the Route 113 project. Attitude in Dunstable is reluctance for upgrading the retaining wall and roadway at McGovern – for Dunstable to do themselves, it would need to save up for nine years. He addressed the other situation on Main Street, on the TIP and set aside but funding has now been moved another year out-not deteriorated to the point where it's unsafe. Concern is that the other departments might determine the road needs to be shut down, despite the funding suspension to another year. She confirmed that they have been notified – it was approved. Walter noted we understand that funding had to be moved around to address more pressing projects. Asks that some consideration on what affect it has on our community – a lot of what is done is in respect to our neighbors who must travel through the community.

Discussion continued on the funding, issues and how the fundamental issues are addressed and funding allocated. Regional transit authority might benefit the community – but weren't forward funded, transportation plan before the legislature will help address this shortfall. Senator Donohue noted it seems to her, that they should be looking into serving areas – including smaller communities with their transportation needs. Walter advised that transportation needs & issues for Pepperell and Dunstable are much different than those for Lowell, etc. Second issue is the one of unfunded mandates, while many of the items may be good ideas, they're ones we can't afford to support. The board thanked her for the update and support.

Ted Gaudette of the Dunstable Monument Committee addressed the board relative to previous discussions regarding his group's plan for [redesigning of the monument area in front of Town Hall](#). He advised the group this far has collected \$12,500. He reported the two lowest proposals range somewhere around \$9K to \$10,000. He further advised that there's [\\$3876 available for use under the Sarah A. Parkhurst Trust Fund and his group was requesting the Selectmen request that funding from the Commissioners of Trust Funds](#). He further advised that Dana Metzler was going to talk with Finance to see where there might be additional funding to move forward – with funds which might be available from miscellaneous Town Hall maintenance funds. The board reviewed information provided first – motion by Dan for the Board of Selectmen to make a formal request of \$3846 apply funds from Sarah Parkhurst funds for the grounds project.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, April 29, 2013

The board recessed to the Fincom meeting @7:40PM and will reconvene with board members taking notes. When Board reconvened, they signed the Annual Town Meeting warrant for posting, approved banner request and approved signatory authority for Chief Downes to enter CEMLEC agreement.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 8:50PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary

