

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, May 6, 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. Members of Fincom, Board of Road Commissioners, Town Accountant, Town Counsel, Town Moderator. Mike Martin from the Road Commissioners presented his board's recommendation to fill vacancy on the Board of Road Commissioners – recommending Peter Gove of 114 Hall Street be appointed immediately, noting that Tom Dumont had expressed his approval as well. Selectman Alterisio explained the process – noting that if Mr. Gove were to win by write in campaign, then he would be elected. Selectman Devlin made the motion to appoint Peter Gove to the Board of Road Commissioners to serve until next election May 20th – poll vote – all BOS members in favor and Mike Martin in favor.

The board then began the review of the warrant and on Article 4 unpaid bills, Selectman Alterisio addressed the issue with the Electrical Inspector relative to emergency callouts he's made and payment for that service – if the inspector is called out by Electric Company, Fire Department, and other emergency services – would that come under the auspices of unpaid bills – uncertain whether it is for 2012 or not – BOS will do some research, complexity is that all inspectors wages have been based on receipts from permits in the prior year. In a brief conversation with Town Accountant, this doesn't fall in that category and amount isn't based on permits from prior year. Will be looking for some guidance – BOS will qualify that were for true emergencies – basically moving forward would like to break away from prior year's receipt – but based upon the work that he does – where it comes from may in fact be permit receipts. Selectman Alterisio felt it should be pay as you go – year later. Building Inspector a little different as he's zoning enforcement – plumbing, gas & electrical inspector have been based on pay as you go – Selectman Alterisio eluding to getting away from pay as you go, when does the work, submit the bill, BOS will need to watch what's going on. Fincom felt they could do some research and develop some samples. Ted advised that he was on Finance Committee when came up with that process upon the recommendation of the Electrical Inspector – felt was being victimized by the flat fee. Ted suggested some items to consider. Selectman Devlin advised that David has invoice – which hasn't been submitted to Advisory Board but will see that it's available

One of the issues discussed by how the Road Commission can spend money for other items than improvement of Town Roads, purchasing

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loaders, equipment, trucks, etc. which the way this article is worded it doesn't mention purchase of equipment, etc. Ted noted that back a number of years ago, lease-purchase was based on use of Chapter 90 money.

Discussion on Article 17 – GDRSD Technology Capital Improvement Plan – would be taking out the loan July 1st – but no payment due in FY2014. Need an appropriation and borrowing.

Discussion of the Solar Zoning bylaw – advisory recommending against – are some pieces of this that were never addressed – one being permit fees – could see some revenue from this – also could be a personal property tax assessment when they're not attached to your house – if you have one in your yard, could get a personal property assessment. Advisory's job is not to just act on financial issues – but on any that might have an effect on the town – they would like to table action on it- do have some panels on the roof and there's no access to the chimneys because of it – this talks about ground mounted, could include roof mounted. Chairman Leva indicated to him the intention is to have some control over a big solar farm. Ron advised this industry is very evolving – and if someone wants to put a solar panel in their back yard, with two way metering means a check for the homeowner. Ron thinks of all the articles that we've got, this one needs so much work and if we sign on it as it is. Selectman Alterisio noted the issue is with the position of the article, uncertain the three (3) people who will remain in the room will come up with a valid review. Chairman Leva advised that Planning has confirmed they want to have something in place – certainly needs work, but Fincom still felt it was inappropriate until it's worked through. Rich advised it's a bad idea to take a document from state level – frequently well drafted but sloppy around the edges. Rich agreed it's an evolving area and thinks need to be pretty sophisticated in investigating and determining applicability, land use, fees, etc. Ron indicated what they could do is get someone who can advise them on how it could be built to more suit the future – that's why Evergreen isn't here anymore – went by them.

Ted Gaudette made comment that piggybacks off Selectman Alterisio's comment about lack of participation for the zoning articles – noting seldom check the quorum but if comes down to limited few – if know are going to take no action, maybe best to take it out of order. Rich will design the motion.

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Selectman Alterisio referenced legal information provided by labor counsel Marc Terry regarding the Quinn Bill will be the subject of an executive session.

The board noted resignation from Ted Gaudette from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective June 2013. Selectman Alterisio explained that customarily we request recommendations from the ZBA but Town Clerk's certification of receipt starts process.

The Board discussed the animal protection act...Rich advised he studied it in his week's absence. Nothing more thankless than dog officer - Susan Hogan, understood that she took the job with exception to certain things. Selectman Alterisio's understanding of the agreement was that have a dog officer who understands the rules of dog officer and how best to implement. Selectman Alterisio has never met her. Rich advised she's very experienced having served the Town of Groton for years and is well versed in the law.

Selectman Devlin advised he'll get an agreement to Rich. Alan stopped in to make sure everything was cool - as he had to go downstairs for a meeting. Will handle cemetery article and Leah will handle the wetlands bylaw.

Selectman Alterisio referenced minutes of 4/29, noting amendment to last paragraph, when Board reconvened, they signed the Annual Town Meeting warrant for posting, approved banner request and approved agreement for Chief Downes to enter CEMLEC and adjourned at 8:50PM. Minutes of 4/29 approved with those amendments.

In mail review and outstanding items, Chairman Leva read the request from Ted Gaudette for a portion of the Town Hall funds, the Memorial Grounds project. The board will ask the Advisory Board to take a look at the request. The board also discussed Judy Larter's request for removal of the town hall items - Selectman Alterisio indicated he's looked at it and there's nothing historical included in the materials.

Alan addressed the proposed plan of the modification of the town memorial area - which he'd researched further on line, and indicated that it seems a bit much - from his personal view, maybe that the horse is out of the barn and understands funding coming from different places, some of the which is the private committee who has done very good work, some from Parkhurst funds and more from Town Hall maintenance kettle - his initial reaction was it's not town hall maintenance, not on high horse about it - get more done by not being

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pickers but main position is the simpler the better, sort of wish that a little broader group of people were involved in the decision for this project. While Board has the authority for control of the town hall grounds, feel a little bit egg in the pudding. He realizes the horse is out of the barn, but feels something as significant as this should be brought forth for input. Selectman Alterisio indicated he was aware of the additional monuments but the brick platform was a bit of a surprise to him as well. Wondering if there's any leverage in terms of cost, could we set the plan aside and just go with grass for now, until it's been determined. It was noted that the group has put some thought into it, but it hasn't been shared with many individuals, monuments look wonderful but the patio approach seems to be an add-on and he, himself doesn't care for that as much as grass. Selectmen are in the driver's seat, but feels it can always be done at a later date. Board members discussed very briefly before addressing plans for next week's meeting.

Board members will meet at 6PM at the School prior to the ATM. Secretary will post accordingly.

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