

**Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, June 3, 2013**

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

Mike Martin appeared before the board regarding the roof of the building they're using at 91 River Street – need to repair immediately was under the understanding that the Selectman had an account to cover.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. Chairman Devlin noted, with summer months upon us, light agenda. Fire Chief Brian Rich stopped in to advise that he wanted to be sure he and the Board were still on the same page regarding change in Fire Dispatch. He reported that Pepperell came back with a slightly lower offer for dispatch but Groton still slightly lower and he feels it is still best to have Groton take it on. Would like to set date for transition – tentative date for September 15<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Devlin will follow up with Town Counsel relative to MOU. Groton is ready and would be for July 1<sup>st</sup> and want to be sure everything is in place before transition so that there's no loss in coverage, etc. Transfer 1<sup>st</sup> time was July of 2008 and last week he got a call for report of fire and used the wrong number.

Chief Rich then referenced the Junior Firefighting program that he'd presented to the board a few months back, indicating he'd like to start it in July and noting that there's still only the one individual interested at this point in time. Selectman Alterisio asked what kind of activities Junior Firefighters would be involved in and the Chief advised no motor vehicle accidents but would be able to respond on calls changing air bottles, getting drinking water for firefighters – no power tools, etc. He reported there are about 80 of these programs in MA – some have 30-40 members. Estimated cost for insurance coverage is \$50.00. Grants that will help to get the programs established. He further reported the MA Call Association is talking about doing a drive in this area – looking at Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell and Townsend. Would like to see some more participation from Dunstable residents – majority are from out of town. Brian also reported Dunstable Fire been successful in obtaining the truck through the military program and advised on driver training class just completed thru the state noting it was a little better than the one offered by the insurance company. He reported on more classes that they're looking into for future training and advised that just about everyone on the department has taken the driver education class in the past six years.

Chief Rich indicated he believes are looking at starting out with a billing cycle of like \$3K a year – not exactly sure in how much work is going to be involved but Chief Palma really wants to work with us. Grants are coming up – looking into another thermal imaging camera. Selectman

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Leva asked if Brian could provide a written itemization so the board can look it over.

Fire Chief further advised he wants to send a letter that states Firefighters are making \$15.00 an hour. Brian will write up what he wants in the letter as it comes up when he applies for grants – best to formalize.

The board reviewed the minutes of 5/21 – page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph one change to reflect Selectman Alterisio's reservation was where any individual is referred to by name instead of the position, and Selectman Leva noted change to Fincom not Planning – page 4. Minutes were approved as amended.

Scheduling for executive session – need to meet with Marc Terry – part would be by executive session – would like to set something up with Marc Terry – during the day, as well as meeting with Electrical Inspector... if more than two selectmen are present, the meeting with Electrical Inspector will need to be in open session. Need to meet with Town Accountant as well to see how payment and process is best handled. Issue is, we've never done that, there's never been an issue in the past, but need to have a policy on how these emergency calls are handled. If called out privately, it's on the landowner. Check with Kim and find out when she's available so that can establish meeting time. Selectman Alterisio noted he felt we need to first establish the basis of the calls listed – basically 1<sup>st</sup> list was date & address – now with narrative. Meeting will be to review each one of the calls listed in the billing – if Kim has a problem, need to get it resolved...so the board understands the reasoning for a call being...try to shoot for June 12<sup>th</sup> for that – narrative now that Selectman Alterisio looks at it closely, from what Chairman Devlin understands from pursuing – this ... David wasn't keeping complete renditions of the callouts – Selectman Alterisio noted need to know more about specifically what was done and how we arrived at the fee. Some uncertainty as to whether it's come up before.

Marc is proposing some policy changes – looking at some vanilla changes – budget issue is another we have to look at regarding the Quinn Bill and a mutual understanding with Fincom representative. Since don't have an administrator in place the board was left with was some uncertainty as to whether the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with Marc needs to be in executive session noting in case there's any negotiation into components of the contract and incentives for achievements, etc. The Board decided to put it on for one of their next meetings would like to address a conditional agreement for a summer schedule – agreeing to set up for the 17<sup>th</sup> – giving Marc Terri and a representative from the Advisory Board time to figure it into their schedule. Selectman Alterisio indicated he'd like to have Town Counsel take a look at what has been knocked out and any reservations Rich has.

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Selectman Alterisio didn't think Rich would have any issues with the policies from Mirick O'Connell based on their expertise in the field but thought it best to share with him.

The dates for June 10<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, were tentatively suggested for beginning meetings every other week noting with the number of things going on, there are going to be other meetings rather specific. Regular schedule meetings next week and try to come up with a list of specific tasks they'd like to cover over the summer.

Selectman Leva addressed some of the items that have been carried over, referencing town hall items stored in Judy Larter's barn - white cabinet marked historic and Chairman Devlin reported that he and David were planning to take care of those this week. The board agreed that next week they'll come up with a specific list of items they want to get done over the summer.

Chairman Devlin reported that Town Engineer, Jeff Rider will attend stormwater collaborative meeting @NMCOG and represent the town. Selectman Leva noted he'd like to have a discussion with Chief before acting on the appointments requested. Selectman Leva provided motion to appoint the FY2014 police officers per recommendation of Chief Downes - for full-time and part-time reserve officers as listed on the Chief's appointment request of 5/23/2013.

The Board read the e-mail request from Town Counsel for retainage fee for the Carter-Stevenson appeal, if it comes forward and approved the expenditures from the town legal account. Voucher will be processed with the disbursement of the retainage to be directed thru Town Counsel.

The board approved the Nashoba Valley Pedalers use of the Town Common area for their annual water stop during their 2013 Century Ride on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

The board discussed the GLTHS issue at hand due to a recent article in Lowell Sun, relative to agreement in place with the Charter and how do we rule, as a condition of the agreement. The city solicitor of Lowell won't be making the decision - item of question is whether there is a strong violation. Discussion continued into how the charter came about and what are the appropriate steps, if any, to correct the issue. Regional district agreement may or may not be flawed - agreement as it deals with vocational - Selectman Alterisio's interest would be to get some sense as to what the state has to say. Newspaper article says wants to meet with Dunstable officials - Chairman Devlin indicated that he had a quick discussion with David Tully or GLTHS representative. Discussion continued on the whole concept- one man one vote concept which says

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that if in fact are looking at relationship – Dunstable has one vote, in relationship to school population in Lowell, Lowell should have fifteen votes – which basically means that Lowell gets whatever Lowell wants as they'll have the most representation on the Committee. It was suggested that before meeting with any of the representatives, we ought to get some kind of sense where this is going with respect to the agreement and how it addresses the intent of the agreement. The last time Chairman Devlin spoke with Tyngsboro Town Manager, was still researching. Chairman Devlin will reach out to Mike Gilleberto from Tyngsboro for further info.

Next week will settle up on some of the outstanding updates, really interested in capital project; the Board extended thanks to Peter Georges – Veteran's Agent for the new American Flag.

Selectman Alterisio noted discussion at the monument – Ted Gaudette had noticed flag on pole was getting frayed as was the POW flag and Peter made immediate arrangements for replacements. Memorial dedication and Memorial Day Parade festivities went well. Selectman Alterisio noted his hopes that someone picks up the charge and the efforts continue.

Meeting will be set up for next Wednesday with Kim, Board, Dana Metzler representing Fincom and Dave Sweet for discussion of emergency callouts.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 8:10PM after appropriate motion by Selectman Leva, 2<sup>nd</sup> and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary