

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2013

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

Meeting was called to order by Selectman Alterisio at 7:00PM with quorum present noting Chairman Devlin is unable to attend.

The Board looked over the transfer request for Electrical Inspector's emergency callouts - approved for processing in the amount of \$680.00 noting better documentation required before submission for payment.

Selectman Alterisio advised of NMCOG project which has come up - all towns have to comply with stormwater runoff provisions - unclear as to who was to have the responsibility for the project. Town Engineer contacted him as to how to proceed and how to bill - needs to know what kind of resources are needed and must decide what kinds of things can be handled in house vs. items that need to be handled at cost. Town Engineer could take it soup to nuts but at a cost - he's asked him to map out the process and estimated costs and then he'll meet with the Board(s) to discuss. Once take a look at the project partitions will have better idea of who best to handle. BOS will coordinate but will be looking for support from those, such as BORC, for their part.

Selectman Alterisio referenced the authorization for transfer to pay for tasks that Electrical Inspector that were not part of his responsibilities in the past - Board agreed to take a look at it - and is processing request for transfer from the Advisory Board to cover the costs. He noted and explained to Fire Chief that if it is public safety and not a landowner responsibility, in terms of fire on property whatever would expect that homeowner's insurance should cover household claims. Moving forward the Town is going to come up with a policy on how best to handle in the future. Public safety issue is Brian's responsibility - notification would be helpful in future incidents.

Brian advised over the past three (3) months since they've finished budget, the Chief's car has been out of service three times - out latest time for 10 days - ran into Ron Mikol and he asked why he was driving his own truck and when Brian advised reason - Ron suggested taking the \$5500 from prior budget and take funds out of current budget to put aside money for purchase of a new Chief's car. He further reported that in past 6 months he's put almost \$3,000 for repairs and at this time he knows two tires need to be replaced and front brake is dragging. When Selectman Leva questioned when the vehicle was

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2013

acquired, Chief Rich advised it was in 2010 was purchased thru Fire Tech & Safety for \$2,000.00. Brian reported they'd like to go with a F350 with a four door cab – with utility body it provides a service vehicle when needed. The present vehicle has just under 141,000 miles on it. Selectman Leva asked prior arrangement agreement for use of vehicle. Brian believes he's put just under 12,000 per year – about 55 times a year has to be outside the area. His concern is the call @6AM in the morning where there's only him and one officer and his car dies. Brian reported that totally completely outfitted the cost is \$47,603.00 for the new vehicle. Selectman Leva asked what have for alternative to the \$47K vehicle – fire department budget with pay and everything is \$141K. He's only spoken with Ron Mikol – wanted to bring it forward. Selectman Leva would like him to look into options for used vehicle, etc. to cut the price in half. Selectman Leva noted we're going from the 1st vehicle the chief ever had which was a 1996 vehicle in 2010 for \$2000 to a brand new vehicle @\$47,000. Brian also advised that engine 2 is 28 years old – customarily replace engines @30 years old. Selectman Leva asked what the department's priority is – the Chief's vehicle or the engine. Brian reported that right now the Chief's vehicle is priority – in two years will be Engine 2 as priority.

Brian also provided the board with a packet advising the department is starting to put the standard operating guidelines into place and where the board serves technically as Fire Engineers, he would like them to look them over and approve – will be put in a notebook which will be kept at station. Last item is a district wide for Rapid Intervention Teams – for rescues, etc. where could pull in manpower from other communities so that all are operating by/with the same guidelines. Brian also reported on mutual aid and how it's worked with Pepperell. Haven't had to call in mutual aid as have had personnel available but with that said Ben Simmons is moving to Townsend, former Chief Rich is being scheduled for a hip replacement and another individual is moving out of town so will be looking at some coverage limitations. Selectman Alterisio reported on the project with NMCOG relative to mutual aid coverage thru Devens. Brian advised that he understood that Devens wants to be up and running for two years before they bring other communities into the mix but Groton is looking to add to their dispatching communities. Discussion continued on how best to handle. Board gave their approval for Brian to schedule discussion with Finance regarding the truck.

Bill Ahern asked if the Board was prepared to charge the Memorial Strategy Committee – Selectman Alterisio advised that he was

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2013

prepared to move forward with the memorials but not set with the charge as yet – need to determine definitively what the committee is expect to do. Selectman Leva isn't in favor of charging the committee tonight – Selectman Alterisio indicated it's not limited to the Town Hall memorials project.

Mike Martin explained the transfer balance from snow removal to the Highway Equipment account for the sander for the truck – he noted they didn't know could only do. He also reported he had some bad news on the roof at the Highway Garage, when he pulled the fascia boards off found there was some deficiency in the rafter(s). They need to take a look at it and get a better understanding...possibly an item for September town meeting, if there is one. Selectman Alterisio noted that will probably be going to a special town meeting in September or October – expecting some input from the Capital Project Committee. This would be another item to feed to the committee – this is a used building that was bought back in 2002 and the town hasn't spent a lot of money on the building and things can't go on forever...can't keep on scrambling to patch things together with funds we can pull together easily.

The board approved transfer from Snow Removal excess to the Highway Equipment fund in the amount of \$8500.00 after appropriate motion and vote. Before BORG Chairman Mike Martin left, Selectman Alterisio asked if BORG and the Highway Department could take care of the flags, noting there'll be less wear & tear on the new flags if they're stored in the interim between July 4th and Labor Day.

Selectman Leva read the request for transfer of \$300.00 from Assessors wages account to professional-technical account for update of property tax cards. Selectman Leva provided motion to approve, 2nd by Selectman Alterisio and voted with both in favor.

The recent application for use of the town common for July 13th for a Church-Wide Yard Sale to raise money for a charitable project was also approved.

The Board noted plans for dog hearing on July 10th and meeting with labor counsel on the 11th. Uncertain who the attendees are for the 11th – invite Rich for the meeting on the 11th as somewhat may deal with budget. Selectman Alterisio's main concern is where we are with a representative of Fincom and Chief Downes...Selectman Leva noted this will establish the steps and how to best address – will put ducks in a row and allow the board to understand what Marc is proposing.

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2013

Selectman Alterisio's concern is that some of the policies that would be putting in place might.

The board rescinded the appointment of Albert N. Horton as associate member to Zoning Board of Appeals, upon notification that Al was giving up the position effective June 30, 2013. The Board also noted Judy Thompson's resignation from her position as Associate Member effective immediately.

Selectman Alterisio noted outstanding question on what the situation is with the white vehicle – where is it and who's using it. Selectman Leva noted that with us now talking about getting a new \$47K fire vehicle, the Board needs to get a better handle on the various town vehicles and their usages. Board needs to make sure that decisions that are made have some sort of rationale.

Chairman Devlin will be alerted to see if could have some conversation about the GLTHS representation of committee members.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary