

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, October 28, 2013

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present.

Minutes of 10/21, 10/24 with all in favor; 9/30 minutes by Chairman Devlin & Selectman Leva after Selectman Leva's motion; 9/23 meeting with motion by Selectman Leva, 2nd and vote to approve; 9/9 minutes – unclear – suggested amendment – what was discussed and action taken – 9/9 accepted; 10/17 motion by Selectman Leva, 2nd & voted with Chairman Devlin & Selectman Leva in favor.

The Board met with Joe Dean, Dana Metzler, Carol Bacon of the Memorials Review Committee who reported on their research – in their charter – have gone around and looked at all existing monuments and future monuments. They were also requested to have a vote as to if they wanted to have the work completed at the warrants here at the Town Hall. He presented monument site plan that shows existing layout with brick within the area and lighting – have sent letter to MA Historical Commission, who has no reservation with the scope as presented under terms of historical preservation agreement. He noted vote was 4-2 against the completion of the project – leaving it as it is right now. That being said, he'd like to say on the other ½ of the picture – think about the individuals who gave their lives – a sad time and means a lot to the families of the. He asked the BOS to vote as to whether can complete job. Selectman Leva votes to continue the work as presented, Chairman Devlin – notwithstanding the vote that the committee took as a Board, he does approve of continuing with the project as laid out – likes the plan, thinks it's an enhancement and will beautify it. Selectman Alterisio noted the reason asked for in the first place was that there were some conflicts – some that really didn't feel they'd had any input until after the fact – not a lot of opportunity for public input – having the committee come together and basically look at the whole project and whether it made sense. To Selectman Alterisio it doesn't matter whether there's a brick surrounding but that there are memorials. Selectman Alterisio would vote to have it remain the same, doesn't see where it enhances and may detract somewhat. Joe added that their committee is meeting on a monthly basis and intends to have a full report for the end of June as to any recommendations and funding proposals for other memorials. Selectman Alterisio advised that he envisioned the committee would be putting together a plan for all memorials and how to handle in the future. Comments also on the number of benches and plans for any including criteria for monuments and approval process. Selectman

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Alterisio indicated he'd hope that it also includes a program for maintenance of monuments in the future.

Selectman Alterisio explained to our new Moderator, Bob Nelson, the formation of the Capital Projects Committee and their charge to look into some of the immediate and long rang items that are coming forward. For the most part have put together the items that need to be addressed now and asked them to look at what should be brought forward immediately.

The discussion then continued on the salt shed articles, the background behind placement of the facility and restrictions in the present location – on the site it's in now could make it work with 2 acres. Tighe & Bond put the number together – Bob asked if there will be a report of the people who researched and determined this was the best location in town. – Road Commissioners Mike Martin and Dana Kinne – Bob asked if there is going to be a 10 minute presentation by the Board of Road Commissioners – not anticipated.

No report from the Capital Project Committee expected at this Special Town Meeting – primarily the Selectmen will explain the initiative and some of the measures recommended at this point. Selectman Alterisio explained some of the items they'd looked at including the water system and how to address. Discussion continued on the warrant and anticipated action. Joan asked if any of the 80K is going to be spent on estimating the cost for cleanup of the existing facility once the facility has been relocated.

Selectman Alterisio then returned back to the warrant items for feasibility study for public safety facility, one for AC damaged by ice at Town Hall, and other articles – Board continued review of the articles including Brett providing his input on the article for changing the constable from an elected position to an appointed position. Brett advised he was going to recommend against it – noting that once you change it to an appointed position – discussion continued on the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Brett suggested taking no action without a job description in place. Selectman Alterisio suggested, rather than no action, kill the article.

Discussion continued on the articles including a lengthy discussion on the Town Administrator and who would provide the clerical assistance to the Town Administrator. Brett asked if the Town Administrator would be issued a list of goals and initiatives to pursue. Discussion continued into what's expected for this position – ultimate yearly salary for a part time position is estimated at somewhere around –

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Selectman Alterisio explained the strategy to look for one of those seasoned professionals to come in and bring recommendations forward as to how to operate – once set responsibilities can move toward a full time administrator. Brett inquired whether the town boards would have a role in the hiring of the individual. As it looks, the Selectmen probably have in terms of day to day operation, the least of the action - turning the boards to a policy position – turning over to administrative group for day to day operations. Chairman Devlin indicated can see right off the bat - salt shed and location of a public safety facility are two things that would have been easier with a Town Administrator in place. A municipal professional would have the familiarity with the items such as procurement, etc. Last article, the moratorium on marijuana dispensaries – Selectman Alterisio advised he'll be at the hearing and recommend that we not move forward – discussion continued into the possibilities of placement and reasoning behind placement requests – Joan Simmons advised every town around Dunstable is voting on a moratorium for one (1) year. Planning Board has scheduled hearing – but with full disclosure Selectman Alterisio doesn't think a dispensary is in the cards for Dunstable. His concern isn't from a dispensary or facility that would provide marijuana but with the growing of the marijuana. Joan pointed out the definition of the marijuana treatment facility includes the growing. Selectman Alterisio indicated that our present bylaw under the farming bylaw encourages the growing.

The Board appointed Ronald Patenaude to Town Forest Committee for 3 year term and appointed Janice O'Donnell to a two year term on Council on Aging. The board also discussed the process for selling excess vehicles.

Selectman Alterisio referenced his draft for letter to Larter family attorney in response to his letter re gravel removal.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 8:30PM after appropriate motion by Selectman Leva, 2nd and vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary