

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2013

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with quorum present. Road Commission Chairman Michael Martin and Commissioner Dana Kinne appeared before the board requesting permission for working with Town Engineer re: looking at the roadway on the west side of Hardman's house – look at the wall and culvert; Selectman Alterisio advised that section of the roadway was in the original discussion of the bridge on Route 113 and there was some concern about the availability of funding for the project addressing the biggest problem areas. The Road Commissioners would like to make an assessment as to the viability of that culvert area and possibility of applying to MA Highway for attention to the area. Anticipating that might run into the same type of resistance although there's a lot more attention these days on highway roads & bridges maintenance, etc. so there may be some further assistance; Selectman Alterisio applauded the approach – Chairman Devlin inquired whether there might be funding available via Chapter 90. They also briefly discussed the bridge on North Main Street. Discussion continued on options that might be available – looking at Chapter 90 for the McGovern Wall project would have meant that Dunstable would be expending their Chapter 90 money for the next 8 years – leaving nothing available for anything else. Dana advised that next project they're looking at is paving Main Street.

Mike advised that utilities are being researched for the Main Street bridge – believes Dunstable is up to date on everything we need to do. Roadway will be closed after the school busses stop. On December 4th there will be an informational meeting regarding the project here at Town Hall. Right now expectations are for progress on the project to begin in the spring or summer of 2014. Selectman Alterisio suggested if at all possible reducing the roadway down to one lane as Brook Street will not handle the amount of travel – Mike advised that MA Highway indicates that if were to make the road one lane to keep the roadway open would take 2-3 years to complete whereas only a few months if shut the road down diverting traffic via detour – Mike advised that's why they repaved Depot and Oak Streets. Selectman Alterisio advised there'll probably need detail there to assist with the movement of traffic during the detour. Selectman Alterisio also advised that NMCOG's road count assessments might be helpful to determine the amount of traffic.

Chairman Devlin advised that the Board would be designating Mike Martin and Jeff Rider as the representatives on the Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative program with NMCOG – Selectman Alterisio advised that he'd asked Jeff to put together a design for the best approach. The Board discussed the process and the best approach, noting Dunstable has again submitted waiver request. The discussion continued on the run-off assessment that has been done some time ago and need for documentation of runoff, culverts, etc. For the Town of Dunstable it's probably minimal, but

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have to go through the process and be aware of areas where might be at risk for contamination. Even though we're a small town, have to play by the same rules as the larger towns and cities. Discussion continued on the process, etc.

Minutes of 11/4 and 11/12 will be held for another week for full board approval. Chairman Devlin noted that the Fire Chief has presented information on applicants he'd like to add to the Volunteer Fire Department - Selectman Alterisio moved to concur with the Chief's recommendation for three probationary firefighters and vote was taken to approve Eric Harries of Dunstable, Sarah Winslow and Cameron Covert of Nashua.

The board then briefly discussed the recent zoning amendment and process required for all zoning amendments.

The board mentioned e-mail received containing DLS notification of approval of property assessment approval. Selectman Alterisio noted the items that DLS has outlined for completion for the 2017 session. Board will make sure that they bring those things up at the Tax Levy Hearing scheduled for 12/2/13.

Selectman Alterisio called attention to the Chapter 61 notice received relative to purchase and sale of a 2 acre lot from the parcel and recalled covenant on the Farnsworth property - secretary will research further. Board noted they hoped they'd done their due diligence but at present wasn't interested in picking up the option - awaiting input from Conservation & Assessors.

Selectman Alterisio noted some things came up from town meeting - need to take a look at the feasibility study for how to approach the Public Safety Facility project - need a sense from Highway, Conservation & Planning who will be involved once an RFP comes together - must have a basis from whence we start and why. Also need to look at the kinds of resources we'd use for the design, etc.

Repair of the A/C is going to need an RFP and the survey of property will also require an RFP. Selectman Alterisio can get together with NMCOG and see if they might have any boiler type stuff for those two types of projects.

Town Administrator item - have to come up with a process on how best to approach - Selectman Alterisio's thought is he's less interested in what is going to be done as opposed to how it will be implemented. Suggest multiple sessions with different boards as to how they can work together with the administrator. Can either meet with the boards individually or collectively do it. Board of Selectmen knows what they're looking for Personnel Director to deal with Personnel issues, job descriptions, etc. and procurement officer. From the other boards, need to have their input as to what they'd like their service to provide. Any Board that has an administrative function in this building should have some input.

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Selectman Alterisio will look into putting something together – including the budget process coming forward, etc. Selectman Alterisio suggested contacting Marc Terri relative to the police contract. Chairman Devlin will reach out to Marc tomorrow. He advised that the Board has been contacted by the Police Union to schedule negotiations on the new contract. Need to set up meeting hopefully before budget process begins to clear up level of misunderstanding between the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board – to work differences out.. Selectman Alterisio and Chairman Devlin agreed that counsel should be participant in the discussion – conflict has little to do with the administrator – more with separation of powers and responsibilities of Selectmen vs. Advisory Board...need to schedule session with Advisory, Selectmen & Counsel to sort out.

Selectman Alterisio noted he's always referenced them as Advisory Board whereas they've referred to themselves as Fincom – need to be sure that all understand the responsibilities. They provide a complimentary service supporting the town. Dan as Chairman will reach out to Ron to schedule meeting – need to work together. Chairman Devlin also noted interesting articles in November's Beacon relative to water improvement funding as well as information on phase 2 of marijuana dispensary process.

Selectman Alterisio referenced some time ago receipt of a letter from attorney relative to letter to the Larter family – counsel has reviewed and Selectman Alterisio would like to put it on for discussion at the next board meeting for acceptance and conveyance to the Larter family attorney. Discussion continued on position of agreements relative to gifts to the Town – don't necessarily want to look a gift horse in the mouth, but need to be proactive as to the conditions of each and how best to approach in the future.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 8:00PM after appropriate motion by Selectman Alterisio, 2nd and vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary