

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, November 25, 2013**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Selectman Alterisio with quorum present. BORC Chairman Mike Martin advised on his board's meeting with Town Engineer relative to the culvert on Main Street between Hillcrest and town center – known as a deficient culvert for some time due to beaver activity – over the years it's been there, is in dire need of repair. He presented photos – previous and present. Road Commission will be presenting information to MADOT – since as a state numbered road DOT has 1<sup>st</sup> authority. He reported on the procedure BORC has been following with DOT – with the amount of traffic and the loads that are travelling over the roadway over a number of years – Selectman Alterisio recalled with the McGovern Wall had been talking about it with Highway for some 5-7 years. .. big concern is if the road gets to a point where it's unpassable, with some 14,000 vehicles travelling across the roadway a day – which would need to find another route if the roadway were to fail. Concern isn't solely on the integrity of the road but if it were to fail, the repercussions of how to handle traffic, etc. Commissioner Martin advised Town Engineer suggested breaking the project up into three (3) segments. Research will continue into integrity of the roadway and resources available. Because this is a state roadway, need to work closely with the state as to recommendations for repair, etc... Now all telephone poles are leaning in, etc. Tractor trailer that took out the cemetery wall – maybe with Conservation and Historical Commission's blessing, could step out a foot to give that wall a little protection. By Davis house (former Hardman house – Tavern), once past it – change a little to open up roadway a hair to get away from wall. Maybe between Conservation, Cemetery and Historical Commission can come up with a workable solution. Selectman Alterisio noted need to qualify, bring to attention of NMCOG who can assist with placing it on list with MA Highway. If gets on resource list, NMCOG will have to approve – Selectman Alterisio establish what has to be done – and then get the other groups involved to move the process forward. Mike advised he felt it's best to let the committees get all their thoughts and concerns out ahead of time and not wait until project is ready to move forward – know it's going to take years. BORC will work with Town Engineer and NMCOG outline what needs to be done and move forward. Tomorrow morning they have utilities being staked out – Selectman Alterisio noted need to get a handle on where we are with the engineer's FY2014 budget – will it handle this additional work. Engineer has also asked Mike if Town wants him to review the 25% - Selectman Alterisio there is no other staff personnel qualified to do

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that; may be qualified volunteers but it can be a risky situation – need someone who's qualified to review and assess liability. Selectman Alterisio – need Town Engineer to come in a present Board with a plan and idea of the cost associated – need to make sure we're within the budget before moving forward. Mike will check with Town Engineer as to information he has available. Discussion continued into the impact on the historical district (even though undefined) – Conservation for wetlands, Historical Commission.

11/12 minutes, 11/18 minutes will be held for full board's approval.

Town Clerk visited the board with some concerns relative to the animal control officer and informational seminar scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> – follow up with Susan to see if she knows about it and if she's not able to attend, one of the Board members should attend.

Special Town Engineer service for the River Street project – concerned with meeting Pat Flaherty so that he has a clean understanding of the project, including its background. Will be under the direction of Planning Board and Conservation but secretary was asked to set up meeting with Pat Flaherty some time during month of December.

The board decided to wait for Chairman Devlin's return to send the letter to the Larter attorney so it could include signatures from complete board. Selectman Leva referenced a recent e-mail relative to the grant Groton's IT representative has applied for and requested confirmation of BOS support of the grant application – where are we in the process. Selectman Leva advised that we'd received the e-mail but was late in the process – need to try to keep eyes open. Other is the e-mail from Jim Frey relative to teacher contract negotiations – and new technique interest based bargaining – asking for a member of the board for the bargaining process. Last time it was Kevin – will double check with Kevin as the town's representative if he has the time. Selectman Alterisio and Selectman Leva confirmed their total support of Kevin's representation for Dunstable in the teacher's contract collective bargaining. Secretary will research Charter's original application to see if they'd installed fiber optic at that time as Selectman Alterisio recalled that everyone else had the old type wiring whereas Charter brought fiber optic into Dunstable.

The board discussed the purchase and sale relative to Chapter 61A land on Westford Street and the outstanding question relative to the development of the land in question. Secretary reported on the research done by herself and Assistant Assessor Victoria Tidman which

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failed to reflect any language on deeds for the parcel(s) in question which would provide the protection indicated in the Frost deed. It was noted the Tax Levy hearing was scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Board will address question with George Frost. Discussion continued on whether Advisory Board should be included in the Tax Levy Hearing or BOS should meet with them before then. Selectman Alterisio recalled some conversations on the subject and how to best proceed. Need to collectively come together to decide in terms of the needs of the town as to its needs and how it fits into the resources available.

Secretary will work on scheduling hearing for the Tully APR once she's received confirmation from DCS and will check into session with advisory board next week. Selectman Alterisio noted his discussion with Dan as far as setting up session for discussion of the vote and the roles and authority for the town administrator position – direction he sees it going isn't a real healthy direction – counsel should be on the discussion; check with Danny about 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Selectman Alterisio then brought discussion back to STM and funding approved, and moving forward. Asked about discussion relative to town administrator – not what will be doing as opposed to how – so at least there's a clear understanding of the relationship – other than personnel and procurement issues, it's kind of open ended – won't be people reporting to him. Selectman Leva thinking about it – from beginning- should be designated representative to work with BOS – everyone knows plan on going through a pool of retired town administrators to help the town to craft a much better position to establish the groundwork for another individual to come forward. The individual should have the level of understanding to know what town's generally have in place and what is the need. Need to establish for now and the near future convey what they're talking about and hopefully understand working with individual now – to make things better. Everyone works for an authority – Conservation has a secretary – would like to work with that secretary – Roads, any of them – not changing the authority – just identifying there's a resource that will be available to them. Want to keep moving forward.

Board reviewed letter drafted by Selectman Alterisio responding to Larter's attorney and will be prepared to sign when there's a full board. The Board discussed the information received relative to the APR for George & June Tully parcel on Hollis Street.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary

