

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, January 6, 2014

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 by Chairman Devlin wishing everyone a happy new year.

The board's attention as drawn to a GDRSD posting for a special meeting Wednesday, January 8th at 7pm with GDRSD School Committee and Groton & Dunstable Selectmen & Fincom with Anticipated Agenda:

1. FY 2013 Update
2. FY 2014 Update
3. FY 2015 Update

Selectman Leva indicated he would probably be able to stop in late but couldn't make it at 7PM. Chairman Devlin reported an e-mail he'd received from Jay Donovan and grant application and possible items included. Chairman Devlin asked if there's anything pressing that could be included in that package.

The Board reviewed minutes of the 12/16, which were approved after motion by Selectman Leva and unanimous vote; Selectman Alterisio provided motion to approve minutes of 9th which were approved with both Selectman Alterisio and Leva in favor as they were the only members present at that meeting.

Discussion turned to the Town Administrator position and process to be followed by the board – they need to go through some sort of evaluation process to confirm the individual is on the same wave length and understands it's on a consultant level – not to come in and do the job – if they're on the same wave length Selectman Alterisio felt board could go ahead and push the button and have representatives from boards come together to muster support and provide assessment of the status and recommendations from the individual. Chairman Devlin noted that he knows that during the GDRSD superintendent search they utilized an outside consultant that brings the group into line for their selection. Selectman Alterisio advised they're wired into what people out there are doing; want to confirm if there's any interest and move forward in that direction. The real key is that the individual understand what the role is – more of a how do you do it, more than coming in to do the job. This person would be kind of a setup person. Key is to work with the individual. Selectman Alterisio wants to confirm a level of interest – make sure everyone on the same page. Chairman Devlin indicated hopefully some time before the end of the month, further opining hope to provide more input shortly.

Judy Larter stopped in to advise that she'd put some of the town hall items that were stored on her property outside.

Selectman Leva also noted would like to look at some of the empty seats on committees and missing members on a number of boards, with further

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, January 6, 2014

reference in the minutes of additional individuals for the Affordable Housing Committee. Selectman Alterisio referenced the zoning bylaw provisions as it relates or could provide opportunities for complying with the affordable housing requirements i.e. accessory apartments, etc.

BORC member Dana Kinne stopped in to report on the winter conditions and highway activities. Selectman Alterisio reported he'd attended the animal control seminar with Town Clerk advising most of the audience were town clerks and some animal control, tended to be the larger communities. With almost 800 dogs in town and licensing, questions Town Clerk raises is whether it's fair for most people to license their dogs, when there's no follow-up with those who don't. Selectman Alterisio further noted in order for it to be fair and equitable for the whole town, unsure that town clerk can handle by herself. Also concerned with the role of the dog officer and how she handles the items that need attention and how are we paying for the service - and is the service being provided. State has a voucher system, etc. and town clerk would like to see a voucher entered at least once a month - Selectman Alterisio would like to get some kind of a handle on how much cost is for handling animals - expenses, etc. He further reported there's also new regulation addressing the assignment of kennels - even though you aren't running a kennel, with 3 or more dogs are being considered a kennel. One of his concerns is town clerks seem to be looking at it as a money raising item. What we need to do is to come to a mutual agreement between counsel and the dog officer as to what is going to be done - moving in direction to respond to Town Clerk's concern to make sure everyone is playing by the same rules. Need to set up meeting between Dog Officer and Town Clerk, find out how that interaction is going and make sure that Town Clerk has a level of expectation of how things will move forward; further need to maintain some level of a reporting process - time to look at further. Chairman Devlin indicated he'd call her tomorrow to see about setting up a date.

Selectman Alterisio advised he's pretty much gone thru the Chiefs budget and is putting it on a spreadsheet for review - compared to the extensive narrative that Chief has prepared, for easier review. One big item is the overtime budget and how to best address - just on overtime budget need to better understand - don't want to micromanage - but current is at \$48K out of \$120K? He indicated he's mostly concerned because Chief's requesting another \$50K that would be tied up and could be turned back at the end of the year as has been done in the past, meaning that there could be items that could have been completed if the funds hadn't been tied up unnecessarily.

Discussion continued on the basis used for the police budget and how prepared - some communities don't have Quinn Bill which we continue to fund. Selectman Leva & Chairman Devlin indicated it was pretty easy to figure it out - if you're going to compare need to look at the communities and the work required. Other items - vehicle supplies and how he comes up

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, January 6, 2014

with the numbers – may take tactic of how to lower – not looking to lower or raise but to understand the request, so can be submitted to Advisory for their support. Spreadsheet isn't validating the budget – Selectman Leva agrees with Selectman Alterisio's approach but if comes to something that we know is a cost saving approach, the board must be prepared to evaluate and debate. Selectman Leva asked about the forecast for cars – has one unmarked that he takes home. Selectman Alterisio advised that Chief has assigned a fleet manager Nick Papageorgiou who takes responsibility. Selectman Alterisio indicated he hopes to have police budget spreadsheet ready for next week.

Selectman Alterisio also interested in where his number is on the Intermunicipal agreement for dispatch – staying with \$53K for Groton dispatch and Selectman Alterisio has been reading paper that Groton wants to add another individual to the dispatch team so one dispatcher isn't on alone. Selectman Alterisio indicated one of the items that threw off the report on the dispatching – taking highest wage and setting that as the wage for all – Groton's was the highest. In the area of dispatch – need to look at a little closer – wage may actually be due to longevity.

As an abutter, Selectman Alterisio has some interest in the Alexander Estates project on Lake Street/Hall Street. Selectman Leva referenced the position the board put together – that can't go down that road because of the bylaw – still in favor of supporting the parks. The way the bylaw interpreted would not be able to fly but frankly there are a number of things that the town needs to take a look at – that other towns and cities are having thrown upon them that need to consider long range sustainability for the town, like the school district budget that looks right now like it's going for a 3% increase.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 7:45PM after appropriate motion by Selectman Alterisio, 2nd and vote so that board members could attend the Planning Board Alexander Estates hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary