

**Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Monday, January 27, 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. Chairman Devlin presented letter to be sent to the Police Union relative to the board's decision re: Quinn Bill as previously discussed with labor counsel.

Chairman Devlin drew attention to the special information meeting for the GDRSD School Committee providing information on their budget and how to best address. Chairman Devlin reported he'd attended the meeting last week – budget is \$2.5-3M short for the current fiscal year. Selectman Alterisio indicated he thinks everyone has a stake in it – can mash teeth, whatever, but must move forward – going to be a participatory exercise amongst all boards.

The minutes of 1/21 – page 1 paragraph 2 – correction and paragraph 3. Motion by Selectman Alterisio to accept as amended by Selectmen Leva, 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted with all in approval.

The board briefly discussed the request from GDRSD for the town to pick up the costs for the streetlight at the entrance to the Church and Swallow Union parking lot. The board reviewed the normal process before the town assumes responsibility for a streetlight via town meeting vote and following review of the information provided by Town Accountant, Kim Fales relative to funds available, .

The board discussed plans for tomorrow's budget Worksession with Selectman Alterisio advising he'd given the Chief a copy of the breakdown he'd prepared and Chairman Devlin advised that Chief Downes has been contacted and will be available to sit in with the Board tomorrow.

Selectman Alterisio advised he'd prepared the budget requests based on current spending and packets will be available for tomorrow morning's session. He indicated we still needed to have an idea of the numbers for the police personnel numbers. Selectman Alterisio would like to get a number that Marc feels comfortable with the funding for that budget item. Discussed the bargaining process and the implication the Quinn number has made and the board's understanding of the change in – while town has been honoring – incentives, and other items tacked on – looking at maybe having the Quinn incentives go away, but adjustments made to look at other items to arrive at the same number. Chairman Devlin felt that the Board has handled the

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negotiations in the past and budgetary speaking, will have to have basic impact of how numbers affect – basically going to be a recommendation and need Fincom's support for the funding. Selectman Alterisio noted the numbers may move around somewhat within the budget – as it relates to inspectors, Council on Aging, looking for their input. Not looking to entertain the idea of micromanaging as opposed to hearing what they're looking at – their recommendation is – issue is – walking thru the numbers feel pretty good that we're going to be in pretty good shape. Selectman Leva asked - at what point do certain town employees have cap on department heads, etc. – one of the things that are going to be looking for a Town Administrator to kind of look out for the range for salaries. Selectman Leva asked how were raises determined Selectman Alterisio advised going back 10 years, –advised figured based on cost of living increases at the time- 2008 possibly. At one point, everyone got 0% increase – somewhere around 2008, even the Selectmen gave up their salaries for that year – a decision that he wouldn't consider again. Selectman Alterisio then noted some of the process for establishing rates and salaries as related to location, exposure, etc. He wouldn't necessarily equate position in Dunstable totally in terms of population – difficult part of weighing conditions – both sides of the argument...must be reasonable and happy medium. One of the arguments for the chief is how to best – wants to be reasonable and equitable – fact is people are going to attracted elsewhere for money and don't believe we are cheating the people in this town with coverage provided. Have made real strides with the Fire Department – have stepped up to and continue to address the needs and situations.

Selectman Leva reported he'd met with Ryan Kole and will put together a report on the exit interview; all board members advised they'd have seen him separately and wished him well in his new pursuit.

Chairman Devlin called attention to the management letter from the auditor and Town Accountant's response and the board noted that Town Administrator will be able to provide assistance in addressing the majority of the items. Selectman Leva drew attention to some of the items in the management letter. Discussion continued on how the town has handled items in the past and expectations for moving forward with improvements in place. Selectman Alterisio indicated he was perplexed with research into the items being addressed from previous years- make sure support is provided to different issues – water, etc. Water system repairs and improvements need to be

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addressed – will likely require some long term financing included in the plan. Seems that with process now into 2014 – uncertain will be in position to spend any considerable amount of money on the project.

Selectman Alterisio advised the 800lb guerilla is that will collectively have to create a response to the Advisory Committee's memo relative the interpretation of the responsibilities – and their demand for an apology. Chairman Devlin is pretty comfortable just moving forward to work together – Selectman Alterisio is disappointed and had conversation with Town Counsel – elected officials have responsibility – a lot of things that are obvious to the Selectmen are not obvious to everyone. Chairman Devlin doesn't have any particular interest in responding – Selectman Leva felt it was a drastic measure by the Advisory Board – all agree want to work it out and work together to move forward. They did express hope that collectively can move forward professionally to work together. Walter thinks that process should be clearer – see how it works out – each meeting their responsibility and moving forward.

Selectman Leva advised have an interested party for the Zoning Board of Appeals – Matt Raymond – trying to tighten up some appointments – Chairman Devlin has talked with John Martin. Selectman Leva made motion to appoint Matt Raymond to the five year position which currently expires on June 30, 2014. He'll then be reappointed for a new five year term. Motion was seconded and board voted to appoint.

Selectmen Alterisio briefly acknowledged the Town's loss of one of its' revered members over the weekend with the passing of Muriel Holmes, noting her husband Arthur had served in a number of positions for the town; her funeral is tomorrow. Selectman Leva advised he wouldn't be around next Monday, is leaving on Friday, but will be back on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 7:50PM after appropriate motion by Selectman Leva, 2<sup>nd</sup> and vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary