

**Town of *Dunstable* Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2014
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827**

Convened: 7:00 pm

Present: Walter F. Alterisio, Chair, Kenneth J. Leva, member, Daniel F. Devlin, member; Madonna McKenzie, Town Administrator; Brian Rich, Fire Chief; Bonnie Ricardelli, Treasurer/Collector; Susan Psaledakis, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee; Alan Philips, MEMA Representative; Richard Larkin, Town Counsel

Selectboard Reviewed & Signed the Following:

- Payroll & Vendor Warrants
- Mutual Aid "Opt-In"
- MIIA Health Benefits Trust Paperwork
- Previous Minutes Approved

Open Forum

Mr. Alterisio opened the meeting, and the Board then discussed the concept and vision for the Open Forum section of Selectboard meetings. The idea is to allow public discourse at meetings to bring up topics of note and concern to the Dunstable public within the community. No votes or motions will be entertained during this forum due to the requirements of the Open Meeting Law; M.G.L. Chp. 30A, §§ 18-25 (Effective: July 1, 2010). Chief Rich, the Fire Dept, informed the Board that there will be controlled burns behind the Post Office this Sunday. This is being done in order to train new fire fighters on how to fight brush fires. The burn training will be conducted between 8:30 and 11:30 am and will include not only Dunstable fire fighters but also Pepperell fire fighters.

Pam Perreault, spoke about her experience and frustration with the town over attempting to find out what the rules and process would be to post a welcome home banner for her son returning from military service. Given her experience she requests the town create a clear process for application and approval. The Board asked whether she thought there was enough information posted online, to which she responded that the information was not extensive and all questions were directed to the inactive email of a recently retired town employee. The Board extended its apologies on behalf of the town and determined that a better process will be put in place. It was noted that there are existing rules concerning banners and the Board was asked to consider putting a defined window for posting and then removing signage.

Mutual Aid & MEMA

Mr. Philips (sic), provided a map of the town opt in coverage and informed the Board that 282 of 351 municipalities in Massachusetts are participating. The MEMA goal is 100 percent. All current town mutual aid agreements remain unaffected. The Board asked if the agreement extended to New Hampshire border municipalities, to which Mr. Philips responded it did not. He did, however, inform the Board that another opt in agreement that is part of the same MEMA program exists that allows border communities to opt in as well. The agreement, gives power to first responder officials, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Emergency Director, to determine if and when the town will respond. This is, however, power that is limitable by any standing orders of the Board. The Board indicated general support and Mr. Leva subsequently moved to adopt, the motion was seconded by Mr. Devlin and passed unanimously.

Special Permit – Earth Removal

Adopted and approved on 10/22/14

to four different companies and costs range from \$950 to a high of \$2,100. The Finance Committee (Advisory Board) was concerned about the low bid, so Chief Rich checked their references and they appear to be reputable. The overall cost would be broken up between different affected parties, such as the Town Hall and Library. The Board noted that these are the kinds of hidden costs that it needs to flush out. There was also discussion about finishing work to tie the emergency responders in with Groton Dispatch and the available funds to do so. Moving on to another matter, the Board noted that there will be some work done on Rt. 113 that will require a police cruiser and also noted that an alarm system is good, but that the town needs to have police coverage for response and will need to look into that side of the matter as well.

Adoption of Previous Minutes

The Board adopted minutes from previous meetings. Motions were made by Mr. Leva and Mr. Devlin to do so and passed without debate or issue. All motions passed unanimously. Selectboard minutes from May 5th, May 12th, May 27th, June 4th, August 13th, August 27th, and September 3rd were all approved.

Police School Question

An officer has requested the town, under relevant MGL, help pay for higher education expenses. There is some question of whether the officer's choice in academic institutions is acceptable under the relevant law and town policies. The Board concluded it would need to discuss the matter further with Police Chief Downes.

Treasurer's Warrants/Mail

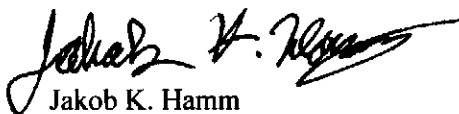
The Board signed and authorized the payroll and vendor warrants as submitted by the Treasurer/Collector. No important mail or correspondence to discuss at this meeting.

Executive Session

Selectboard adjourns public meeting and enters Executive Session. Motion by Mr. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Leva, passes unanimously without objection.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by



Jakob K. Hamm
Admin. Assistant to the Selectboard & Town Administrator

Adopted and approved on 10/22/14