

APPROVED
on 3-9-16

Dunstable Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes, Wednesday February 10, 2016

Present: Chairman Ken Leva, Daniel Devlin, Walter Alterisio.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Leva at 6:30 pm. The following summarizes areas discussed and actions taken.

The following requests for use of town property were presented, discussed and votes taken.

Dunstable Town Democratic Committee for town hall on February 24, 2016. Motion by Mr. Alterisio, second Mr. Leva approved.

Report of the Dog Officer; In preparation for the Annual Budget Review the board requested Mr. Greenhalgh to present a brief overview of activities and any concerns moving forward. Mr. Alterisio commented since being appointed we've heard only good things from Town Clerk and residents who have had an occasion to need assistance. In the past there has been confusion as to expenditures in performing the duties of the Dog Officer. It's important we don't commingle expenses with stipend which is the reason for separate line items in the budget. Supplies, kennel services, office supplies should be submitted separately for processing. This includes postage for those occasions where notices need to be sent. Another area is the instances of service requests that do not deal with dogs. Critters under porches, in the attic, or being nuisances are not part of the duties. This has in the past been a deterrent in having the position filled. Mr. Greenhalgh made note to use discretion in these areas. If residents need assistance in something that could be dangerous without experience he's there to help. Mr. Greenhalgh reported the Town should begin the process of planning for a Town Kennel since services commercially could get expensive in situations where animals needed to be housed for short periods. The board noted same and thanked Mr. Greenhalgh for his continued service.

Report of the Zoning Board of Appeals: The board previously sent out invitations to each member to discuss administrative oversights with recent proceedings. Mr. Irzyk an Alternate Member was in attendance. A recent case where the Zoning Board had approved a request the record of proceedings did not include important elements and or timely filings as required to support the findings. There is also one member who has yet to appear to be sworn to accept the responsibilities of the appointment. These oversights could have serious consequences putting the town at financial risk through appeals by applicants or residents who have the right of appealing decisions made on behalf of the town. Mr. Alterisio also expressed disappointment that a stronger showing of the Zoning Board was not present. A letter will be sent to each member listing specific concerns and seeking guidance as to how the board should proceed in resolving the matter.

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Request for consideration of town retirees health insurance; Lieutenant Dow presented the board with reasons to consider making available, as an employee benefit, health insurance for retirees. The town currently is one of only a few that does not extend such a program to its retirees. The number of individuals that would qualify is small and believes the low cost would be affordable with respect to the peace of mind an employee would have toward retirement. The board will take the matter under advisement. It's unclear what rules are standard in other communities, how such a program would interface with state retirement or Medicare/Medicaid, existing supplemental programs commercially available. All these need to be understood before the board could consider what impact such a commitment would have on the town.

Warrants were signed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by Walter Alterisio, Member