TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 7, 2007
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
ALTON, NH

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Northridge, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:04PM. He welcomed the voters of the Town of Alton. This is the first deliberative session for the Town of Alton. The next deliberative session will be held March 13, 2007 at PMHS to vote upon the entire town warrant.
The purpose of the meeting tonight is to review Warrant Articles 9-47.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

III. ROLL CALL

The moderator requested Cris Blackstone, Board of Selectmen Chairman, to introduce the head table for the Board of Selectmen:

Lisa Waterman – Town Clerk
Russell Bailey – Town Administrator
James Sessler – Town Attorney
Cris Blackstone – Chairman, Board of Selectman
Stephan McMahon – Vice Chairman, Board of Selectman [arrived at approx.7:20PM]
Alan Sherwood – Member, Board of Selectman
Patricia Fuller – Member, Board of Selectman
A. "Pete" Shibley – Member, Board of Selectman

Cris Blackstone thanked Steve McMahon for serving on the Alton Budget Committee as the representative for the Board of Selectmen and Pete Shibley for being the alternate member for the Alton Budget Committee for Steve McMahon .

The moderator requested Steve Miller, Budget Committee Chairman, to introduce the head table for the Alton Budget Committee:

Stephen Miller – Chairman, Alton Budget Committee
William Curtin – Vice Chairman, Alton Budget Committee
Laurie Boyce – Member, Alton Budget Committee
Richard "Virgil" Macdonald – Member, Alton Budget Committee
Elizabeth Dominick – Member, Alton Budget Committee
Terri Noyes – School Board Representative, Alton Budget Committee
Krista Argiropolis – Recorder, Alton Budget Committee

Laurie Boyce was thanked for her twelve years of service.

IV. RULES & PROCEDURE

Mark Northridge reviewed the rules of the meeting and how the meeting would be moderated.

V. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mark Northridge stated, "You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday the Seventh (7th) day of February in the year Two Thousand and Seven (2007), beginning at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deliberating upon the following Warrant Articles and the Town elections to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote will be held on March 13, 2007 at the Prospect Mountain High School from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm."

Mark Northridge presented a citizen who has requested to speak. Alden Norman, stated he had requested to speak under the SB2. He stated there was nothing in the warrant article about the cell phone town petition, ordinance 603, which explains the petition's action. M. Northridge stated that he felt A. Norman was discussing the article. A. Norman responded that he would like the voters to move for him to speak to Article 8. A. Norman motioned to discuss Article 8 and L. Boyce seconded the motion. M. Northridge stated that Articles 1 through 8 could not be changed because they were not petition articles. A. Norman stated there was no public notice following the Planning Board meeting. A vote was taken and the motion failed.

Robert Longabaugh made a motion to "Move to change the agenda to move up Articles 41-46 to the front" seconded by L. Boyce. He stated the petition articles should come before the budget warrant articles. The moderator asked if there was any further discussion. P. Shibley stated he felt the citizens of the town should come first and the people were here tonight to vote on the budget. He stated it had been like this for over 100 years and he'd like to keep it that way. There were no other comments. A count was taken for the vote. The motion failed with 17 for and 35 against the motion.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 9****: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Thirty Thousand One Hundred Dollars ($30,100.00)*** *for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new police patrol vehicle SUV 4wd which will replace an existing vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

C. Blackstone motioned to accept the article and S. McMahon seconded the motion. Ryan Heath, Interim Chief, Alton Police Department, spoke about the need for the new patrol vehicle. He stated there was only $1,700 difference between a sedan and a SUV. The SUV would provide more safety for the officer and allow them to get into areas that they would not be able to get into with a sedan patrol vehicle. There were no other comments or amendment. S. McMahon motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 9 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 10****: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000.00)*** *to be placed in the Police Building Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This fund has already been established as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Shibley motioned to accept the article and S. McMahon seconded the motion. R. Heath, Interim Chief, Alton Police Department, spoke about the need expanding the police department building in the future. There were no other comments or amendment. S. McMahon motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 10 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 11**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)** to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. R. Bailey spoke about the article. He stated that they would be working with the NH Department of Environmental Services and Engineers. They would be monitoring the water in the area. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 11 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 12**: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) for the purpose of funding a Transfer Station Equipment Fund and raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)** toward this purpose, and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. Scott Simonds, Director, Solid Waste, spoke favorably about the article. There were no other comments or amendment. S. McMahon motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 12 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 13**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00)** to be added to the Building and Site Improvements Capital Reserve Fund for the transfer station which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Shibley motioned to accept this article and S. McMahon seconded the motion. S. Simonds, Director, Solid Waste, spoke favorably about the article. L. Boyce asked how much the capital reserve fund is now and S. Simonds responded it is $20,000. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 13 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 14**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00)** for the purpose of paving the public parking area for the town hall, police station, park and general public. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

S. McMahon motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. R. Bailey reported this would be located by the B&M Railroad Park and would allow for approximately twenty parking spaces. It would give the public and town employees a place to park. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 14 and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 15:*** *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) for the purpose of funding a Sidewalk Fund and raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)*** *for this purpose, and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

C. Blackstone motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. R. Bailey spoke about the article and stated that it would provide for repairs and expansion of sidewalks. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 15 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 16:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)*** *for the purpose of purchasing a new economy vehicle for use by the assessing and other town departments which will replace an existing vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. R. Bailey spoke about the article, stating that it would cost $5,000 to get the vehicle repaired and recommended a small economy car, that he felt would last ten years. Greg Fuller asked about what vehicles would need to be replaced because he felt this happened frequently and the vehicles happened to come back to the town. R. Bailey stated this would not happen. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 16 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 17:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars ($32,800.00)*** *for the purpose of purchasing a new 1 Ton vehicle for use by the Building & Grounds department which will replace an existing vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. Kellie Troendle, Grounds/Maintenance Director, proposed an amendment to the article, which replaced the words "1 Ton" with "Pick-Up Truck". She stated that the previous language would limit them to the type vehicle they would be able to purchase. The amended article passed by a favorable vote.

K. Troendle spoke about the new vehicle and what it would be used for. She stated that a sedan was currently used for work that should be done by a pick-up truck. She spoke about the benefits of the pick up truck. There were no other comments or amendment. A. Sherwood motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 17 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 18**: To see the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)** for the purpose of replacing the green monster fence at the Jones Field Park. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

S. McMahon motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. K. Troendle spoke about the need to replace the fence. She stated the money would be used for supplies and volunteer labor would be supplied to put up the new fence. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 18 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 19**: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Five Million Six Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety One Dollars ($5,665,391.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Five Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Fifty Three Dollars ($5,574,053.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)*

S. McMahon motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. R. Bailey stated the operating budget had approximately a 6.6% increase but did not include the warrant articles. He noted that the default budget would be used if the voters defeated this warrant article. He spoke about how insurance increases and cost-of-living increases were driving this increase. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 19 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 20**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Dollars ($139,000.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the $139,000.00 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purpose of the ambulance lease payment, ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies, training, and vehicle fuel/maintenance. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and S. McMahon seconded the motion. Alan Johnson, Chief, Alton Fire Department spoke about the article. Greg Fuller asked how the expenses for the ambulance were covered. Scott Emerson asked if the money went to just the people who were responding to the ambulance calls or if it was staff doing other things at the fire station. Alan Johnson stated that 100% of the coverage comes from ambulance operation. Laurie Boyce asked how many runs did the ambulance answer in 2006. Alan Johnson replied over 500 calls were answered in 2006. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 20 and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 21:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000.00)*** *to be added to the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve which was established for the purpose of improving and expanding the fire stations. This fund has already been established as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. A. Johnson, Chief, Alton Fire Department spoke about the article and stated this was the third year of the capital reserve. He spoke about the addition to the East Alton department and students who would be stationed there. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 21 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 22:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Fifty Thousand-Four Hundred Twenty-One Dollars ($50,421.00)*** *for the lease payment on the Fire Rescue Vehicle. The sum of $50,421 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no funds to be raised from general taxation. This is the third payment on the lease/purchase of a five-year agreement, which was approved in the 2004 Town Meeting and vehicle, received in 2005. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

S. McMahon motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. The Fire Chief spoke about the truck lease and stated that he would hate to see them lose the truck because the lease was let go. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 22 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 23:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars ($390,000.00)*** *for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire Pump Truck; with $200,000 to be withdrawn from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve, $100,000 from fund surplus and the balance of $90,000 to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

A. Sherwood motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. Chief Johnson explained this was to replace a twenty year old truck and would meet the EPA requirements. He spoke about the rust issues and how the truck did not meet the current NFPA regulations. He stated that estimates for refurbishing the truck would mean $186,000, so they are looking to buy another truck.

Christine Consentino spoke about the condition of the truck and noted there was an article in the Citizen, 2/6/07. She stated that she was worried about the unsafe truck and asked for support of this warrant article. She spoke about her concerns for the safety of those who answer the calls for emergency help.

Hobart Livingston stated that the insurance companies know about the state of the equipment and that insurance rates would be going up if the equipment was not up to par. He spoke about the benefits of replacing the truck via this warrant article.

There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 23 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 24**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand One Hundred Dollars ($30,100.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire SUV Command vehicle to replace the existing 1998 SUV vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. Chief Johnson proposed an amendment to the article, which added the words "purchasing and equipping" to the warrant article. This was seconded by Ken Roberts. There were no questions or comments about the amendment. The amendment to Article 24 passed by a favorable vote.

Chief Johnson spoke about the current vehicle, which has over 160,000 miles on it. He stated they would like to take it out of full-time service for the fire fighters to use, rather than them using their own vehicles. He spoke about the ATV they recently purchased. He noted that they had been using their own personal vehicles but that this vehicle would work for moving the trailer around and for transportation to training sessions or for mutual aid. He spoke about the benefits of the department having their own vehicle. There were no other comments or amendments. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 24 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 25**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Hundred Thousand Dollars ($600,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be $153,179.03. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. Ken Roberts, Highway Agent, spoke about the highway reconstruction capital reserve fund. He spoke about what they were able to accomplish with the equipment they currently had and the benefits of being able to purchase new equipment. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 25 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 26**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Dollars ($172,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a 10 wheel dump truck for use by the highway department for reconstruction and maintenance of the town roads; with $60,000 to be withdrawn from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve and the balance of $112,000 to be raised by taxation. This truck will be replacing an existing truck, which will be auctioned or sold. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

C. Blackstone motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. K. Roberts amended the article dollar amount to be $163,000 and the existing vehicle will be traded, rather than sold or auctioned, with $103,000 to be raised by taxation. The amendment was seconded by Alan Johnson. There were no questions or comments about the amendment. The amendment to Article 26 passed by a favorable vote.

The approved Article 26, as amended, will read:
*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Dollars ($163,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a 10 wheel truck for use by the highway department for reconstruction and maintenance of the town roads; with $60,000 to be withdrawn from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve and the balance of $103,000 to be raised by taxation. This truck will be replacing an existing truck, which will be traded. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA*

32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2008. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

K. Roberts spoke about the benefits of having a new truck and how a ten-wheel truck would help them with the construction of roads. He reported that they had received bids and the money amount was a better reflection of the actual price. He stated it would save the town money in the construction because of the increase in current costs. There were no other comments or amendments. A. Sherwood motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 26 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 27****: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)*** *to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

A. Sherwood motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. K. Roberts spoke about the engineering and replacement of some bridges. He stated that the bridges are inspected by the State of New Hampshire. He stated they would be eligible for grant money, which would be a benefit to the town. There were no other comments or amendment. A. Sherwood motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 27 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 28****: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars ($8,160.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance, Women, Infants and Children food assistance program (WIC). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

C. Blackstone motioned to accept this article and S. McMahon seconded the motion. R. Bailey spoke about the Community Action Program and how it assists the citizens of the town. There were no other comments or amendment. S. McMahon motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 28 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 29:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Three Dollars ($13,153.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the VNA Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Shibley motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. Alice Calvert stated that this money is used to replace the money that is not paid or cannot be paid for by people who receive benefits. She thanked the town for their appropriation of the money and asked them to please continue their support. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 29 and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 30:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Five Dollars ($19,635.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the Youth Services Bureau, which provides alternatives to court involvement for juvenile offenders, parent/child mediation, intervention and education programs. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

A. Sherwood motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. Officer Heath, acting Chief of Police, spoke about the Youth Services Bureau. He stated that rather than introducing a child into the court system that it offered a lot more services than what the courts could offer. He stated he felt it was a good program. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 30 and P. Shibley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 31:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Five Thousand One Hundred Dollars ($5,100.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the Community Health and Hospice, which provides visiting nurse, homemaker and hospice services to residents. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and P. Shibley seconded the motion. Alice Calvert spoke about the Community Health and Hospice program and the benefits it provides the town. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 31 and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 32:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($2250.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provide disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and P. Shibley seconded the motion. R. Bailey stated that the Red Cross is part of the emergency management plan. They would come in to provide assistance if there was an emergency. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 32 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 33:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Nine Thousand Dollars ($9,000.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities, housing in close coordination with the town welfare department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Shibley motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. Peter Bolster spoke about the Alton Community Services. He stated it was one of the most efficient organizations he had ever seen. He spoke about their funding and how they meet the needs of the people in the community. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 33 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 34:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Three Hundred Fourteen Dollars ($314.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not for profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Shibley motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. R. Bailey spoke about the Medication Bridge Program, which is a part of Huggins Hospital. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 34 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 35:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting the New Beginnings which provides 24 hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operate a shelter and provide counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen and is recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. Officer Heath stated the Alton Police Department worked closely with the New Beginnings program. He spoke about the process of how victims worked with the program and what the program did for the victims of domestic violence. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 35 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 36:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Six Thousand One Hundred Eighteen Dollars ($6,118.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders and along with other emergency services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

A. Sherwood motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. There was no one present to speak to this article. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 36 and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 37:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Two Thousand*** *Dollars* ***($2,000.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting Caregivers Transportation which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. MaryBee Longabaugh spoke about the benefits of the Caregivers program. There were no other comments or amendment. MaryBee Longabaugh motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 37 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 38:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00)*** *for the purpose of supporting CASA which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

P. Fuller motioned to accept this article and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. Officer Heath stated that this, and the other community services that were listed in the warrant articles, were important to this community. He stated these services are not provided by the police department. CASA provides advocacy and guidance to children throughout the court process. CASA looks out for the welfare of the children. There were no other comments or amendment. P. Shibley motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 38 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 39:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00)*** *to repurchase ten plus acres of land located on Trask Side Road. This land should not have been sold or purchased in a Town auction in 1996 as it cannot be built on due to deed restrictions and ownership rights belonging to all of the other properties within the subdivision. The $10,000.00 covers the original auction sale price of $6500.00 plus taxes since the sale in 1996. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until purchased or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

C. Blackstone motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. R. Bailey spoke in favor of the article. He stated that the land cannot be built on and this needs to be resolved. He asked that people support this. There were no other comments or amendment. S. McMahon motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 39 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 40:*** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of* ***Ten Thousand Dollars*** *($10,000) to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)*

C. Blackstone motioned to accept this article and P. Fuller seconded the motion. R. Bailey stated there was approximately $30,000 in the account and this would add another $10,000. There were no other comments or amendment. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 40 and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 41:*** *We the undersigned, being voters in the Town of Alton, hereby petition the Board of Selectmen of said Town to place the following article on the warrant for the 2007 annual meeting.*
New Hampshire Climate Change Resolution
To see if the town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Alton.

These actions include:

1. *Establishment of a national program requiring reduction of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.*
2. *Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.*

In addition, the Town of Alton encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

C. Blackstone motioned to accept this article and Bob Longabaugh seconded the motion. Robert Burke stated this was a grassroots movement, which is taking place in various communities in New England. He spoke about smart energy choices and how this would improve quality of life. There were no other comments or amendment. A. Sherwood motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 41 and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 42****: The below registered voters in the town of Alton, New Hampshire request the Board of Selectmen to include the following in the Warrant Articles for public vote on March 13, 2007:*
To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of establishing a new town beach, and to raise and appropriate the sum of ***Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00)*** *to be placed in that fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Fund. [Appropriation Recommendation - the Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend $25,000.00]*

William Curtin motioned to accept this article and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. Peter Bolster presented an amendment to the article, which recommends $25,000 in the capital reserve fund. W. Curtin seconded the motion. P. Bolster stated that they were hoping to get an appropriate piece of beach front to give Alton the type of waterfront they felt Alton should have. He stated that some money should be available for the town beach. This capital fund would help the committee, petitioners, selectmen, and the budget committee be on the same page to hopefully pass this warrant article. The amended passed by a favorable vote.

Loring Carr stated that the Town Beach was used for access to the lake during the winter and he felt access to the ice was limited by the new design. He stated it should come before the voters and asked the town attorney if this would not come before the voters. The town attorney stated that it would come before the voters. R. Bailey stated there was access to the ice. L. Carr stated there was a chain blocking the entrance to the water or ice. L. Carr motioned to amend the article to remove the words "and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Fund." L. Boyce seconded the motion for the amendment.

Richard Macdonald asked what would now have to happen to expend this fund. R. Bailey recommended against this amendment because a town meeting would have to happen to expend the money. Steve Miller stated that if they got the opportunity to buy what they wanted to buy, it would most likely be a seven-figure price and he would like to see the town decide on how to spend the money. Ken Roberts stated that this amendment would defeat the purpose of this article.

L. Carr stated this was a capital reserve fund and it could build up to a large amount of money. He stated this would be a portion of what this would cost. He stated there were a lot of questions about the article and he felt the wording about the Selectmen was ambiguous, which is why he wanted it taken out.

P. Bolster spoke about his experience as a realtor. He stated that this money was for the purpose of holding the property and it would come back to the voters. He stated this would be used not as a down payment, but as a security deposit.

The moderator reviewed the revised article and the vote was taken. The second amendment failed.

P. Bolster stated that the design of the beach was not necessarily what they wanted but what was regulated by the state. He explained the design of the current beach. He stated that if they wanted to argue this, they would need to take it up with the state.

There were no other comments or amendments. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 42 and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 43:*** *We, the following duly registered voters in the Town of Alton, do hereby submit the following question to be acted upon by the voters of said town at the next annual election:*
"To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to sell town owned land in Alton Bay on the west side of Route 11 to lessees, know as Shibley's at the Pier, provided the selling price is based on fair market value as established by two independent appraisers. All cost shall be borne by the buyer with no cost to the town."

P. Shibley motioned to accept this article and R. Macdonald seconded the motion. R. Macdonald proposed an amendment that the money that came from this sale of this land would be placed in an escrow account to help buy a town beach. W. Curtin seconded the motion. Shirley Bishop stated it looked to her like this was on the east side of Route 11. It was found that this was correct, as was confirmed by P. Shibley. It was noted this should be changed in the wording to read "east". A secret ballot vote was taken. The amendment passed by a vote of 33 to 16.

A. Sherwood proposed a second amendment to Article 43 that included language about the Shore Line Protection Act. The motion was seconded by P. Fuller. A. Sherwood spoke about his experience with a provision in the state law that exempts towns from local zoning for private use. He stated this is provision to make sure this follows the correct legal process and that the Shore Line Protection Act applies to this. He stated that there would be plenty of time for this to take place. P. Shibley spoke at length about the land and the lease history. He spoke about some of his concerns about articles in the Laconia Daily Sun, which he felt were not correct. A secret ballot vote, requested by five voters present at the meeting, was taken for this second amendment to article 43. The amendment passed by a vote of 46 to 16.

Article 43, which was amended and approved twice, now reads:
"To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to sell town owned land in Alton Bay on the east side of Route 11 to lessees, know as Shibley's at the Pier, provided the selling price is based on fair market value as established by two independent appraisers. All cost shall be borne by the buyer with no cost to the town and to have said money from the sale to be placed in an escrow account and to be used to help buy a town beach or to be added to the capital reserve fund for the beach. Any such sale shall not be exempt from the Town of Alton zoning regulations and the State of New Hampshire regulations, including the Shoreline Protection Act. This authorization shall expire one year from the date of enactment."

Ray Carbone, Reporter, Laconia Daily Sun, requested to speak but is not an Alton citizen. L. Boyce motioned to let Ray Carbone speak and MaryBee Longabaugh seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote. Ray Carbone spoke about where he had received his information that was in the articles that Pete Shibley was speaking about earlier, stating that the source may have not given him the correct information.

L. Carr asked about the location of the property lines. P. Shibley explained that the property lines were just north of the last finger docks to about ten feet of the boat ramp. Bob Longabaugh spoke against the article.

There were no other comments or amendments. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 43 and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 44****: The below registered voters in the Town of Alton, New Hampshire request the Board of Selectmen to amend the Town's Conflict of Interest Ordinance adopted by the Annual Town Meeting in 1998 to include the following:*
All members, both regular and alternate, of a Town Board must physically reside in the Town each of the 12 months during the year and be able to attend meetings throughout the year.
Purpose: to ensure Board members are available to be present at relevant hearings and workshops during every month of the year.

L. Boyce motioned to accept this article and Greg Fuller seconded the motion. Jeanne Crouse spoke about the article and the obstacles presented when board and committee members are not present to move the business charged to that board or committee.

R. Macdonald spoke about his concerns in the case of illness or vacation, when a committee or board member was unable to attend. J. Crouse stated that she felt someone should not run for office if they were going to take an extended leave of absence.

A. Sherwood spoke against the article and his concerns about the impact it might have on those who might consider running for office. J. Crouse stated that if it resulted in less people running for office that was fine with her but that they would be present at the position they were elected to hold. Jeff St Cyr asked who would enforce this article. R. Bailey responded that the chairman of that board or committee would enforce the article, then it would go to the Superior Court.

R. Macdonald presented an amendment to Article 44 changing the time from 12 months to 6 months and a day. W. Curtin seconded the motion. The amendment passed by a favorable vote of 21 to 17. There were no other comments or amendments. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 44 and A. Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 45****: The below registered voters in the Town of Alton, New Hampshire request the Board of Selectmen to amend the Town's Conflict of Interest Ordinance adopted by the Annual Town Meeting in 1998 to include the following:*
No person may sit on a Town Board as a regular or alternate member if that person owns and/ or is employed by a business that regularly represents clients before the same Town Board.
Purpose: to eliminate conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest on all town boards.

MaryBee Longabaugh motioned to accept this article and Greg Fuller seconded the motion. J. Crouse spoke in favor of this article. R. Macdonald stated that a member of a board should recuse him or herself in this type of situation. Marcella Perry felt the article was too limiting.

Steve Miller presented an amendment to Article 45, changing the first word of the article from "No person…" to "Any person…" L. Boyce seconded the amendment. The proposed amendment failed. There were no other comments or amendments. C. Blackstone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 45 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 46**: We, the following duly registered voters in the Town of Alton, do hereby respectfully submit the following question to be acted upon by the voters of said town at the next annual election:*
"To see if the Town will vote to amend Alton's Conflict of Interest Ordinance to add the following sentence to the existing Article IX (which prohibits obtaining benefits or special favors not available to the general public): Under no circumstance will any elected or appointed Town Official engage in any acts or activity that would reasonably be considered as "an abuse of power."

MaryBee Longabaugh motioned to accept this article and Mark Divito seconded the motion. Bob Longabaugh motioned for an amendment to Article 46, changing the last word of the article from "power" to "office" and Greg Fuller seconded the motion. Bob Longabaugh stated that he was not able to find legal examples of "abuse of power" but he was able to find examples of "abuse of office." The motion for the amendment of Article 46 passed by a favorable vote. There were no other comments or amendments. P. Fuller motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 46 and C. Blackstone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The moderator read ***ARTICLE 47**: To hear any reports of any committee, board, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and to vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.*

The article was motioned and accepted. There were no other comments or amendment. Someone motioned to restrict the further consideration of Article 47 and someone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

There was a motion to adjourn and someone seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis,
Recorder, Public Minutes