

**ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING
January 19, 2009
Alton Town Hall**

Convene – W. Curtin convened the meeting at 6:00pm. The following members of the Board and staff were present:

William Curtin, Acting Chairman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

W. Curtin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence

Approval of the Agenda – By unanimous vote the Selectmen approved the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for the review and consideration of a warrant article for a bond issue was opened at 6:03pm.

Jonathan Halle' Warrenstreet Architects, presented information about the improvements and expansions, including energy upgrades to the Police, Central Fire Department, Town Hall and Pearson Road Senior Center Municipal Buildings. R. Bailey reported that the bond will not exceed the amount of \$1,999,000.00 and spoke about the bond, including the terms of the bond at twenty years.

A member of the public spoke about the design of the proposed police station building and felt it should look more like the buildings in the area that are from the 1880's period. He felt that the design that was being presented was not appropriate for the area. He noted that the original train station was in that location on Depot Street. He stated that the design was a nice design in an urban area and felt that the other buildings on Depot Street were more in the design from the 1880's. There was discussion about the design and the ways that it might be presented to the voted.

Ray Carbone, reporter, Laconia Daily Sun, asked for a breakdown of the costs for each project. R. Bailey spoke about the amount that will be raised by the Bond, not to exceed \$1,999,000.00 and reported that they will be selling some town property. There are two capital reserve fund accounts totaling \$270,000 that will contribute to the projects as well.

R. Bailey reported that the projects would cost approximately: \$166,000 for the Senior Center, \$736,000 for the Fire Department, \$1,342,000 for the Police Department, and about \$15,000 for the Town Hall. There would be a 20-year bond at 5.5% and it would have a tax impact of about \$0.05/\$100,000.00 on the property tax. The projects will also go out to bid, per the policy of the board.

P. Bolster spoke about the property tax impact and the new economic stimulus package that will be available with the new presidential administration. P. Fuller noted that the money from the economic stimulus package would not really come this far. She reported that improvements to the municipal buildings have not been made and it was now “crunch time”. She stated it is now time to do a major overhaul and not keep patching things up because they will backfire. She stated that the bond will not really hit the tax payers until July 2011 because that would be when the first payment would be due. She spoke about the safety buildings committee that she was on and the areas of need that were identified when the committee had formed, approximately seven years ago. She spoke about the needs of the Senior Center and stated that they had been so absorbed in the schools for so long that it was now time to take care of the town. W. Curtin stated that there were “no frills” in the buildings and the changes that were being proposed.

P. Bolster stated that the Alton Budget Committee had encouraged the board to not have a reserve fund but to have a bond so that the taxpayers can see the results of the improvements. He spoke about the changes that are proposed for the Senior Center and felt it was important to provide a better meeting space for town or public meetings.

P. Fuller stated that the board had reviewed the budget with a fine toothcomb and they had told the various departments to come in with a 0% budget except for Payroll. Two department budgets were submitted a budget that was over 0%. She reported that they do not want to burden their taxpayers this year and if there was not a good reason they did not put it on the warrant. She reported they had a zero increase in the overall budget with the capital budget combined with the operating budget.

P. Fuller reported that R. Bailey had run the numbers today to figure the impact that the town budget would have on the tax rate and even with some property depreciation there would be a flat (zero) impact. The town’s rate now is \$3.00/\$1,000.00.

Ray Carbone asked about the pieces of property and asked if he could get more information about the property. W. Curtin stated that he did not know if the properties had been up for sale in the recent past. The location and price of the properties was not disclosed.

There were no other comments from the public. W. Curtin closed the hearing for the bond for the Warrant article.

R. Bailey briefly reviewed the terms of the bond, as written in the Warrant article. He noted that the Warrant article has been recommended by both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

P. Fuller motioned to recommend the proposed bond for the purpose of funding improvements and expansions, including energy upgrades to the Police, Central Fire Department, Town Hall and Pearson Road Senior Center Municipal Buildings, not to exceed \$1,999,000.00. W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - PF, WC, PB)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

W. Curtin announced that there would be a Retirement Party for Fire Chief Alan Johnson, and Fire Lieutenant Michael Caverly, Sr., to be held on January 31, 2009 at 6:00pm. The retirement party will be held at the Masonic Temple Lodge on Route 28S.

Anne Kroeger, Tax Collector, has been recognized for twenty years of service by the New Hampshire Tax Collectors' Association. The award was presented at the seventieth annual conference of the NH Tax Collectors' Association on September 18, 2008.

The Deliberative Session will be held on February 4, 2009 at Prospect Mountain High School. The snow date is scheduled for February 5th.

SELECTMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORTS

P. Fuller presented the Selectmen's Committee Report. She reported that the Belknap County Businessman's Council is seeking nominees for the Norman Marshall Award and the Corporate Soul Award. She stated she had the form to complete and had some people in mind to nominate that she would like to discuss later in the meeting.

P. Fuller reported that the letters they had asked to be printed were signed and sent out.

P. Fuller reported that she had gone to the NH DOT with P. Bolster. P. Bolster reported that the Town Planner, Sharon Penney, had joined them. P. Fuller reported that they had met with Bill Cass, Jeff St. Cyr, Councilor Burton, etc., and others. P. Fuller spoke about comments that were made about a possible gas tax imposed to fix Route 28 South. P. Bolster spoke about some of the improvements and projects that are being planned for the town of Alton by the DOT.

W. Curtin motioned that representatives from the Police, Fire, and Planning Departments be on the Rte 28 Safety Study being conducted by L.R.P.C., P. Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes – WC, PB, PF)

PUBLIC INPUT #1

There was no public input.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 30, 2008 Workshop:

W. Curtin noted that Alan Sherwood's name should be placed on the document for who was present. Two typographical corrections were noted. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes – WC, PB, PF)

January 5, 2009 Public Session #1:

The board reviewed the meeting minutes of January 5, 2009. P. Fuller noted that on page 2, last paragraph, the two-to-two vote was to place \$12,000 in the Warrant article, and that it had failed and that on page 3, first paragraph she had motioned for a zero dollar amount for that Warrant article, which took it off the

Warrant when it had passed. P. Bolster motioned to approve the amended meeting minutes of January 5, 2009 Public Session #1, and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (WC, PB, PF)

January 5, 2009 Non-Public:

P. Bolster motioned to approve the non-public meeting minutes of January 5, 2009 and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (WC, PB, PF)

January 5, 2009 Public Session #2:

W. Curtin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 5, 2009, Public Session #2, and noted that Francine was appointed to the Milfoil Committee. P. Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (WC, PB, PF)

OLD BUSINESS

Finalize 2009 Warrant/Budget:

R. Bailey reported he is still verifying the budget committee's vote for the warrant articles and he will be presenting the final document on Wednesday.

R. Bailey spoke about the petition warrant article that was presented for a fireboat for the Alton Fire Department. He reported that the budget committee had reviewed the Warrant article and that they did not recommend it. There was discussion about the fireboat and the justification for the request.

W. Curtin motioned to add clarifying language at the end of the petition to read "to raise and appropriate" the amount and the motion was seconded by P. Bolster. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - WC, PB, PF)

P. Fuller motioned to not recommend Warrant article 39, the petition article for a new fireboat engines, and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - WC, PB, PF)

The Board reviewed and discussed the draft of the Warrant article for woodheating systems exemption. P. Bolster motioned to recommend the woodheating systems exemption Warrant article and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - WC, PB, PF) R. Bailey reported that this would be Warrant article #40.

Annual Landfill Monitoring Report:

R. Bailey reported on the Annual Landfill Monitoring Report. He reported that things are status quo and that the report needs to go to the state. W. Curtin motioned to send the report to the State and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of two, as P. Bolster had left the room briefly. (Yes - PF, WC / absent – PB)

Fire Department Inspection Fees:

There was a brief discussion about the Fire Department Inspection Fees. This will be on the next agenda.

Cooke Road Culvert-Spec./Bid Approval:

R. Bailey reported that the Cooke Road culvert had been washed out and it needed to go out to bid. P. Fuller motioned for the approval of the culvert spec/bid process and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - WC, PB, PF)

NEW BUSINESS

Review Request of Castleberry Craft Fair:

R. Bailey reported that Castleberry Fairs & Festivals has applied for use of town property on July 18 & 19 and September 5 – 7. The applicant has requested a waiver of policy 5.3 (b) and (g); to have booths in the same location as in the previous years, and to have six crafters in the area below the rock wall, as requested in the past. There was discussion about a commercial vendor that had been present last year that was not part of the Castleberry Fair group. P. Fuller motioned to approve the application submitted by Castleberry Fairs and Festivals with conditions: No exclusivity, the septic pumping and repairs to grass areas are responsibility of Castleberry Fairs and Festivals and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - WC, PB, PF)

Website Link to Fire Association:

P. Bolster motioned for Altonfire.org to be added to the town’s link section of the website and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Yes - WC, PB, PF)

PUBLIC INPUT #2

Ray Carbone asked what the town’s procedure was for handling a formal complaint against someone on the Planning Board. W. Curtin stated that it was a legal matter and that the Selectmen were not prepared to address his question at this time. P. Fuller stated they had no comment.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

W. Curtin motioned to move the meeting into non-public session to address matters covered under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a), (c) and (e). P. Bolster seconded the motion. All board members were polled and vote passed unanimously. (Yes - WC, PB, PF)

The meeting moved into non-public session at approximately 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

, Recorder, Public Session

Minutes approved: **February 2, 2009**

