

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2008
ALTON TOWN HALL

Convene at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Sherwood. Members and staff present were as follows:

: Alan Sherwood, Chairman
Stephen McMahon, Selectman
William Curtin, Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence

The Chairman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by W. Curtin to approve the agenda, motion was seconded and passed with all in favor.

Announcement of Deliberative Session

February 6, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Prospect Mountain High School. Snow date, February 7 at 2008 at 7 p.m.

Appointments:

1. David Shibley –Lease for “Shibley’s At the Pier”

Present: David and Amy Shibley. – It was noted the intention at this meeting to sign two leases, i.e., a one year lease and a seven year lease. The current lease expired in December and the Selectmen extended one month (January 2008). Previous lease was 15 years. NH state law has changed and any lease over one year must be approved at Town Meeting. The Town owns the land and the building is owned by the Shibley’s. An appraiser was hired to review lease costs and Selectman Curtin prepared recommendations for lease changes. It was determined that the lease should be increased considerably but will be done in increments, 1 year lease for \$7,087.50 has been negotiated. A seven year lease will need approval at Town Meeting.

If the article fails, they would have a year to work out a plan for the future. P. Bolster noted: that the Shibley's will be paying the taxes on the land and the building. W. Curtin noted that other leases were used in comparison with similar structures and situations. Attorney Sesser will hold the seven-year lease and if the seven-year lease is approved the one-year lease is null and void. Noted: there is a 10-foot maintenance area around the building.

Motion was made and seconded to approve and sign the one-year lease agreement before the Board and the motion passed with all in favor.

Motion was made and seconded to approve and sign the seven year lease agreement before the Board, noting that the 7 year lease will not be approved until vote at Town Meeting and at that time, if approved the one year lease will become null and void. The vote was unanimous.

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A. Sherwood advised that these leases are a matter of public record and may be viewed at the Town Hall. Also noted was that the conditions in the former lease had been carried over into the new leases.

2. Appointment with Reuben Wentworth also present, Paul Rachel

a. P. Rachel recommended the ABA (Alton Business Association) adopt the Ginny Douglas tree for holiday lights and to upgrade the electricity. A. Sherwood suggested the Board consider opinions of the Town staff before making a decision. A. Sherwood also suggested a Selectmen's work session with Parks and Recreation and the ABA to discuss the matter.

b. R. Wentworth asked about political signs posted on Town land. As a business owner he considers this offensive that these signs are placed randomly wherever people choose to place them. He noted a 4x8 "McCain" sign posted in Ginny Douglas Park. He continued that he had spoken to the Code Official and Town Administrator and this sign was removed after the election. He suggested an ordinance be created to prohibit political signs being placed on Town land, and to perhaps impose a fee. Discussion and concerns included monitoring a sign ordinance and the number of political signs posted, especially at the traffic circle. The Board thanked Mr. Wentworth for his input.

Selectmen's Committee Reports

W. Curtin - Planning Board has been busy with applications and work sessions.

S. McMahan – nothing to report at this time.

P. Bolster – Recreation Committee needs members. Winter Carnival coming up on the 17th. Other two committees (grounds and school board).

W. Curtin asked about skimobile ramp. P. Bolster noted it has been marked off with snow fence and currently there is ramp

A. Sherwood – Reported on Household Hazardous Waste meeting – In 2007 the overall number of households served was up by 20% from 2006. Net cost was only up by 3.9%. Consideration was given to possible two-day collection on Friday and Saturday in July and on September 13th a one day collection. Also a medical collection day. Thursday evening – Conservation coalition groups thinking of having a public forum in the spring to encourage conservation opportunities.

Town Administrator Verbal Report and Updates

1. R. Bailey noted the need to review articles for the deliberative session. It was agreed to meet on the 28th at 4:00pm in the Town Hall.

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2. R. Bailey advised he had received a letter from the Rotary Club to host a family Youth Ice Fishing Derby in Alton Bay on Saturday of Winter Carnival. W. Curtin asked if they are going to have ice rescue personnel present during that time and suggested that the Fire and Police Department be notified. P. Bolster noted there is a question on whether the Fly-in is going to be on that weekend as well. S. McMahon noted his concern on the safety of the weekend. R. Bailey stated the Snowmobile club is also scheduling events during that weekend. R. Bailey will speak with Kellie Troendle to make sure that the Police and Fire will be advised of the large amount events planned and expected public participation

Motion by A. Sherwood to approve the use of the Bandstand by the Rotary Club with the condition that it is reviewed by Police and Fire departments. Second W. Curtin. No discussion. 1 abstention and 3 affirmative.

Stage Curtain - Noted – the new curtain is in place and the old curtain is stored down stairs and needs suggestions on what to do with the curtain. P. Bolster is aware of someone who has had a history of family doing shows here and is interested in taking this curtain. W. Curtin noted asking the historical society first.

Motion by A. Sherwood and seconded to authorize R. Bailey to speak to the Historical Society asking them if they want the curtain and if not, R. Bailey will come back to the Board. Vote was unanimous.

Winter Runway - The Board voted to Authorized the NH Bureau of Aeronautics to put a windsock on the Gazebo/Bandstand for the winter during the use of the runway.

Milfoil - R. Bailey noted a letter regarding milfoil problems in the lake and the river. The towns of Barnstead and New Durham have committees they have established. They would like to come to the February 4 meeting to discuss the issue of milfoil on Half Moon Lake. R. Bailey needs to get back with them to have an appointment. A. Sherwood would like it noted that this appointment will be an initial contact and not a work session. R. Bailey will contact them.

Public Input 1

Laurie Boyce – State Representative – Budget committee has not been given any money for Juvenile Justice. Last year they had 8 students. Recommended that \$7000 be given back.

Robert Longabaugh - R. Longabaugh commended the Board regarding the Shibley lease situation. He also questioned filming the deliberative session. Past years used Jesse Lindley who charges \$20 per hour. Need approval to hiring him or if the Board would like this recorded. Also asked about editing. Last year went with unedited session and year before was edited. He suggested for editing the session for instance (people walking to microphone and repeating of the warrant articles). A. Sherwood noted this will be discussed in a work session and they will contact Mr. Longabaugh.

There being no further public input, the Chairman closed Public Input I

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Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

1. Minutes of December 17, 2007, Public and Non-Public (sealed) - Page 3 of December 17, 2007. Selectmen time will go back to 6 p.m. 2/3 of the way down. It says census, add word "day" 120-day window.

Motion by A. Sherwood to approve the minutes of December 17, 2007 as amended both public and non-public (sealed), the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Minutes of December 28, 2007, Workshop Session, Public and Non-Public (sealed).

Motion made by W. Curtin and seconded to approve the minutes of December 28, 2007 Workshop Session, public and non-public (sealed). Vote unanimous.

Old Business

1. 2008 Warrant/Budget. Discussion of Article 14. This is usually done with recommendations. Noted this does not have a recommendation.

Motion by A. Sherwood moved to include recommendation on Article 14. Second P. Bolster. 1 against and 3 affirmative.

41 active articles for town meeting. The Board has a copy of the final articles tonight so this can be posted by Friday and also put on line.

2. Annual Landfill Monitoring Report – actual report about 1 ½ inch thick in volume. Shows results with contamination with regard to the landfill.

Motion by A. Sherwood to accept the report. Second W. Curtin. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

3. Engineering/Survey Agreement Hayes Road. Needs to be widened (off of Drew Hill).

Agreement from engineers and survey company. Most of the work is surveyors. Noted it will be a difficult project but it does need to be widened. Alton Highway Department will be doing the work on this project. There are very steep banks.

Motion by W. Curtin to approve the agreement by CMA Engineering and have it signed by the Town Administrator. Second by P. Bolster. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

New Business

1. Vote on the recommendation of the Town Assessor.

7 Veterans that qualified, 3 Elderly did not qualify (\$50,000 limit on net worth), 2 current use applications, 2 added taxes, 15 abatements, and administrative abatement.

Motion made by W. Curtin and seconded to approve the recommendations of the Town Assessor as presented. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

2. Annual Big Lake Half Marathon

Approval to hold the marathon on May 10th. Noted they do pay the police and fire for that weekend.

Motion by S. McMahon to approve the request for the Seventh Annual Big Lake Half Marathon in Alton on May 10, 2008. Second by P. Bolster. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

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3. Legislative Bulletin – Pending issues.

Bills and meeting contracts – main issue on the cost to Evergreen Clause. Binding arbitration. Need approval that we do not support this legislation. This legislation forces binding arbitration.

Motion was made and seconded to send a letter to our State Legislators.

4. Meeting Policy - The Board reviewed recommendation as drafted and presented by R. Bailey.

Motion by A. Sherwood to accept the policy recommendation “Concerning Public Meetings” as presented. Seconded by W. Curtin. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

5. Society for the Protection of NH Forests Requests - The Board reviewed the letter sent by Ryan Young from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests regarding conservation options property, May 11, Lot 17, owned by Greenwood Trust. They are requesting the Board sign off that they are or are not aware of any problems concerning solid or hazardous waste on this property or which might impact it and also to sign the statement provided. R. Bailey noted T. Sargent has informed him there is no hazardous waste and there may be a small cemetery on this site.

Motion was made and seconded to read “are not aware” and to sign the document. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Public Input II

None seen or heard.

Public Input closed.

Non-Public Session – Vote to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a) (c) (e)

Motion by A. Sherwood to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a) (c) (e), seconded by W. Curtin. The Chairman polled the members, P. Bolster, S. McMahon, A. Sherwood, and W. Curtin all voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schaeffner

Minutes Approved: February 4, 2008