

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

January 22, 2018

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: February 5, 2018

Virgil MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Monument of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Cydney Shapleigh, Chairwoman *arrived at 6:08*

Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman

Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman

John Markland, Selectman

Reuben Wentworth, Selectman

Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

Virgil MacDonald stated he would like to add under “Old Business”, “Hours for Town Hall”.

John Markland made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Reuben Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person; subject matter ~ agenda items only)

Rick Perreault approached the board. He thanked the board and wished them a Happy New Year. He stated that he would hope that the board would not allow the Lakes Region Planning Commission to be added to the warrant. He feels that they would come at the Town with every avenue. He does not believe there is a benefit for the Town of Alton to join the commission.

Mrs. French from Trask Side Road approached the board. She commended the board for taking the stand they has before by not allowing the Lakes Region Planning Commission. She feels that residents should be in charge of their own property and not some Planning Commission centrally located in some far off land. Planning should be controlled at the local level.

Mona Perreault approached the board. She thanked the board for not having this regional planning group here in Alton. She understand that someone went out and got signatures to get it on the ballot. She stated that in all the times she has spoken out about the planning commission, there never was anyone who wanted it.

Barbara Howard approached the board. Thanked the board for what they have done. She is hoping they are keeping an eye on the big picture. She is hoping that will vote not to recommend the Planning Commission.

Roger Sample approached the board. He feels the Planning Commission should not be feared. The commission cannot tell the Town what to do. He asks the boards to give it consideration and let the voters decide. He states that the town does not have to follow everything the commission wants them to.

Russ Wilder approached the board. He states that he is on the Planning Board for the Town. He did say they did get signatures for the warrant article. He feels that Lakes Region Planning is very useful. They are a planning tool made available to all NH towns for many years. He states that the Town Planner Nic Strong would like to use them.

Public Input I closed

New Business

Town Consulting Engineering Firm Recommendation

Cydney Shapleigh states that the Town Planner is recommending KV Partners, LLC.

John Markland makes motion to approve the engineer firm as requested by the Town Planner. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Police Department; K-9 Program

Chief Heath approached the board. He spoke of the recent loss of the Police Department K9. He explains that the program is well established and in order to keep it going would need to have another K9. He states that he received a very generous donation from Mr. & Mrs. Loker in the amount of \$5,000. He states that his original request for funds to purchase a new K9 is null and void. He is looking for approval from the board to accept the donation. John Markland asked if the amount of the donation would cover everything in his original proposal. Chief Heath stated that it does. John Markland suggested that some sort of ceremony should be done if the board does approve to accept this donation. Chief Heath agrees. When a dog is obtained he would like to go visit the couple.

Cydney Shapleigh motions to accept the donation of \$5,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new K9. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Police Department; Out of State Training

Chief Heath states that he would like to send two officers to training in Massachusetts. The intent is to pay for the training fee. The officers would use a department vehicle and go down and back the same day.

John Markland made a motion to approve the out of state training as presented. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Chief Heath would like to bring to the board's attention that the wording in the Personnel Manual. He says it talks about flight, lodging but talk about board approval. He would like an opinion from the board to have the wording updated. He states that out-of-state for his department usually involves one day training just over the border of neighboring states. The board is in favor of having the wording changes. John Markland asked that it be changed and brought back to the board at the next meeting.

Police Department; Secondary Education

Chief Heath stated that he has two supervisors that have applied for secondary training. They are Sgt. Tolios and Cpl. Glidden. They would like to finish their degrees. Chief Heath is not asking for additional money, just support for them to continue their education. Cydney asks if the Town will still have the 3 year commitment. Chief Heath said yes. Reuben Wentworth asks if the 3 year commitment starts at the completion of the course and Chief Heath said that it does.

John Markland made a motion to approve the secondary education as presented for the two officers. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Professional Services Agreement, Annual Review; Ralph J. Cutting (Appraiser)

John Markland made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Ralph J. Cutting and the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the board. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Annual Renewal; Alton Housing for the Elderly, Inc.

John Markland made a motion to approve the agreement for payment in lieu of tax between the Town of Alton and Alton Housing for the Elderly, Inc. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Petition Warrant Article Recommendation: Water Bandstand

Reuben Wentworth asked if the amount of \$13,500 is what was left in the Capital Reserve. Liz Dionne stated that is was approximately. Reuben Wentworth stated that he would like to see the board amend this article at the Deliberative Session to have the Parks & Rec Commission be responsible for getting volunteers together. Cydney Shapleigh stated that they can't amend a petition warrant article. Liz Dionne stated the Selectmen are the agents to expend that capital reserve fund.

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to recommend the Water Bandstand Warrant Article by petition. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Petition Warrant Article Recommendation: Lakes Region Planning Commission

Phil Wittman stated he has come to the board before stating that he feels that the Lakes Region Planning Commission has a political agenda. He believe that they are more than just an advisory committee. He asks the board to consider to not recommend. Virgil MacDonald stated that he is on the Planning Board right now and they use them quite a bit. He states that the commission does not push or sway them in one way or another.

John Markland motioned to approve the article for the Lakes Region Planning dues. Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 3 yes and 2 nay (PW, RW).

Warrant Articles - Motions/Seconds

The board went through the warrant article assignments.

Approval of Minutes:

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, January 8, 2018 and Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 abstain (JM)

Cydney Shapleigh made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session January 8, 2018 divulging all, and Reuben Wentworth seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 abstain (JM)

Hours for Town Hall

Virgil MacDonald asked what criteria is used to close Town Hall. Liz Dionne stated that when there is severe weather she looks at 6 different sources including the Highway Manager. She looks at the driving conditions. Liz stated that she has only done it 3 times this year. She stated that she has done it this way for years.

Selectmen Committee Reports

Reuben Wentworth stated that the meeting with the Budget Committee went well.

Phil Wittmann had no meetings to report on.

John Markland had no meetings to report on.

Virgil MacDonald had no meetings to report on.

Cydney Johnson had no meetings to report on.

Town Administrator Report by Liz Dionne

Second Meeting in February

The Board discussed dates for the second meeting in February due to the Presidents Day Holiday:

- Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 6:00 PM will be the second meeting of the month.

Computer/Telephone Budget

Liz Dionne stated that at the Budget Committee level a cut was made to the computer/telephone budget and nothing has been done. Cydney Johnson stated that a letter was sent to the Budget Committee about the miscommunication and there was no response. Reuben Wentworth stated that they have not met on that subject yet because the last meeting was the public hearing. Liz Dionne stated that the letter was sent before the public hearing. Virgil MacDonald asked if there was money in the General Fund to transfer over to that line. She stated that that line can be over expended at the end of the year and the Selectmen would have to understand why.

Fireworks

Liz Dionne stated that they do a year by year contract with Atlas. The contract is due to expire. She is asking the board to consider using sections 9.3.4 and 9.3.15 in waiving the bid process in order to renew the contract with Atlas.

John Markland made a motion and Cydney Shapleigh seconded for discussion. The vote was 2 yes and 3 nay (VM, RW, PW)

Votes listed on the Ballot

Liz Dionne asked the board if they wanted the abstentions listed on the ballots. The consensus of the board was yes.

Town Hall Foyer Doors

Liz Dionne stated that one of the Trustees of the Trust Funds was with a vendor looking at the foyer. The vendor recommended replacing the wooden doors with glass doors. Liz asks the board for a consensus. The consensus of the board was nay.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda dated January 22, 2018 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor.

2017 Abatement

Castagnaro Paul & Ellen	352 Woodlands Road	Map 58 Lot 5-1	\$522.00
-------------------------	--------------------	----------------	----------

Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

None

Public Input II closed

The meeting recessed at 7:06 PM for a non-meeting with legal counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary