

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

February 1, 2016

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: February 22, 2016

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

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman
Lou LaCourse, Vice Chairman
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
Virgil MacDonald, Selectman
Marc DeCoff, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Approval of the Agenda

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Virgil MacDonald seconded. At this time Cydney Johnson requested amending the agenda moving #3 TDS Franchise from Old Business to just below Announcements.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments:

None

Announcements:

- The Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 3rd at PMHS Auditorium at 7:00 PM.
- The Presidential Primary is scheduled for February 9th at PMHS for voting from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed for that day.
- Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th in celebration of President's Day.

TDS Franchise Agreement

An email was provided to the Board which was received this afternoon from Attorney Kate Miller, she has been in discussions with both TDS and MetroCast in reference to the Franchise Agreement. All issues have been resolved; she is recommending that the Town finalize and sign the Franchise Agreement. If the Board is agreeable, E. Russell Bailey requested and recommended that the Board sign the agreement noting that three (3) original signed agreements are necessary.

Lou LaCourse made a motion to sign the three (3) TDS Franchise Agreements and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

A Public Hearing will need to be set up to discuss the MetroCast Agreement which will need to be amended in order to make the two (2) Franchise Agreements very similar. Attorney Kate Miller is recommending and is available for a hearing to be held on March 7, 2016. It would be helpful for her to be present at the meeting to discuss and answer any questions.

Selectmen's Committee Report

Phil Wittmann reported that the Parks-n-Recreation Commission had met and discussed several items such as the Barbershoppers Contract, keeping it the same as in the past, forming a work group with Alton Youth League, working on the plans for Jones Field with an expansion, there was discussion on a skating rink on Mill Pond (Whitney's Pond) across from the Fire Station with a path around the rink, a self defense class, basketball for 2016, Mt. Major Snowmobile Club membership, the Winter Carnival scheduled for February 21st, Soccer and Summer Camps and that most of the entertainment has been booked for the summer concerts.

Lou LaCourse reported that the Conservation Commission meeting was cancelled and that the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) is meeting on Thursday.

Town Administrator's Report and Updates

Tax Deeding

Tax Deeding has been previously discussed; letters were sent out to the property owners whose properties were to be deeded, one (1) has paid and another contacted us today regarding payment, the other two (2) we have not heard from. If we don't hear back from those two (2) then it will be recommended to move forward with the taking of the properties. Also, this issue was previously voted on which was not to deed the four (4) of the properties. For the record, Tax Collector, Lisa Noyes needs to have waiver forms signed waiving the deeding for those four (4) properties. Virgil MacDonald voiced his displeasure for not taking these properties. Cydney Johnson asked if anyone would like to motion to bring this issue back up, there was no further discussion from the Board members. The waivers were signed.

Health Reimbursement Account Plan (HRA)

E. Russell Bailey is recommending to amend the HRA Plan which currently allows the employee reimbursement based on providing an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) but what we are coming across is some Doctor's and Hospitals allow a person to receive a discount if things are paid upfront. We are asking that an employee be allowed to be reimbursed with a billing statement with the medical information redacted due to the HIPPA laws. It was noted that the remainder of the policy is already approved.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to amend the HRA plan to allow the employees to receive a discount if fees are paid at the time of service and to accept redacted receipts from the medical facility and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Hanson Court Ruling

There has been a court decision on the Hanson case; they have ruled in the Town's favor in reference to the junk yard and he has been ordered to payback the Town for the attorney fees. This is a permanent ruling. The court did rule in his favor on the dealership issue as the

Town did not have enough evidence on this issue. E. Russell Bailey was not aware of any right of appeal to a higher court. The question of ownership of “the car” was brought forth; Russ believed and would have to check with Attorney Sessler, that the court would be making arrangements for Mr. Hanson to buy the car back.

Public Input I

None

Approval of Selectmen’s Minutes

January 18, 2016

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, January 18, 2016 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session I, January 18, 2016 opening #1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 and Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 abstention, Lou LaCourse.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, January 18, 2016 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

January 25, 2016

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, January 25, 2016 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session I, January 25, 2016 opening #1 & 2 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, January 25, 2016 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

2016 Budget/Warrant Articles

E. Russell Bailey wanted to be sure that there were no questions on the Warrant Article and if so he would be available to discuss this with the Board members either tonight or individually. He also noted that if a Warrant Article is amending at the Deliberative Meeting then the Board has a right to re-vote their recommendation.

Appointments; Old Home Week Committee

There are two (2) recommended appointments for the Old Home Week Committee:

- Scott Littlefield
- Tonia Cardinal

Marc DeCoff made a motion to appoint Scott Littlefield and Tonia Cardinal to the Old Home Week Committee and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

TDS Franchise Agreement

Note: Moved to earlier in the meeting.

New Business:

Land Use Items as recommended by the Tax Assessor

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Abatements for Map 33 Lot 77-18 for \$147.00 & and Map 21 Lot 5 for \$12,916.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2016 Veteran's Credits for Map 10 Lot 16-4 for \$500.00 and Map 6 Lot 1-20 for \$500.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2016 Elderly Exemption for Map 8 Lot 39 for \$80,000.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Alton Village Store Streetlight

There has been a request from the business owner of Alton Village Store and Gas in reference to taking over a streetlight. An additional communication was just received and provided to the Board. A discussion transpired amongst the Board members regarding the amount of light, the intersection, the crosswalk and the Police memo. It was also noted that the area was fairly well lit opposed to other sections in the area.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to deny the request to take over the streetlight and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Request for Road Name

This is for a private way for a site plan that has been submitted which is located on the old Fiddlehead property. E911 is recommending that the private way be named Village Circle.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the road name, Village Circle and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

DOT Resurfacing Project

After meeting with the DOT staff in regards to the resurfacing they have recommended eliminating several crosswalks. They stated that they would go back to look at the locations that they were recommending to be eliminated. According to DOT what is driving this are the new rulings of the ADA implementations which states anything going into a dirt area, are causing the problem; this does not meet ADA standards. In these areas there would need to be a slab with a bumper device on them. All of the areas are in the DOT right of way or on private property.

E. Russell Bailey recommends holding a Public Hearing inviting DOT and all of the impacted people/public to allow DOT to explain and discuss the matter.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to hold a public meeting with DOT and the individuals affected and Virgil MacDonald seconded. E. Russell Bailey stated that he would need to contact DOT for their availability then schedule a meeting. Cydney Johnson suggested that any reporter in the audience might want a list of the proposed eliminated crosswalks. The list was provided.

The motion on the table held with all in favor of the motion.

Public Input II

None

Non-Public Session:

Cydney Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3, II (a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims/litigation and Phil Wittmann seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary