

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2008
Public Session I
ALTON TOWN HALL

At 6:00pm, Chairman Alan Sherwood convened the meeting of the Selectmen, those present included the following members of the Board and staff:

Alan Sherwood, Chairman
William Curtin, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Stephan McMahon Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

The Chairman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence to include a remembrance of Nancy Jordan, Library Trustee.

Approval of Agenda

W. Curtin motioned to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by S. McMahon and passed with all in favor.

Announcements

1. The Chairman noted that Selectman Fuller would be delayed.
2. Chairman Sherwood announced that a rabies clinic would take place on April 26th at the Central Fire Station
3. Chairman Sherwood noted that the Board had met in two workshop sessions
 - a. April 1st – the Board met with fire officers who will develop a 5-year plan for the Fire Department, a draft will be ready in a few months for the Selectmen's review.
 - b. March 13th – The Board met with the Highway Agent to discuss a 5-year plan for Road Construction.
4. The Chairman advised the NH DOT will conduct a public meeting at the High School on April 16th to review their recommendations for the re-construction of the Alton Traffic Circle.

The Board briefly discussed the Alton Rotary Club Home and Garden Show recently held at the High School and that this may become an annual event.

Appointment

1. The Board met with Jeanne Ferber, Vice President and Co-Founder of "Access to Ideas" - A. Sherwood explained that Jeanne Ferber was meeting with the Board to explain the gift of a hand crafted bench from Russia, this gift commemorates the 200th Anniversary of diplomatic ties between our country and Russia. J. Ferber read a letter to confirm that the bench has been gifted to the Lakes Region and will be permanently installed in Alton, after first being put on display at the John Q. Adams home, as he was our country's first ambassador to Russia. Once plans are finalized she will work with the Board in preparation for the arrival of the bench to Alton. She expressed her congratulations to the Selectmen and thanked them and the Rotary Club of Alton for their efforts in this matter.

Selectmen's Committee Reports

S. McMahon noted the Budget Committee had met and officers were elected, their next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2008.

P. Bolster reported that the Building & Grounds Committee for the school has been working to pursue a solution that the community can use to deal with the initiative of a K-8 school. Also a tour was conducted at the school due to recent damages. Electrical work, repairs and improvements will use most of the allocated funds.

P. Bolster continued that the Downtown Revitalization Committee had met last week, the committee continues to work on obtaining grants, plans are underway to erect a flagpole and for a dedication ceremony. The Parks and Recreation Commission has a full compliment of members. He is working with school students to develop a brochure to highlight "Alton Is a Park". He will have more information at a future meeting.

W. Curtin advised the Planning Board has a site-walk planned for Thursday at the proposed elderly housing site.

P. Fuller advised the Board on education funding and asked that the Board send letters to our State Representatives to support CACR34. The possibility exists that Alton could still be a donor town. She continued it is time to limit the court influence, to do away with donor receiver Towns, funding should go to towns in need, the house should pass this bill. W. Curtin motioned to sign letters to our State Representatives, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed. Letters will be mailed as soon as possible.

A. Sherwood advised that the Household Hazardous Waste Committee had met in late March. He noted R. Bailey should be appointed as an alternate. P. Fuller moved to appoint Russell Bailey as an alternate to the Household Hazardous Waste Committee, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.

Town Administrator

R. Bailey advised the Atlas Fireworks contract has been received.

He continued the Alton Business Association is asking for approval to have booths set up on Main Street during Old Home Day. He noted the Board had granted their request in 2007, but he did not have final details for this year. W. Curtin motioned to grant approval for this request, seconded by P. Fuller. Discussion included whether this event would take place on private or Town property, on the sidewalks or within Monument Square, R. Bailey will contact the ABA and report back to the Board. The motion passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey advised the Board on the status of the Annual Landfill Report, this is separate from the groundwater monitoring permit. He stated the cap was surveyed two years ago and has moved approximately one inch.

R. Bailey noted Town meeting had approved funds for a police cruiser, that came in at \$27,285, with \$4000 remaining to transfer the title, lights, radio, decals, etc. He would need approval to authorize the Purchase Order and to sign it, he noted the old vehicle would now be mainly utilized for the assessor's use. P. Bolster motioned to approve the Purchase Order and that the Town Administrator sign it, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Public Input I

Noting the number of attendees who wanted to speak concerning the recent court decision on the Correia Case, A. Sherwood stated the Board would allow everyone the opportunity to speak or give an opinion, but to keep all their remarks to the point.

The Chairman acknowledged Robert Longabaugh – R. Longabaugh noted the number of Ed Correia supporters assembled. He continued that the Board had conducted two Public Workshop Sessions on April 1st and 2nd, but that no Public Input was heard. He noted Board could appeal the decision to the NH State Supreme Court. And it seems the case is so poor, and not considered by the Superior Court that “you are really asking for it”.

Another option for the Board would be a new hearing held with former selectmen, he listed past selectmen, but disqualified himself. He continued, "you could make the whole thing go away by reinstating Ed as an Alton Police Lieutenant subject to concurrence of Chief Smith". R. Longabaugh continued that "you could take the position, you don't care how long it takes, or how much money it costs, especially if it goes to the Supreme Court because the Town's insurance is taking care of the legal defense here". R. Longabaugh concluded because of this, the Town's insurance premiums will increase affecting Alton Tax payers.

Mary Bee Longabaugh – M. Longabaugh spoke about the next public hearing for Ed Corriea, that the superior court judge had remanded the case back to the Town, one of the reasons was that the Town did not have a full board of Selectmen hearing the case. The three Selectmen present for the hearing were not impartial, she stated if another hearing is to be held, they should be recused, including William Curtin and Peter Bolster, she recommended a correctly conducted trial hearing.

John Markland – Questioned the hearing process and why the employee waited a year before reporting any wrong doing or violation of Town Policy by the former Chief, Captain and Lieutenant. Only the lieutenant was charged. The employee who reported the violation was promoted. Some issues were not brought out at the hearing.

Raymond Howard – R. Howard stated police officers do not have a right to steal or lie to employers.

Bill Delong - Stated in his experience the Lieutenant has always been professional, no reprimand on the Lt's record, exceptional that he was dismissed.

John Lobdell – stated Lt. Correia has been an outstanding officer and would like to see him reinstated and deserves a second chance.

Christine Hughes - C. Hughes stated she had worked with Lt. Correia for five years, and at no time did he ever exhibit the type of behavior as he is accused of having.

Barbara Howard – B. Howard stated that the Lt. did not have respect for her or young people, on numerous occasions he did not behave properly, despite questions on the hearing procedure.

Dawn Brooks – D. Brooks stated there are two sides to every story and what the Lt. supposedly did, and she also has issues with promotions within the Police Department this past year.

There was no further Public Input.

Approval of the Minutes

1. March 17, 2008, Public and Non-Public (sealed) Minutes – The minutes were amended to add Peter Bolster's name as an alternate to the Planning board. A. Sherwood moved to approve the minutes as amended, for Public and Non-Public and Sealed minutes, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor. P. Bolster was advised on his duties as an Alternate.
2. March 13, 2008, Workshop Session – W. Curtin motioned to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Old Business

1. Homeland Security – Radios – R. Bailey explained that the radio system costs are \$6600, once installed he will need Board approval to sign the Purchase Order. P. Fuller motioned to have the Town Administrator sign the Purchase Order for the radio system, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.
2. 2008 Election Schedules – R. Bailey advised the election dates are September 9th and November 4th P. Fuller motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to reserve the auditorium at the High School on these dates, seconded by W. Curtin. R. Bailey noted an employee would be assigned to assist residents with parking and the handicapped ramp.
3. Engineering Agreement – R. Bailey explained this agreement is to finish up extending the culvert next to Downings Landing at the Town beach, and dredging permits, costs would not exceed \$3900. He asked for permission to sign the agreement. P. Fuller motioned that the Town Administrator sign the agreement not to exceed \$3900 as noted, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.

New Business

1. Water Bandstand – R. Bailey advised the water bandstand needs restorative work, more details will be worked out on a bid, and a contract to make repairs including a time frame to begin the restoration work necessary for the bandstand. He will report back to the Board, and will advise if lead paint was last used.
2. Vote on Recommendations of the Town Assessor – A. Sherwood read the items as presented and motioned to sign them as presented, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.

3. Planning Board Grant Application – The Board reviewed the grant application for housing and conservation planning. R. Bailey advised the information has been revised by the Town Planner, and it will be submitted this week. P. Fuller motioned to sign the application, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

Public Input II

W. Curtin noted a flood hazard workshop sponsored by Avery Insurance, it will be held on April 15th at Huggins Hospital.

Ray Carbone asked if the Board had made any decisions or taken any action with regards to Mr. Corriea, if an announcement will be made and when. A. Sherwood advised the Board cannot make any comments, Attorney Charles Bauer is handling this case for the Town, any comments would be made by Attorney Bauer.

Non-Public Session

At 7:15pm, A. Sherwood motioned to enter into Non-public Session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II (a) (c) and (e), seconded by W. Curtin. The Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Minutes Approved: April 21, 2008

