

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting Minutes  
October 2, 2006  
Public Session I  
ALTON TOWN HALL

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**Convene**

Chairman Blackstone convened the meeting at 6:00pm, present were the following members of the Board and staff:

Cris Blackstone, Chairman  
Patricia Fuller, Selectman  
Alan Sherwood, Selectman  
A. Pete Shibley, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Chairman Blackstone led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence.

**Approval of the Agenda**

P. Fuller moved to accept the agenda as written, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

**Announcements**

C. Blackstone noted Halloween Trick or Treat hours will take place between 4-6PM on October 31, 2006.

**Selectmen's Committee Reports**

P. Fuller – P. Fuller noted a ruling with regards to education funding, advising the Superior Court has found the legislature has failed to specifically define the constitutionally adequate education in statute, and gave them an extension until June 2007 to do so. The Supreme Court did not overturn the current education funding formula that removed us as a donor town, therefore there is no impact on our current budgets. The Supreme Court did not rule on the cost of a constitutionally adequate education, nor the method by which the funds could be raised. If no definition is found, the Court will take over that role and determine how the state will pay for this education. She advised she did not speak with our representatives regarding their vote.

P. Fuller congratulated Captain Anderson and Officer McDougal of the Police Department who received Congressional law enforcement awards for service above and beyond the call of duty, in connection to an incident this past winter. She stated if these officers did not have prior training under Chief Iwans, the possibility of a fatality could have been great. She added that because of recent actions by this Board that the Town could lose these two officers.

A. Sherwood – reported that the HHHW committee would be meeting this coming Thursday on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

P. Shibley – noted that the Downtown Revitalization Committee will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Library, the public is invited to attend.

C. Blackstone – advised the cell tower balloon test was held Saturday, results are yet to be determined. The next meeting will be October 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Planning Board will be working on the final edit of the Master Plan along with LRPC.

### **Town Administrator Report**

R. Bailey reported on the Solid Waste Center and noted bids have been sent for Chipping Brush. He advised repair work is necessary for concrete in the container area at the SWC facility and this expense will come out of the Solid Waste budget.

R. Bailey continued some businesses have expressed an interest in setting up tables for Halloween in the monument square area, this activity would be coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Director.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Note: Selectman Shibley stepped down from the Board and abstained from any action or vote.

C. Blackstone motioned to Recess as Board of Selectmen and convene as Board of Health, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

The Board met with Peter Landry with regards to three waiver requests for Map 52, Lot 39, property located on Route 11D. Following a review and discussion of the design with Mr. Landry and consideration of a memo from the Health Officer, A. Sherwood moved to approve the requested waivers for Map 52, lot 39 distances to existing buildings and water run-off conditional that the Code Enforcement Officer agrees that the proposed culvert design meets his objections and he also agrees that all wells within a 75' radius have been identified, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

C Blackstone made a motion to adjourn as Board of Health and reconvene as Board of Selectmen , seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

NOTE: Selectman Shibley rejoined the Board of Selectmen.

### **Public Input I**

Chairman Blackstone noted the number of citizens assembled (40 +/-0 persons). Fifteen persons came forward to express views regarding the Selectmen's Meeting of

September 18, 2006, and those motions made relative to the Police Department and the Chief of Police.

Those who spoke stated they were in support of the Chief Iwans and some cited their own personal experiences about their encounters with the Chief and officers in the Police Department. Statements were made that the Selectmen's actions could be perceived as suspicious and this has generated much negative publicity and created a bad image for the Town and its officials.

R. Wentworth expressed his views on cell towers and asked about the balloon test.

Representative Laurie Boyce explained with regards to the education funding, that the legislature tried to have a special session, but it did not pass, perhaps due to timing or being too close to the elections, this amendment is up to the legislature not the court. Sometimes the Court oversteps its bounds. She advised if the Board has any questions on matters relative to legislation to let her know.

Note: (a list of those who spoke is attached separately)

### **Approval of Selectmen's Minutes**

Public Session I Minutes of September 18, 2006 - P. Shibley amended the minutes to reflect that on page 5 the mileage should read 44.5 cents, this was duly noted and he motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by C. Blackstone and passed with two abstentions (PF) (AS).

Sealed Non-Public Session Minutes of September 7, 2006 - P. Shibley motioned to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Session of September 7, 2006, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with one abstention (CB)

R. Bailey advised the Board that the Sealed Non-Public Session and Public Session II Minutes for September 18<sup>th</sup> will be included in their packets for October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

1. Beach Restoration Status - R. Bailey advised work on the wall is scheduled to begin the end of October, and will be constructed and inspected according to the engineer and Town specifications. R. Bailey described how the wall would appear. This work should be completed by mid-December.
2. Budget Status 2006/2007 – R. Bailey advised 10-year trends are being established relative to the Tax Rate and Operating Budgets, etc.; for example the purposes of reviewing budget issues. Also, these can be used for staffing issues as well. He presented drafts for the Board's review.

With regards to the 2006/2007 budget status, the estimate currently is 7 – 7 ½% for the operating budget. R. Bailey advised the health insurance quote has not yet been received. He noted the Electric Utility may have a 30% increase which could impact the budget. He will keep the Board apprised. He presented a draft list of department heads capital requests which included the current status of the capital reserve. R. Bailey continued the excavator and monitoring well expenses at the SWC have not been “pulled” from the capital reserve as yet.

R. Bailey continued Departments are within budget for 2006, he highlighted items for the Board's review.

It was agreed to meet on October 13<sup>th</sup> to review the budgets for the Highway Department and the Solid Waste Center.

3. Review Road Petitions & Schedule a Public Hearing - R. Bailey and the Board reviewed the road petitions for Clay Point Road and Merrymeeting Estates Road on Rte 28S. Following a discussion, It was unanimously agreed to conduct a Public Hearing on November 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm.
4. Conservation Easement – A. Sherwood moved to sign the agreement, seconded by P. Fuller and passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

1. Drew Hill Road – R. Bailey noted this was a request to upgrade the road, not a request for a subdivision. He noted the request was not supported by the Planning Board to further upgrade Drew Hill Road as they considered this as scattered and premature development. R. Bailey continued this is not for a subdivision but for building permits on existing lots located on a Class 6 road. He presented a document from the Highway Agent noting Mr. Roberts had signed off on the plan.

The Board met with the applicant, David Widerstrom. The Chairman also recognized Thomas Hoopes, member of the Conservation Commission who stated he was the “warden” of Town Owned land and the protected wild orchards in the area. He discussed various drainage issues and other matters pertaining to Conservation Land, the road and abutters.

The Board reviewed the age of the road, minimum safety requirements, installation of appropriate drainage and culverts, notifying abutters, preservation of flowers and certain trees. R. Bailey noted a site review will be conducted with the applicant, Mr. Hoopes and Ken Roberts prior to work being started. A. Sherwood motioned to approve proposed building permits and upgrade at the applicant's expense on Drew Hill Road on the condition that the drainage be worked out to the satisfaction of the Conservation Commission concerns and also that the usual indemnification be filed appropriately at the Registry of Deeds, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

3. 2006 Town Report – R. Bailey advised the Board had a suggestion for a dedication and a cover for their consideration.

4. Road Construction Approval/Update – R. Bailey advised that the Highway Agent will not put a finish coat on the pavement of Avery Hill Road until spring of 2007, due to the removal of many large rocks. With regards to Hamwoods Road Extension, the Highway Agent has requested permission for grinding and paving it in its entirety. He noted the road is 1525' and that approximately 400' of work is being funded through FEMA Reimbursement. A. Shibley motioned to approve grinding and re-paving of the section of Hamwoods Road extension between Stockbridge Corner Road and Route 28S seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

## **Public Input II**

R. Longabaugh asked if the Board would reconvene after their non-public session to announce the results of non-public session or to take votes in their reconvened public session. He stated there have been times when some significant votes are taken in the second Public Session.

The Board members stated there were no items that they were aware of to announce in Public Session II this evening.

P. Shibley invited persons to wait until after the non-public meeting.

R. Messier noted any discussion concerning members of the Board should be in Public Session.

Russell Wilson asked how the ZBA would respond to the new ordinance and asked for clarification on ZBA perimeters and how they reach a justification to give a variance. R.

Bailey responded they work under State laws, applicants have the right to appeal according to the State statutes.

Non-Public Session – At 7:45pm, Chairman Blackstone moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A :3,II (a ) (c ) and (e) parenthetically.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Minutes Approved: 10-23-06

Those offering Public Input during Public Input #1 included:

Robert Longabaugh  
Marybee Longabaugh  
Charles Weston  
Jane Porter  
Ruth Messier  
Beverly Kempton  
Elizabeth Kelly  
Alan Bald  
Dean Rondeau  
Timothy Chabot  
Dawn Brooks  
Angela Bystrack  
Pamela Falzone  
James Falzone  
Greg Fuller  
Laurie Boyce

Those speaking during Public Input #2 included:

Robert Longabaugh  
Russell Wilson  
Ruth Messier

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**Approval of Selectmen's Minutes**

Public Session I – September 18, 2006 – P. Shibley amended page \_\_\_ item \_\_\_ to state \$44.5 should read *44.5 cents*, this was duly noted.