

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2013

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: October 21, 2013

R. Loring Carr 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:

R. Loring Carr, Chairman
Cydney Johnson, Vice Chairman
Marc DeCoff, Selectman
Robert Daniels, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

David Hussey, Selectman was absent.

Approval of the Agenda

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Robert Daniels seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments

None

Announcements:

Halloween ~ Trick or Treat Hours 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 31, 2013.

BOARD OF HEALTH

R. Loring Carr motioned to Recess as Board of Selectmen and to Convene as the Board of Health and seconded by Marc DeCoff with all in favor of the motion.

- Septic Waiver Request - Map 21 Lot 12-2; Forest Brook Realty Trust

E. Russell Bailey stated that John Dever was not present tonight and Forest Brook Realty Trust was called upon for representation.

A request was presented to the Board for a waiver for the tank and the field will be well away from Lake Winnepesaukee from the required 75 feet to 68 feet; asking for an exemption on the Clean Water Technology System.

E. Russell Bailey spoke to John Dever and he does recommend the waiver.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the waiver on Map 21 Lot 12-2 from the required 75 feet to the actual 68 feet and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of Selectmen and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen's Committee Report

Robert Daniels reported on the Lakes Region Planning Commission meeting. A presentation was made on data regarding various statistics on population trends, social needs, tourism, income etc.; titled "Searching for an Economic Recovery", with a population forecast which is believed to be downward/less. Questioned was the purpose of the data and what it was used for; it was stated it is used as a policy by the policy makers and is to be used by the legislators to come out with more laws to solve the economy or to make the economy better. There was very little discussion between the commissioners about various issues and they voted on the annual report and the comprehensive economic development strategy, on which I voted "no" as I had not read it before the vote. There was also discussion on a lack of participation by the commissioners especially in recent years. Also noted Executive, Kim Koulet is retiring.

R. Loring Carr reported that ZAC met and discussed Zoning recommendations to the Planning Board on having a lot with a garage or building on it without a residence and they are also working on some updates.

Town Administrators Reports by E. Russell Bailey

Ginny Douglas Park, there is an issue with the electric having been disconnected due to no proper meter. The cost estimate is approximately \$1,000.00 plus there will be a minimum monthly fee of \$20.00-\$30.00. Our previous discussion was that we were not willing to do this because it was only used at Christmas. Marc DeCoff had no issue with paying for the meter but thought that we should not pay for the electrical work. Cydney Johnson brought forward looking into a possible solar unit. E. Russell Bailey will check into the possibility of solar. If solar is not an option the Board was in agreement to paying the yearly electric fee.

Credit Card System Update, the system is in use and working quite well in both the Town Clerk and Tax Collector Office's. It is posted within the Tax Collector's Office but we have not promoted it yet; if it continues to go well it will be posted on the website within the next week.

Town Hall Bid, at the Budget Workshop the draft bid for the Town Hall was handed out. The idea is to get the bid out this fall, get a firm price so we know what we need for a Warrant Article to be sure that we have enough money in the reserve. The bid is for the roof and all the trim, including the dormers which are in rough shape. We would like to get the bid out, to get an idea of the pricing involved then based upon funding which would be included in the bid and that the work is to be completed in the Spring or when weather allows. There was discussion and concern on Item nine (9) regarding the removal of the chimney and tying it into the roof. We are looking at one contractor to do the work or should it be split out or possibly it should be noted on the bid “as an option”. E. Russell Bailey is requesting approval to send the bid out.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve to send out the invitation to bid for the roof and town hall exterior dormers and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

In November or early December at the latest, E. Russell Bailey will be looking to hold a Public Hearing on the MetroCast Franchise with a recommended date at the next meeting.

Tax rate, we have received two (2) different E-mails about the scheduling of the tax rate with the DRA, it was pushed out to November 7th and now it has changed to the 3rd or 4th week of October possibly around the 19th, 20th or later with hopes to have a proposed tax rate at the next regular meeting and have the tax bills out by the end of October.

A request was received from Mr. Nelson who was representing Marty Cornelissen. They are involved in a one day railroad show and would like to borrow the model of the Alton Bay Station that is currently outside the Tax/Clerk’s office. The consensus of the Board was approval.

Halloween is on Thursday the 31st and it is our late night. The employees would like to be allowed to wear costumes and also to allow us to purchase candy for Town Hall, Police and Fire. E. Russell Bailey is looking for \$100.00. The consensus of the Board was approval of the costumes and candy, not to exceed \$100.00.

Public Input I

Ruth Messier approached the Board to address the meeting of Thursday, September 26th. I attended the Zoning Amendment Committee (ZAC) meeting; the Town Planner, Steve, Loring, Dave and two (2) members of the Planning Board and the Chairman, Paul Monziona, Lou Lacourse, Bill Curtin and Tom Hoopes were in attendance. Ruth asked if there was an agenda, but there was none, just handouts. Reiterated was, there was no agenda and nobody seemed

to know exactly what was going to transpire. There was a discussion and question on who created the ZAC; was it the Planning Board or the Board of Selectmen. The Planning Board applied for the grant but don't have the ability to sign any financial documents, it went to the Budget Committee, explained then voted in and the Selectmen signed. The ZAC is just an advisory committee and then things are sent to the Planning Board. Ruth inquired is that committee an actual committee of the Town of Alton with a response of "yes". Ruth stated she is totally appalled, there was no agenda, no pledge of allegiance and they waited until they had a quorum, and then just started talking. If this is a body that represents the Town of Alton in any way shape or form then they should conduct themselves in a more orderly fashion and they should have an agenda. They had Public Input at the end of the meeting. Ruth Messier presented her complaints to the Board of Selectmen and she felt that the Board needs to direct them as to how to conduct their meetings; it was a disgraceful thing and would like the Board of Selectmen to address these issues. R. Loring Carr stated that he would speak to them and Robert Daniels agrees that there should be an agenda available.

Don Kleeberg approached the Board having attended the same meeting and agrees with the discussion regarding the Pledge of Allegiance and also asked the question: do we need to have a Town Planner and who would and how would that decision be made to address this concern. R. Loring Carr explained that it was voted in by the voters in the 1990's to have a full time Planner. Mr. Kleeberg asked if we wanted to stop having a Planner, could it be done. R. Loring Carr explained that the Board wouldn't be obligated to do it by law, there would have to be a discussion about it at the Deliberative Session and there would have to be a petition warrant article and majority would rule. It was noted that we have grown since the 1990's with not a lot of activity; we should be planning for the future, so to short change yourselves now might not be the best course of action and everybody has a right to an opinion.

Ruth Messier again approached the Board that if it were up to the people at town meeting to approve this then any changes would have to be done at a town meeting; the Selectmen would have a say in it but it would have to be up to the people.

R. Loring Carr closed Public Input I.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I; September 23, 2013 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session; September 23, 2013 releasing items # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II; September 23, 2013 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop Session; September 26, 2013 and R. Loring Carr seconded vote was 3-0-1 with Cydney Johnson abstaining.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Budget Workshop Session; October 1, 2013 and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

2013/2014 Budget and Warrant

The staff was asked to hold the line as much as possible, everybody is in line, the vehicle maintenance has taken a toll for two (2) budgets and we coming into the winter season, we need to make sure we have sufficient funds in case of a heavy winter otherwise we are doing fine with the 2013 budget.

A draft has been started for the 2014 Warrant with a couple of items that need to be discussed. In 2010, we proposed to the townspeople to sell some property and put it back on the town tax roll which includes the five (5) recent properties and E. Russell Bailey provided the Board with a list that has a rough valuation of \$414,000.00 which is the assessed value, hoping that the market value would be better. We have until January to decide whether we put the properties out there. There was a discussion on a piece of property on the water, owned by the town; it is one lot with three (3) parcels that are broken up. The property is on a private road and the town owns on both sides of the road. There was a discussion on the location of the property and the culvert has problems, needs to be repaired and is on a private road. It has been past practice that all owners share the cost of maintenance on a private road. E. Russell Bailey consulted with Attorney James Sessler, he agreed that we would not be in error contributing as a property owner otherwise you would not be able to get to your property if the culvert collapses. One of the property owners is supposed to obtain bids for the work. Another option would be that the town completes the work and that the owners pay the town. If we decide to do this work, E. Russell Bailey would recommend that the money be collected up front before the work is completed. We would have to price it out with an hourly rate plus materials and we may also need a wetlands permit as one end of the culvert is sitting in the wetlands. The Board was in agreement to allow the residents to get the estimates.

Road Reconstruction

Bowman Road will be completed in the next day or two as far as the Highway portion there is a small section to be paved. Then will then move to Depot Street and will be digging no later than Monday but could be on Thursday. On Wednesday the excavator will be moved to the old Dahl property to load and remove the debris. The septic leaching areas are dry and will be filled. Highway will be on Depot Street for about a month with some inconveniences. Parking will be restricted for employees and we will be working with the businesses and property owners as there will be days that will be difficult. We will have the septic exposed to see what is there and have the engineer look at it and give his recommendations.

Transfer Station Brush Cutting Bid Award

Scott Simonds recommendation is Tom Huckins, LLC of Farmington for a three (3) year bid for \$3,500.00 from 2014 ending in 2016.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the bid and seconded by Cydney Johnson. Robert Daniels wanted to understand the brush bid; it was explained; all in favor of the motion.

Stockbridge Corner Reconstruction

There was a meeting with the contractor and NH DOT last week to go over the construction schedule for Stockbridge Corner Road and Hamwoods Road. They will be setting up a construction trailer in the area and finishing up with the utilities in early spring with an end date for the project, September 17, 2014. They will be doing minor work possibly this fall, the construction company is SUR. The main issue is the closure on Stockbridge Corner when they do the box culvert. We wanted it done when there was no school, over the summer but it possibly will be done during spring break, because there is less than a week's work. We will be coordinating the signage all the way out into New Durham due to this being a major shortcut. There will be some inconvenience for residents who live on Stockbridge Corner and every resident on that side of it; as we are doing the culvert just before Chamberlain Road. Letters will go out to every resident well in advance and the work should not take more than a week. The plan is to eliminate the yellow blinking light and the cutoff. If the Board wants to pursue the blinking light we would have to pay the monthly costs.

FEMA Winter Storm Reimbursement

This was previously approved and is based on the three (3) foot snowstorm from February, 2013. The reimbursement amount is \$26,202.00 for our costs and we have already received a check from FEMA with no conditions or

requirements; it is a straight reimbursement of 75% of the costs. Most of it will be credited back to the Highway Department with it being in the same calendar year.

New Business

Police Grant

This is the same grant that we have had for the last couple of years. The Safe Commute Grant, a State grant, it covers the overtime and concentrates on the main highways through town for the morning and evening commute periods. There are no requirements, no strings attached and covers overtime shifts for the patrols. The Board reviewed the grant and discussed various aspects of it. This item will be tabled until the workshop held on October 8th, 2012.

Public Input II

Ruth Messier approached the Board and talked about the grant and would like to see a member of the local police force down at the traffic circle periodically as people do not know how to read the words on the signs.

Non-Public Session

R. Loring Carr 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 Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Hawksley

Peggy Hawksley
Recording Secretary