

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 19, 2009
ALTON TOWN HALL

At 5:30 p.m., the Chairperson convened the meeting of the Selectmen. Present were the following members of the Board and staff:

Stephan McMahan, Chairperson
Patricia Fuller, Vice Chair
Peter Bolster, Selectman
David Hussey, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Absent: R. Loring Carr, Selectman

The Chairperson led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment a silence.

AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the Agenda. R. Bailey announced the following changes to the agenda: "Loon Cove Station" was removed from Old Business. "Perambulation Schedule" was added under Old Business and "Board of Health (Map 58; Lot 5A): Failure New System – Fortier & Murray" was added. "Town Report – Cover" was added under New Business. P. Fuller motioned to approve the amended agenda and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

S. McMahan announced that Halloween would be observed on Saturday, October 31, 2009, with Trick-or-Treating from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

S. McMahan reported that they have set the tax rate for the town for the next year at \$11.83. He reported that R. Bailey had been down to the DRA earlier last week to set the rate.

APPOINTMENT:

Mike Izard, Lakes Region Planning Commission, presented the report on his study of Route 28. He announced that on September 21, 2009, the Lakes Region Planning Commission staff presented the NH Route 28 Corridor Safety Study final report to the Alton Board of Selectmen. He spoke about the history of the committee and noted that it had formed about a year ago and a final report had been presented in August, 2009. He announced that the recommendations have been made to the towns along Route 28 of the Committee's findings. He spoke about a section of the report about land use, including aesthetics along the corridor. He requested the Board to sign off on the report to endorse it but noted that the endorsement was not a standard, only a recommendation. He stated that copies had been presented to Sharon Penney and Ken Robert. An additional copy of the report was given to the Town Hall. The report includes a ten year plan for NH Route 28.

M. Izard noted that there were some changes to the report that was initially presented to the Selectmen, as the new version of the report included input from the community and individuals. The members of the Board reviewed the report that was presented by the Lakes Region Planning Commission and signed the signature sheet of the report. There was an open discussion about Route 28 and some of the areas of concern that the Board felt were problem areas. The Board was encourage to acknowledge the study contents and recommendations, as stated: The Alton Board

of Selectmen has reviewed and endorse the recommendations of NH Route 28 Project Advisory Committee and Safety Audit Team as presented in the NH Route 28 Corridor Safety Study: August 31, 2009.

It was felt that the Board needed more time to review the report before they signed off on the report. P. Fuller motioned to make it so and P. Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

BOARD OF HEALTH – MAP 58, LOT 5A

P. Fuller motioned to recess as the Board of Selectmen and to reconvene as the Board of Health and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

The Board of Health convened at approximately 5:48 p.m.

Gary Spaulding, Manager, G.R. Spaulding Design Consultants, LLC, spoke about the history of the failed system. He stated they had met with the NHDES to review the plan and have made revisions to address their concerns. The “Clean Solution” has been proposed, which is an aerobic treatment system. He stated it was a replacement of an approved but failed system. He explained that they are now going “against the weather” because they have ordered materials and are ready to go. He noted that they had submitted for a waiver for the location of the septic tank, as it is in close proximity to the lake.

There was discussion about the abutters and G. Spaulding reported that they have allowed them to cross their property to install the system. He stated there has been no opposition. The closest tank would call for a five-foot waiver. It was noted that the leach field did not encroach on the abutters’ property. There was discussion and review of the design.

P. Fuller motioned to grant the waiver requested by G. Spaulding for the five foot set back for the tank to the closest property line and the waiver for the leach field to be twenty-eight feet from the lake. D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

S. McMahon motioned to recess the Board of Health and to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

The Board of Selectmen reconvened at approximately 6:00p.m.

SELECTMEN’S COMMITTEE REPORTS

D. Hussey had no report.

P. Bolster reported the Milfoil Committee will have a presentation to the Board on November 17, 2009 and will have a recommendation of a warrant article. He reported that the Down Town Revitalization Committee would be meeting later on October 22, 2009. The Conservation Commission met to review the trail on Alton Mountain Road and cleared the trail so that it is easier to find. He reported that they spent about four to five hours on the project. He spoke about the other trails in the area that could be tied in so that a nice network could be made. The ACS Building & Grounds Committee will be meeting on November 4, 2009 to make a specific recommendation to the School Board. He stated it would be an important meeting for the general public to attend.

P. Fuller stated she had no report at this time.

S. McMahon stated he did not have a report but that he would have one for the next meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT & UPDATES

R. Bailey reported that some FEMA money has been received from the State, \$6,264.00. This will go into the General Fund as revenue for 2009. He spoke about the septic system at the Gilman Museum and reported that the system was “root bound”. The problem was corrected so money did not need to be spent for a new tank and/or system.

PUBLIC INPUT #1

Ruth Messier reported she had received a copy of former Police Chief Smith’s letter and thanked the Board for their quick response to her request. She felt there was too much being done in non-public session and that meeting minutes were being sealed. She asked when the meeting minutes were unsealed or if they ever were unsealed. She asked if people who had been in office, such as former selectmen, knew they were to keep privileged information private. She requested the Board to make a policy for reviewing and unsealing meeting minutes, as appropriate, on a regular basis.

R. Messier spoke about her concerns about the appointment of Captain Ryan Heath and felt there was not due process done when he was appointed. She felt that key information, such as salary rate, was not disclosed. P. Fuller stated that the Chief accepted his pay rate two weeks after he was appointed and the salary amount was \$76,000.00, and included the Chief working holidays. P. Fuller stated they would review the sealed minutes to see what they could do about unsealing the minutes but that the non-public sessions were generally about personnel and/or legal matters.

Steve Miller stated he was present as a private citizen and not representing anyone else. He spoke about his concerns of the time of the Selectmen meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. and felt that it was not a good time for “working people”. S. McMahon stated that it was just this meeting that was starting at 5:30 p.m.

S. Miller asked if the letter from the Budget Committee would be read into the minutes. P. Fuller and R. Bailey stated that it would not be read into the minutes. R. Bailey noted that he had just received the letter that day. S. Miller asked if the Board would be discussing any future salary raises in public or non-public session and P. Fuller stated that they had never discussed their salary in non-public. She noted that their salary had been in the town’s budget for several years. S. Miller asked if there was a legal opinion received on the actions of the Board’s raises and P. Fuller noted she had spoken with the town attorney who felt it was legal.

Peter Keen asked what step three was in the salary range for the Police Chief. S. McMahon stated there were ten steps total in the wage schedule. P. Keen asked when the Milfoil Committee would have their presentation. R. Bailey responded that it would be in November. P. Keen asked about public information availability and length of retention of the records. R. Bailey explained that the length of retention was set by the state and stated that he (P. Keen) could come in the Town Hall for more information. There was discussion about the hiring process for police officers and P. Keen requested the Board to allow a citizen to sit in on the interview process. R. Bailey suggested that P. Keen put his questions in writing to present to the Board and noted that the interview process was a confidential process. P. Keen asked if there were any towns that had citizens in on the interview process and R. Bailey stated he did not know of any.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

P. Fuller motioned to approve the meeting minutes of September 15, 2009 and P. Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with one abstaining. (DH, PB, PF / abstain – SM / absent – LC)

P. Bolster motioned to approve the meeting minutes of September 30, 2009, Public Session I and II, and the sealed non-public minutes and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with one abstaining. (DH, PB, SM / abstain – PF / absent – LC)

P. Bolster motioned to approve the meeting minutes of September 29, 2009, September 30, 2009 and October 1, 2009, Public Session I and II, and the sealed non-public minutes and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with one abstaining. (DH, PB, SM / abstain – PF / absent – LC)

P. Bolster motioned to approve the meeting minutes of September 29, 2009, September 30, 2009 – Budget Work Session, and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with one abstaining. (DH, PB, SM / abstain – PF / absent – LC)

S. McMahon motioned to approve the meeting minutes of October 1, 2009, Public Session I and II, and the sealed non-public minutes. P. Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with one abstaining. (DH, PB, SM / abstain – PF / absent – LC)

S. McMahon motioned to approve the meeting minutes of October 6, 2009, October 7, 2009, and October 8, 2009, Public Sessions I and II, and the sealed non-public minutes and P. Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of four, with P. Fuller noting she had to abstain on the minutes of October 8, 2009. (DH, PB, SM PF / absent – LC)

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2010 Budget Status/Warrant

R. Bailey reported that the budget books have been presented to the Budget Committee and there would be meeting with the Budget Committee about the default budget. He spoke about the warrant articles and asked the Board if they wanted to pursue to selling of town property. He noted that if property was sold that it would go into the General Fund unless there was a special warrant article that dictated otherwise. He spoke about some of the old capitol reserve funds that were no longer active but needed to be closed. There would need to be a special warrant article to close those funds. R. Bailey spoke about contamination with the land fill to one the abutting properties and reported there would need to be a special warrant article to address that. The first meeting of the Budget Committee with department heads will begin tomorrow (Tuesday, October 20, 2009) night. S. McMahon felt that some of the property that was being sold would need to be reviewed prior to deciding whether or not it would be sold. R. Bailey stated he could get a list together for the Board to review at a future meeting.

2. Perambulation Schedule

R. Bailey reported that the boundaries for Alton along the Wolfeboro and Gilford lines needed to be walked. He asked if any Board members wanted to be involved. R. Bailey spoke about some of the boarders that needed to be walked. P. Bolster and P. Fuller stated they wanted to be involved with the project. R. Bailey stated he would get the schedule in the next couple of weeks and would get back to the Selectmen with the information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jones Field Storage Building Donation

A small storage building has been donated by Little League. P. Fuller motioned to accept the building donated for Alton Youth League and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

2. Signage Request

P. Fuller motioned to grant the sign “Children At Play” on Elliot Road and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

3. Grant Fund Acceptance RSA 31:95A

S. McMahon motioned to accept the grant to the Alton Police Department for \$1,084.50 for laser radar grant and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

4. Vote on the Recommendations of the Town Assessor

P. Fuller motioned to approve the recommendations of the Town Assessor and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

5. Town Report – Cover

R. Bailey stated it was time to start thinking of the dedication of the Town Report and the cover. He stated he was not looking for action on this item at this time but wanted the Board to consider what they might want.

P. Bolster excused himself from the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT II

Steve Parker spoke about the sealed non-public minutes and asked if someone was fired if the town would never find out about it. P. Fuller noted that personnel information was protected information. S. Parker felt that municipal employees were protected and P. Fuller noted that it was no different than in the private sector. S. Parker stated that a bunch of us were down at the school last week and noted that the Building & Grounds Committee went into non-public session and noted that P. Bolster was in the non-public session. He felt that P. Bolster should not have been in the non-public session at the school. There were several comments made by various members of the public and S. McMahon asked S. Parker to stand-down.

R. Messier felt that the Board should better define the role of the liaison to the Board. She asked about the terms of grants.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

S. McMahon motioned to move the meeting into non-public session to discuss matters covered under RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (c), and (e), and P. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (DH, PB, SM, PF / absent – LC)

The meeting moved into non-public session at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis
Recorder

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Stephan McMahon, Chairman

Peter Bolster, Selectman

David Hussey, Selectman

Minutes Approved: November 16, 2009