

Alton Board of Selectmen
December 27, 2006
Meeting Minutes
Alton Town Hall

Convene

At 3:05pm Chairman Blackstone convened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen, present were the following members of the Board and staff:

- Cris Blackstone, Chairman
- Stephan McMahon, Vice-Chairman
- Alan Sherwood, Selectman
- A. Pete Shibley, Selectman
- E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Chairman Blackstone led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Approval of the Agenda

Amendments were made to the Agenda that included removal of Item #2 in New Business and include two additional items in New Business as follows:

- Town Computer Policy
- Annual Appointments of Fire Wardens.

S. McMahon motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by C. Blackstone and passed with all in favor.

Announcements

C. Blackstone announced the Town Offices will be closed on January 1st for the Holiday and will be opened the following day. Also, Town Offices will remain open all day, Friday the 29th.

Appointment with Water Commissioners

The Board met with William Curtin, Water Commissioner and discussed increasing the line item in the Water Department budget for fire hydrants. Following a review and concerns including that the Water Commissioners' Minutes have never referred to hydrant maintenance being performed, that this should not be a rental issue, and that if the change is made, the \$4000 will come back to the Town. A. Sherwood motioned to pay the hydrant fee for 2006, conditional that the Water Department apply the money owed back to the Town, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor. P. Shibley noted the commissioners would have to go back to the Budget Committee at their Public Hearing to request the \$4000 be added to the Hydrant maintenance line item.

Selectmen's Committee Reports

A. Sherwood noted he had no report at this time.

P. Shibley stated the Downtown Revitalization Committee had just received the \$10,000 grant to be used towards acquiring the playground equipment for the B&M R.R. Park. He continued the total cost is \$30,000. Professionals will install the playground equipment. He commended DRC for moving forward with this project and noted they are considering more trails.

S. McMahon advised the Budget Committee is on schedule and close to the bottom line, they are now working on the school budget. He acknowledged P. Shibley for filling in when he was unable to attend the meetings.

C. Blackstone reported the Planning Board has held numerous meetings and number of items have been researched on their recommendations to the voters.

Town Administrator Report

R. Bailey noted items for consideration by the Board as follows:

1. Schedule workshops
2. Road standards
3. Review preliminary engineering design at Transfer Station, construction work and plans with Scott Simonds
4. new computer networking system tying in all town facilities, to be in effect January or February
5. Schedule a Public Hearing for Powder Mill Road 2007 Reconstruction
6. A new camera paid for by Metrocast Cable TV
7. Pearson Road Community Center – Expansion of programs, advertising, etc.
8. Addition of Line Items Payment to the Director of the Community Center and the Heidke Caregivers

Note: The Board voted to schedule a Public Hearing on Powder Mill Road Reconstruction for February 12th at 6:00pm.

Public Input I

R. Longabaugh noted in light of past events, he has begun to circulate a petition Warrant Article with regards to Selectmen abusing their power and adding a new paragraph to the existing Oath of Office document; re: "violation of elected officials Oath of Office".

D. McGiver thanked the Board for working to resolve problems and added the public should not make judgments on what they read in the newspapers. He also noted Selectman Shibley has had 29 years of public service.

M. Doherty noted there are two sides to every story, that news articles do not always report the truth, there is too much hurtful gossip which is not true. She expressed her gratitude to the Board for the work they are doing and thanked them for the serving the community.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

Vote to approve Selectmen's Minutes of December 4th and Selectmen's Workshop minutes of December 8th. A. Sherwood motioned to approve the minutes as submitted for December 4, 2006 and December 8, 2006, seconded by P. Shibley. The motion passed with one abstention (SM).

Old Business

1. Town Hall Improvements – R. Bailey noted the Trustees Office has been completed. R. Bailey noted the Trustees have approved using the Clough-Morrill Fund to replace the carpeting in the in the Assessors Office and the Heidke in the amount of \$2375. S. McMahon motioned to approve the carpeting and related cost, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor.
2. Drainage Report – Roberts Cove Road - R. Bailey noted the Town owns four culverts crossing under the road, subdivisions have now impacted the culverts. R. Bailey has discussed this situation with the Highway Agent. It was agreed to take a site walk of the area, to have a discussion with the property owners, that their cooperation is needed. It was also noted the Board would need input from the Highway Agent.
3. Update Highway Construction – R. Bailey referenced the letter from Dot Commissioner Carol Murray, relative to Route 28 reconstruction from the Alton Traffic Circle. He continued the DOT is asking for Towns to be represented on a committee as they develop a Context Sensitive Solutions approach. Through this process smaller projects may be expedited in the near term.

4. 2007 Budget and Default/Warrant Budget – R. Bailey and the Board discussed the Budget and Warrant. R. Bailey advised the proposed budget is \$5,643,321, as recommended by the Budget Committee, the default budget is \$5,574,053. He noted the default budget will have to be posted and presented at the deliberative session. A. Sherwood motioned to approve the default budget, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor. R. Bailey stated the warrant could be about many pages. Discussion included publishing the warrant in the newspaper making this a joint venture with the school, using handouts, etc., R. Bailey will contact school officials. .

5. R. Bailey referenced the handout with regards to establishing a Transportation Improvement Fund article to the warrant. This would mean adding a fee to annual vehicle registrations, it may also require a Public Hearing in February. The fee would be dedicated towards sidewalks, bike paths and road improvements as approved by the Selectmen, this would be a non-money article in the warrant.

A. Sherwood asked about the warrant article for the fire department pump truck. He motioned rather than 50K from surplus; to put in 100k from surplus and 200K from reserve and leaving 90K to be raised, seconded by P. Shibley for discussion. R. Bailey advised there is about 2.4 million in surplus. The motion then passed with all in favor.

New Business

1. Donation to the Town – Alton Firemen's Association – R. Bailey noted this donation was for a trailer and an ATV for use by the Fire Department, and would not impact the Town insurance. P. Shibley motioned to approve the donation, seconded by A. Sherwood for discussion. S. McMahon noted taxpayers had voted against this, the Town will have to provide maintenance and insurance. A. Sherwood advised they had conducted fundraisers, received donations, held dinners etc., the expense did not come out of their budget. The motion passed on a vote of 4-1 (SM).

2. Jones Field Bridge – Mt. Major Snowmobile Club Agreement - Seeing there have been no problems in the past, S. McMahon motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with three (3) votes in favor and one (1) abstention (PS).

3. Road Acceptance Request – R. Bailey advised this was a request by St. Katherine's Church with regards to acceptance of two roadways i.e., Hidden Springs and Bridget's Way. He continued a Public Hearing will be necessary. R. Bailey stated he would research the Planning Board minutes on the intent and upgrading these roads. Possibly the Public Hearing could be held at the Selectmen's second meeting in January.

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4. Highway Garage Electrical Easement – R. Bailey noted a new pole and a right of way would be needed for power to the new addition at the garage and there will be a charge Of \$600 (+/0) by the NH Electric Co-op. A. Shibley motioned to sign the easement including the cost, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

5. Vote on Recommendations of Assessing Department – S. McMahon motioned to approve the items as recommended and submitted by the Town Assessor, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

6. Vote to Approve Cemetery Deeds – Rows K&L, Lots 148 and 149, also Row H, Lot 36-P. Shibley moved to approve the two deeds as presented, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

7. 2006 Encumbrances – R. Bailey submitted encumbrances as noted:

1) Highway Truck - Dump Body Repair	\$17,965
2) Highway Electrical Bldg Addition	2,000 estimate
3) Planning Impact Fee Review	4,000
4) Planning Master Plan LRPC	10,918
5) Computer Server/Wan System	20,000
6) Town Clerk MV Works	1,500
7) General Govt Records Mgt	500
8) Gen Govt GASB 34	6,500
9) Solid Waste Garage/Compactor Doors	1,500 estimate
10) Insurance	<u>10,000</u> estimate

Total \$78,873

A. Sherwood moved to encumber all the funds as enumerated by R. Bailey that total \$78,873, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor.

8. Auditors Annual letter – R. Bailey noted this was a standard letter notifying the Town that all records be available, the Town's audit will be scheduled for February of March. It was agreed to have the Town Administrator contact the Town Auditors.

9. Computer Policy - R. Bailey noted this policy was also recommended by the Town Computer Technicians. A. Sherwood moved to approve the computer policy, seconded by P. Shibley for discussion concerning enforcement of the policy. It was noted a portion of the \$20,000 as previously addressed would be used for this purpose. The motion passed with all in favor.

10. Deputy Forest Fire Wardens – the Board reviewed the recommendations of the State Forest Fire Wardens for the following individuals:

Alan Johnson, Warden
Scott Williams, Deputy Warden
Richard Brown, Deputy Warden
Gary Hannafin, Deputy Warden
Michael Caverly, Deputy Warden
Ed Consentino, Deputy Warden
Mary Jane Dascoli, Deputy Warden
Christopher Johnson, Deputy Warden

Discussion included residency requirements. It was noted these appointments are necessary for the issuance of Fire permits. A. Sherwood moved to appoint the warden and deputy wardens as noted, seconded by S. McMahon and passed 3 –1 abstention(PS).

Public Input II

There was no Public Input

Non-Public Session – At approximately 4:38pm, Chairman Blackstone motioned to enter into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II, parenthetically (a) (c) (d) following a brief recess, all members each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Minutes Approved: January 18, 2007