

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2017  
6:00 PM  
1 Monument Square  
Alton, NH 03809

**Approved: January 18, 2017**

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Cydney Johnson 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:

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman  
Lou LaCourse, Vice Chairman  
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman  
Virgil MacDonald, Selectman  
John Markland, Selectman  
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

**Approval of the Agenda**

Cydney Johnson made a motion to amend the agenda moving Non Public Session to after Public Input II and John Markland seconded the amendment. Virgil MacDonald requested adding the Fire Department and sidewalks under New Business. John Markland seconded the amended amendment and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Announcements:** The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

**Appointments:**

- Kenneth "Rick" Sandhage; Involuntary Lot Merger, Dan Kelley Drive

Cydney Johnson noted that this appointment was cancelled.

- Sylvia Leggett, Rumble Strips Route 28 North Corridor

Sylvia Leggett approached the Board reading a prepared statement to the Board as follows:

*BOS Meeting – January 4, 2017*

*Good evening. My name is Sylvia Leggett. I reside at 76 Gilmans Corner Road and I own a business at 1439 Wolfeboro Highway. I again want to thank the board for allowing me the opportunity to address you tonight. As you are well aware, I am here again to ask for your continued support regarding the rumble strips that remain on NH Route 28 north of the traffic circle. I will try not to beat a 'dead horse', but I am here to challenge you as a board to continue the effort to have these rumble strips removed.*

*During the first public input session at the November 21, 2016 meeting, Virgil MacDonald stated that any plans for further action regarding the rumble strips is still being discussed. And I quote, "The ball has not been dropped, we*

are still discussing what venues to take, trying to come up with some type of plan.” My question to you again tonight and my challenge to you is – what is the Alton BOS doing?

I will not re-visit what I said on November 21<sup>st</sup>, except to again look at Commissioner Sheehan’s letter of July 29<sup>th</sup> and to look closely at actions number 3 and 4.

3. The centerline rumble strips north of the circle will remain. This is consistent with the rest of the NH 28 corridor of similar width and **character**.

4. We recognize the concern about passing zones and will consider eliminating/stripping out passing zones in areas of **particular receptors** and with consensus from the community.

These two actions are of particular interest to me because I would like to share with you the July 29<sup>th</sup> letter that Commissioner Sheehan wrote to the Town of Plymouth. Basically actions 1 and 2 were very similar to Alton, where centerline rumble strips that were placed in error would be removed and edge line rumble stripes would be milled and filled.

The Commissioner’s number 3 action for the Town of Plymouth was to agree to remove the rumble strips on NH 3A south of the traffic circle. Quoting the Commissioner – “This is in recognition that an overall consistent plan for the rest of the NH 3A corridor of similar width and character has not been thought through.”

We need to challenge the Commissioner’s statement regarding the character of NH Route 3A, where the centerline rumble strips were removed and the character of NH Route 28, where the centerline rumble strips remain. The ‘character’ of NH Route 3A – a speed limit of 55mph and passing zones. The ‘character of NH Route 28 – a speed limit of 55mph and passing zones. The difference? On NH Route 3A you see the residences along the road and on NH Route 28 the many residences are hidden from view. Another facet of the NH Route 28 corridor that exists only in Alton that has been totally ignored by the NHDOT is our beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee.

I believe this decision to remove the NH Route 3A centerline rumble strips in Plymouth leaves the door wide open for the Town of Alton to continue the push for the removal of the NH Route 28 centerline rumble strips.

In the Commissioner’s October 31<sup>st</sup> letter she seems to disregard what was written under action 4 for the Town of Alton in her July letter. The brief study done by NHDOT totally dismisses the passing zone noise we continue to hear and calls it infrequent. Has anyone besides me asked the Commissioner what she meant by particular receptors? I can’t get an answer from her, but I assumed it meant noise sensitive areas, which have certainly not gone away. The Commissioner also stated that their ‘data indicated that a very small percentage of the traffic is making passing maneuvers.’ If this is the case, than why not at least consider increasing the non-passing zones and thereby reducing the noise from the rumble strips.

Back in June 28<sup>th</sup> I attend a meeting in Plymouth at Govoni Farm located right on NH Route 3A. Similar to the meeting held at Roberts Knoll Campground on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, both Assistant Commissioner Bill Cass and Project Manager Ron Grandmaison were in attendance. At both meetings the NHDOT officials hear loud and clear our complaints and concerns regarding the rumble strips. However, at the Plymouth meeting, while Assistant Commissioner Cass was addressing the crowd, the rumble strip noise was so loud that Bill Cass actually said that “they are obnoxious.” For the folks of Plymouth I think this was a god-send statement which he couldn’t take back and helped lead to the removal of the centerline rumbles strips on NH Route 3A.

In the New Hampshire Sunday News article from November 20<sup>th</sup> that I handed out to you back on November 21<sup>st</sup> the State acknowledged the lack of public hearings in affected communities. At the end of the article, the NHDOT spokesman Bill Boynton stated “What we are doing is addressing the fact that we didn’t follow our existing standards and we weren’t flexible enough for some of the specific characteristics of those roads. We tried to apply a one-size fits all to four different corridors.”

*I would also challenge the State to individually examine the specific corridors. As the Commissioner acknowledged in her Plymouth letter, “an overall consistent plan for the rest of NH 3A corridor of similar width and character has not been thought through.” Not only does one-size not fit all four different corridors that received rumble strips this year, one-size does not fit the length of one corridor. The NH Route 28 corridor from Allenstown to Ossipee surely is a prime example of this. There certainly was no overall consistent plan for the NH Route 28 corridor, which can be proven by simply looking at all the rumble strips that were placed in error, with NH Route 28 south of the circle a leading example. The NHDOT points to poor execution by contractors as the blame for the mistakes that were made. However, my own personal experience leads me to believe that all the markings on the highway were made by NHDOT employees and the contractor just followed the lines and the plan presented them.*

*I am extremely glad there is a moratorium on any future installations of rumble strips. However, I am extremely disappointed that NHDOT intends to stand pat and leave the NH Route 28 centerline rumble strips in place. I believe further remedial action is not only warranted but necessary to rectify what these rumbles strips have done to the quality of life in Alton. I find it very ironic that the mission statement of the NHDOT is ‘Transportation excellence enhancing the quality of life in NH.’ My quality of life and that of many other Alton citizens has certainly been degraded.*

*Please continue the quest for the removal of these un-wanted rumble strips. Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney has been and I think will continue to support our cause. Once our new Governor is sworn in tomorrow, I hope the Governor’s Executive Council is a means the Town of Alton will take to put pressure on the NHDOT to take further action.*

*Thank you for your time tonight.*

Sylvia Leggett offered that if there was anything further she could do to further this along she would be available and she urged the Board to continue the quest to keep on NH DOT in regards to the rumble strip situation.

Lou LaCourse inquired about the Route 3A corridor in Plymouth with Sylvia responding it is Tenney Mountain Highway after the traffic circle which reduces to 35mph; it is south of the circle by the Tenney Mountain Resort. It is a stretch of road that is about two miles long with a speed limit of 55mph with several passing zones; this is where they removed the centerline rumble strips and some of the white line strips. The depth measurements were part of the “cookie cutter” letters that were sent; it was noted that Alton had the deepest cuts of all the communities.

**Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person; subject matter ~ agenda items only)**

- Lael Paulson stated that he lives almost a mile away from Route 28 and he clearly can hear the noise from the rumble strips and should not be able to hear them from that distance. He further stated, “he had built his home here where he wanted to retire, to a quiet community I will tell you with absolute certainty that if we had built the house close to Route 28. I would have rued the day that I’d moved to Alton, NH, I guarantee that”. He asked that we not let up on this issue and that DOT is waiting for this issue to die down and to continue the quest. It appears that they don’t plan on doing anything else to the rumble strips and urges the Board to not let them put this off until 2018. They should be removed now!
- Duanne Hammond stated he owns land he is trying to sell on Route 28, has had 4/5 people look at it, love it but when they hear the noise generated from the rumble

strips they have no interest; it has basically made his land worthless. He also stated he is a hunter, hunting up at a Cates Hill area and he can hear the noise from way up there. This will affect the Town financially. This is a solution looking for a problem. He has spoken with the Police Chief and the majority of the accidents were due to deer or people failing to yield at intersections; rumble strips would not have stopped any of those. He also mentioned that the rumble strips fill with water; they freeze and break up the road.

- Larry Helene stated that his land abuts Route 28 obviously, they hear the rumble strips loud and clear. We were told that winter is coming, shut your windows but we still hear them, they wake us up. His neighbor on Route 28 just put his house on the market and he has had to drop his price of the sale from what it would have been a year ago due to the rumble strips. He urged the Board to do the best they can to help us get out of this rumble strip mess because it is really hard to live with.
- Ray Howard approached the Board speaking as both a resident and a representative of Alton stating that with the new federal administration they are talking about going back to all block grants, which will kill programs like the rumble strips and won't be forced to use money for those purposes. This money will have the ability to be put into bridge and road repairs that are needed. Obviously this time of year we will not be getting anything done. He is planning to have Councilor Kenney along with himself set up a meeting with the new Governor however it won't happen until March/April timeframe until after the budget process. We will discuss the extended cost of the rumble strips noting that the rumbles are breaking up on Route 28 south. Before any road re-pavement is done the procedure is for them to be milled and filled re-paved then ground back in. His hope is to have a meeting with DOT, get the milling and filling done before the scheduled re-paving which might be 2/3 years down the road; and he would like to get it done now; putting this issue to bed. He has hopes that DOT will rethink the rumble strip altogether. He offered for one of the Board members to join in the meeting once it is set as it might carry some weight. Virgil MacDonald asked if there was a way he could pressure Commissioner Shaheen now so that we don't end up towards the end of next summer for this issue to be resolved. With the busy budget season he can try to go to the Ways and Means to find out if they would be willing to look at putting extra money into DOT's budget for the purpose of doing this in advance of it being done for repaving but doesn't have that answer. He believes that the best avenue is to get the Governor on board regarding the issue. He will be working on this with hopes of getting some resolution; with any luck with milling and filling in the spring. Mr. Howard will inform the Board once the meeting is set so one of the Board members could attend. John Markland asked Mr. Howard if he could obtain information regarding increased blade replacement on the DOT trucks since the installation of the rumble strips. Joe MacDonald noted that having worked from them; they do not track information in that manner, only totals are given at the end of the year for each individual shed.

## New Business:

### Application Big Lake Half Marathon; May 20, 2017

Mike St. Laurent from LOCO Sports was present to answer any questions regarding the Big Lake Half Marathon event, which has been going on for the last thirteen (13) years. He explained that they pay for all fees, for services provided and have a medical plan in place if necessary along the course.

John Markland made a motion to approve the Special Event Application for LOCO Sports for the Big Lake Half Marathon scheduled for May 20, 2017 authorizing the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Town of Pittsburg; Letter Request Regarding Northern Pass

Liz Dionne noted that the Town of Pittsburg is requesting a letter of support from Alton to the SEC in regards to their petition opposing the Eversource attempt to secure through the back door what they cannot achieve through the front door. Eversource is advising the communities that they do have the right to put underground utilities in the municipality rights of way and according to their documentation, it contradicts certain state laws. The town sent this out to all the municipalities in the State looking for support in their endeavor. It is the Selectmen's decision whether to send a letter of support with strength in numbers.

There was discussion amongst the Board of the positives and negatives of Eversource stepping all over the residents of the State and the tactics they are trying to use. They are trying to circumvent and twist the law. They are only looking for a letter of support.

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to send a letter of support to the Town of Pittsburg and Lou LaCourse seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed; John Markland.

### Fire Department

This item will be discussed in Non-Public Session.

### Sidewalks

Virgil MacDonald believes that we need to keep an eye on the residential plowing and the sidewalk plowing. It is not fair to the person that is plowing the sidewalks; he takes care of them then, the resident or whoever is plowing for them is pushing the snow back onto the sidewalks just after he finishes so he has to start all over again. Virgil suggested the possibility of sending a letter to the landowners who are pushing snow into the sidewalks. The thought was that this is against the law and if so send a certified letter to the landowners that are doing this. We need to be sure that this is against the law before proceeding.

## Old Business:

### Parks and Recreation Bylaw Recommendation regarding Alternates

Our Attorney has reviewed and approved the updates to the Parks and Recreation Bylaws.

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to accept the amended Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaws and Phil Wittmann seconded. Lou LaCourse added to the motion as drafted on 010417. The motion held with all in favor.

Phil Wittmann thanked Liz Dionne for her work on the Bylaws.

### Reconsider and Rescind Previous Vote on Administrative Abatements from 12/19 meeting

Corrective action needs to be taken on the following:

Lou LaCourse made a motion to rescind the December 19, 2016 approval on the Administrative Abatements for the following tax deeded properties and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Map 33, Lot 26-B      21 Torelli Terrace, \$2,192.22
- Map 71, Lot 63      Alton Shores Road, \$1,172.28
- Map 71, Lot 62      185 Alton Shores Road, \$3,811.11
- Map 48, Lot 44      4 Ledge Hill Road, \$4,802.03

### Correct and Approve Administrative Abatements from 12/19 meeting

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve the Administrative Abatements for the following tax deeded properties and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Map 33, Lot 26-B      21 Torelli Terrace, \$237.00
- Map 71, Lot 63      Alton Shores Road, \$63.00
- Map 71, Lot 62      185 Alton Shores Road, \$522.00
- Map 48, Lot 44      4 Ledge Hill Road, \$563.00

### Town Administrator's Report and Updates by Liz Dionne

It was recommended to the Board that when the Non Public Session minutes from December 19, 2016 are approved to seal item #2.

February 20<sup>th</sup> is President's Day therefore the second meeting in February needs to be rescheduled for a different date. It was the consensus of the Board to move the meeting to Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

The Highway Department Road Agent would like to schedule a workshop meeting for a preliminary review for road reconstruction for 2017. Liz Dionne was looking for a date that the Board would be available. A discussion ensued regarding the workshop with feelings that

scheduling a workshop for who would speak on behalf of each of the Warrant Articles was more pressing as Deliberative Session is February 7<sup>th</sup>. Cydney Johnson would like to see this workshop held off until February as we already know how much money is available this will be just to set the order of the roads. Ken Roberts gives his recommendation and reasoning of the order of the roads; the Board then decides and or changes the order of the reconstruction a date for the workshop. Ken did not specify a date but would like to get it done as soon as possible. It was the decision of the Board to have Ken Roberts suggest a date.

It was questioned whether to set a workshop or place it on the next agenda, a discussion on who would speak on behalf of each of the Warrant Articles at Deliberative Session on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board decided that a workshop would be best as it takes quite a bit of preparation. The date was set for Monday, January 23, 2017 at 6:00 PM, a reminder will be sent.

Two (2) motions need to be made by the Board for the work being done at Town Hall on the HVAC system. The Board are the agents to expend the money out of the Capital Reserve Funds and approval is necessary to make a partial payment of 66K to KPMB Enterprises for the HVAC System. The work is at or more than 50% installed and we do not have a completion date; Liz Dionne will inquire.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve a partial payment of \$66,000 to KPMB Enterprises, the winning bidder for the Town Hall HVAC system, which was awarded on May 2, 2016. Said payment of \$66,000 to be paid for out of the general fund and to be reimbursed out of the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and the Clough Morrell Trust in a subsequent motion and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to authorize \$20,000 to be withdrawn from the Clough Morrell Fund and \$46,000 to be withdrawn from the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund to reimburse to the general fund for the \$66,000 partial payment to KPMB Enterprises for work on the Town Hall HVAC system and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

A question was posed to the Board regarding anonymous complaints, on whether the governing body wants to accept, acknowledge, and/or act upon them, ignore them, how to handle them. Liz Dionne stated not knowing the circumstances of the complaint, it could be a personal vendetta; she is looking for a consensus of the Board of how to act on them now and in the future. In Liz's experiences, if it was received and it had a criminal nature it would be turned over to the Police Department when it is a non-criminal nature she does not like to accept, acknowledge or act on it unless the person wants to come in privately to discuss. After a somewhat lengthy discussion on different scenarios i.e. safety vs. criminal, case-by-case basis. It was decided that it would depend on the complaint if it were related to the safety or it was criminal in nature you would act on it and it would be discussed.

The Board was asked about accepting an anonymous cash gift of \$500.00, which has been done annually for the Pearson Road Senior/Community Center. It is addressed differently year to year; depending on how it is addressed depends on where the money goes. This year it was addressed to the Pearson Road Community Center. A motion to accept this is necessary.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to accept the \$500.00 cash gift for the Pearson Road Community Center and to place it into the donation account used for that building and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Selectmen’s Committee Report**

Phil Wittmann met with the Old Home Week Committee who currently has only three (3) members. They talked about the planning of the booklet for the events. The meeting night will be changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. We have a need for new members with a couple of new people that have shown interest, one that can help tremendously with the booklet and the other with fundraising.

Lou LaCourse met with ZBA last month that had one item that passed. They are meeting again tomorrow night. On another note Lou spoke with Father Cole regarding holding future elections at their location he forwarded me on to the facilities manager; they are fine with pursuing voting at the church.

The Board members were in agreement that the facility needs to be considered and looked at with the appropriate parties involved. Liz Dionne will talk with the Moderator to see if he is interested in pursuing this and offered to go along to a meeting and will report back to the Board.

**Approval of Selectmen’s Minutes:**

December 19, 2016

Phil Wittmann made a motion to accept the minutes of Public Session I, December 19, 2016 as written and John Markland seconded. The vote was 4 approved; 1 abstention, Cydney Johnson.

Lou LaCourse made a motion to accept the minutes of Non Public Session, December 19, 2016 sealing item #2 and John Markland seconded. The vote was 4 approved; 1 abstention, Cydney Johnson.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

John Markland made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda dated January 4, 2017 as written and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**1. 2016 Abatements**

Paronich John & Robertha	88 Loon Cove Road	Map 49 Lot 34	\$538.00
Paronich John & Robertha	22 Boat Cove Road	Map 49 Lot 33	\$183.00
Goyette Leo & Cheryl	16 Roger Street	Map 54 Lot 9-1	\$434.00



**2. 2016 Administrative Abatement**

Godett Jill R	Elm Street	Map 65 Lot INT-004	\$187.00
Merrymeeting River MH Park	180 Windswept Rd	Map 9 Lot 14-31	\$14.00

**3. 2016 Land Use Change Tax**

Williams Scott & Penny	Frank C Gilman Hwy	Map 8 Lot 3-2	\$3,000
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**4. 2016 Disabled Exemption \$40,000 in value**

Bartholomew Thomas Pappa	50 Eagles Way	Map 6 Lot 1-22	\$40,000
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**Non-Public Session:**

Cydney Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (c) and (e) and John Markland seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

Non-Public Session was put on hold for Public Input II that was inadvertently skipped.

**Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person; subject matter - any Governmental/Town Business)**

Ray Howard approached the Board stating that in the past Ken Roberts use to do a letter in the Baysider or another town newspaper possibly called "highway happenings". He suggested that it might be a good thing to do a notice of some sort to the people regarding the situation of the snow being plowed into the sidewalks and streets; it is against the RSA and is dangerous. It would be a good reminder to people and it would get the word out on the street by putting something in the paper.

Cydney Johnson again made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (c) and (e) and John Markland seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary

