

**Alton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2007
ALTON TOWN HALL**

Convene

At 6:00pm, 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, Selectman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Alan Sherwood, Selectman
A. Pete Shibley, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Kenneth Roberts, Highway Agent

The Chairman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence.

Approval of the Agenda

P. Fuller motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

Announcements

It was noted the Town Offices would be closed in recognition of President's Day. Also a Public Hearing will be held on March 5, 2007 with regards to upgrading of roads at the request of St. Katherine Drexel church.

POWDER MILL ROAD

PUBLIC HEARING

Cris Blackstone opened the Public Hearing and noted it was for reconstruction of Powder Mill Road. Approximately 22 residents of Powder Mill Road were assembled. Also present was Kenneth Roberts, Highway Agent. K. Roberts explained to those present the Town would be performing the basic work on the road, this would be a savings of thousands of dollars, also that the property owners with questions could meet with him at any time with their concerns as the road work would not commence until after mud season. Residents asked about culverts, signage, drainage issues, impact on their wells, number of hours per day for roadwork, traffic control, driveway entrances, site views, stone walls, tree removal, grading and blasting, etc. K. Roberts assured them all this would be taken into consideration, he had personally observed the road from beginning to end and had viewed the properties and consulted with the engineer on this project. He continued this would be a two year project, after a year Pike Co., would come in and pave

the road. Other concerns raised were about change in Town procedures for rebuilding roads, K. Roberts advised during his tenure no roads have been rebuilt. He projected having the Town perform the work will save money in the long run. If this went out to bid costs would exceed two-million dollars. He continued this is a road he and his crew could work on, citing the difference of working on Chestnut Cove Road or Jesus Valley Road .

The Chairman noted this would conclude the Public Hearing, that the meeting would be adjourned for a 5-minute recess and also that those residents assembled and the Highway Agent could meet outside the meeting room to review a map of the road and discuss other issues.

At 6:45 C. Blackstone re-convened the meeting.

Board of Health Septic Waiver for Map 56, Lot 10

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn as Board of Selectmen and re-convene as Board of Health. Present, Thomas Varney, P.E. and the property owners. Following a review of the plans and discussion with T. Varney, the Chairman read the letter from the Health Officer/Code Official who recommended approval of the waiver request as this would be the best solution for the site of the septic tank and leach bed. P. Shibley motioned to approve, seconded by P. Fuller to approve the minimum setback distance as recommended and requested for this property, and passed with all in favor.

Adjourn as Board of Health, Reconvene as Board of Selectmen

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

Selectmen's Committee Reports

P. Fuller reported the ZBA had met February 1st, but she was unable to attend. She continued she had attended the Coalition Meeting on January 30th, and has information from that meeting that she will have for the Board. She advised 10-12 towns were represented out of 34 Coalition towns. She added there will be no donor towns for this tax year and perhaps no change in 2008. She noted Governor Lynch is supporting an amendment for 2008, but the concerns were that the Court may step in. HB912 – supports establishing a NH Homestead Plan with reference to setting tax rates for education and it exempts some valuation on a home, known as the Peterson Plan, but this will recreate the donor town system, the Coalition is not against the homestead exemptions but opposes the plan as proposed.

P. Fuller noted forums are being held statewide for educators, representatives, selectmen and others to define education advocacy. The forums will also be shown on websites. She will be discussing all these topics with our State representatives. Also, the Coalition will be looking for more funding.

A. Sherwood reported Town Planner advertisements are ongoing and some interviews have been conducted. The search committee is still working on this process.

P. Shibley reported work on the B&M R.R. Park will commence when there is warmer weather, but the Committee still meets to discuss fundraising efforts and obtaining grants.

S. McMahan advised he has no report at this time.

C. Blackstone stated the site walk scheduled by the Planning Board had been cancelled due to bad weather but unfortunately this message was not conveyed to those persons who had shown up.

Town Administrator Report

R. Bailey noted the Town has three vehicles ready for disposal. It was agreed to advertise these vehicles and to authorize the Town Administrator approval to proceed. It was also noted these vehicles could not be re-used. The vehicles are from the Police Department, Town Assessor vehicle, and the Building & Grounds truck.

R. Bailey explained about recycling shingles at the SWC, and recommended beginning written procedures for the public and advertising. He noted this demolition site will be ready by spring. Also large concrete blocks will be necessary for the area. Shingles will be put on a concrete pad. He noted return of aggregate takes about a month.

R. Bailey advised about state funding for an archive system. Once the audit is complete, he will put together an application for grants. A. Sherwood will serve a liaison for this project.

R. Bailey advised he had a request to use the Town Hall auditorium for a production of a play. He noted he would not recommend the stage area for this purpose. He will advise them about other localities. It was noted there are no railings on the stairs of the stage.

Public Input I

R. Messier asked about a former committee who had been involved with renovations to the auditorium and working on Town records with the former town clerk. Perhaps there is usable information available. R. Messier stated she would refuse the Town Historian position.

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R. Longabough spoke about editing tapes of Town Deliberative Session. P. Shibley noted this was out of order, this is not a dialog session, and should be an agenda item. C. Blackstone stated this matter came before the Board last year during Public Input and this should not be considered as dialog. R. Longabough continued this year's session lasted just over 3 hours. C. Blackstone advised consideration would be given to editing.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

Budget workshop minutes of February 5, 2007 – S. McMahon motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by P. Fuller and passed 4-1 (CB Abstained).

Public Session I, January 29, 2007 - P. Shibley noted changes to be made to page 4 in New Business to read as follows: In Items 5 & 6 in after the words "seconded by" in both Items 5 & 6 to read *A. Sherwood*. Also in Items 5 & 6 after the word "passed" to correct the vote to read *the motion passed 3-1 (PS abstained)*

In Item 7 to remove the words "the vote passed with one abstention (PS)" to read *the Board voted unanimously*".

In her Selectmen's Committee Report, P. Fuller made corrections as follows: Page 2, Para 1, to change the words "State House" to *Local Government Center* and in Old Business #2, make a correction "legislatures" to *legislators need to be more vocal* and after the words "Rep. Whalley" to add, *and Representative Janet Allen*.

A. Sherwood moved to approve the Public Session minutes as amended, and the Sealed Non-Public Session minutes of January 29, 2007, seconded by P. Fuller for discussion, the question was raised if Mr. McMahon had been present, the motion passed with one abstention (SM). The secretary will verify attendance for the record.

Secretary's Note: *To confirm: Selectman Stephan McMahon was not present at the Selectmen's Meeting of January 29, 2007.*

Old Business

1. Warrant/Budget/Election/ Status – R. Bailey explained the operating budget is set and the warrant is amended, in addition there is a housekeeping measure for the ballot relative to language, petition articles should be noted “by petition”. Those articles will not change otherwise, “by petition” will be added. Other corrections have been made, and the signature page and warrant needs to be reposted. The budget will reflect two changes, the highway truck and Beach Committee request. P. Shibley moved to approve the amended warrant and budget for posting as recommended and to sign the signature page, seconded by S. McMahon and passed with all in favor.

2. Computer System Upgrade Status – R. Bailey reviewed a memo with regards to the computer upgrades. Notably the fiber optic system has been installed at the Town Hall, a new server for the Police Station has been ordered, the mapping of the Town Hall and Police Station has been completed. Coming up will be the rewiring of the Town Hall and Police Station. Rewiring the Town Hall will take up some time. And the building will eventually have internet access for the public.

3. Ridgewood Subdivision Cistern Approval – R. Bailey advised the Town Attorney has signed off on the covenants of this subdivision, the Fire Chief has signed off on the cistern easement and location and the Planning Board will need to be notified of the Selectmen's review to know if the Board has approved any conditions. A. Sherwood moved that the Cistern Agreement and the Association Agreement are acceptable to the Selectmen, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor. R. Bailey will notify the Planning Board of the Board's decision. The road width no longer required a waiver as the 20 foot road with a 2 foot shoulder was now part of the approved road standard.

New Business

1. Vote on Items as Recommended by the Town Assessor – The Chairman read the items as presented. S. McMahon motioned to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by A. Sherwood and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Letter from NH DOT – Land Sale - R. Bailey noted the DOT was offering the land in the community as required by law for Map 38, Lot 22 and there are 30 days to respond. He did not see a value for the Town to purchase this parcel, the frontage is on Rte 11. R. Bailey will respond that the Town has no interest in purchasing this property.

At this point, P. Fuller motioned to send a letter to Commissioner Murray with regards to her assistance to Alton and to wish her well on her retirement, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor.

3. NH Electric Co-op Pole Petition – A. Sherwood motioned to approve the petition, as presented, seconded by S. McMahon for #2628 –T, Route 11-D and the motion passed with all in favor.

Public Input II

None

Non-Public Session – At 7:45pm Chairman Blackstone motioned to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II (a) (c) and (e) seconded by P. Fuller, C. Blackstone polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Town Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 5, 2007