

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
February 14, 2022
(Approved - 03/07/2022)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

V. MacDonald led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

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Virgil MacDonald, Chairman
Paul LaRochelle, Vice Chairman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

Announcements

- The Public Participation Police applies to all Selectmen meetings. A copy of it is on the back of each agenda, posted in this meeting room, and on our website.
- NOTICE - The Alton Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office will be closed on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 due to the Town/School Elections held at St. Katharine's Drexel Church
- Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2022 in observance of President's Day

Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)

Appointments

New Business

1. Fire Department- Locality Equipment Purchase Grant Program

James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, approached the table. J. Beaudoin states that there is a Grant available through the Governors Goffer Fund which will help go towards equipment. J. Beaudoin is looking to update the stretchers and the upgrade would be a self-loading system that loads the stretcher while a patient is on the stretcher. V. MacDonald is wondering what will have to be done to the ambulances to do this upgrade and J. Beaudoin states that there would be a center hook up for the stretcher to hook into which in the long run will eliminate tripping hazard for people in the ambulance.

B. Holt motions to allow James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, to apply for the \$50,000 Locality Equipment Purchase Grant and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

2. Highway Department - Sidewalk Winter Maintenance Equipment Purchase Approval

Scott Kinmond, Public Works Director, approached the table. The current piece of equipment which was purchased a little over 5 years ago for the sidewalk maintenance is not working well for this job. The sidewalks in the Town of Alton vary in sizes and width. Current equipment is a low flow hydraulic system which does not work well with slushy snow and works better with powdery snow, which is not helpful with the snow of this year. S. Kinmond states the current equipment is dangerous for the employees, due to the size of sidewalks and that the equipment itself is dangerous and that if not properly harnessed into the machine that you can get injured. S. Kinmond states that the machine that they are looking at which is the Wacker WL32 uni-loader which has proven to work well with other towns and that it is a high hydraulic blower. V. MacDonald is wondering if this machine will work well with our Towns sidewalks. S. Kinmond does state that this machine does have a tight fit on the sidewalks but this machine is able to crab walk in the tight areas. R. Wentworth states that he is wondering why S. Kinmond is going with the more expensive machine when the one that he is recommending is about \$92,000 and the Bobcat Loader is about \$47,000 and S. Kinmond states it's the hydraulics and that the Bobcat is the same hydraulics is the same as the machine that we have now. R. Wentworth states that he is worried that with the high hydraulic flow will damage residents or business properties and S. Kinmond states that he would like to have it blown in the street and then blown into a truck that can remove the snow completely and also states that a person has to properly be trained to use this machine.

S. Kinmond states that after talking with the Town Administrator that there are funds in the Capital Reserve Fund and that they could look into having funds come from the ARPA funds as well. R. Heath states that there is \$95,417 left of the first payment and that there was a project that was started before he became Town Administrator on Blueberry Lane in Alton. R. Heath does state that there is another payment coming mid-year that is a little over \$200,000. B. Mitchell is wondering if they are able to spend the money on this now and that there will be money in there for when the Blueberry Lane project comes around to be paid. R. Heath states yes there would be and that the Finance Director saw a seminar about the ARPA Funds and that they are opening these funds to more avenues.

R. Wentworth would like to have this issue go out to bid, stating that he would like to see what can be brought before them since the two options that were presented have such a large gap between the numbers. B. Mitchell states that with it going out to bid that they should be expected to see equipment in such a larger amount.

P. LaRochelle motions to have it to go out to bid for the Sidewalk Machine and R. Wentworth seconded with all in favor of motion.

3. Town Report Covers - Approval

The approvals requested are for the cover of the Town Report. Discussion took place on the submissions. By consensus the Board agreed to that cover #2 was the choice. Consensus to add "A Time to Reflect" for this year's motto.

Old Business

1. Planning Board, CIP, Master Plan Committees - Space Needs Review - Follow up

Jessica Call, Town Planner, approached the table. Here on behalf on the Planning Board Committee and she is here after they were able to review the Facility Committee would be appropriate. They feel that it would need the appropriate people for the committee, planner, budget, selectmen's rep. and would not to include have a planning and a zoning board on the committee. R. Wentworth would like to see 1 or 2 selectmen, planner, code enforcer, 2 public volunteers, Public Works Director and either the Police Chief or the Fire Chief. J. Call states that they would also like to bring in local contractors to be able to get information from them as well.

R. Wentworth motions that the Board of Selectmen create a Facilities Committee that will be run by the Town Planner, and will include 1 Selectmen, Public Works Director, Code Enforcer, 2 other members from the general public and 2 other members and that they will report back to the Board of Selectmen quarterly and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

2. Fire Department - Min/Max Adjustment

James Beaudoin, Fire Chief, approaches the table. R. Heath states that there was previous discussion on the reclassification of the Fire Department and that this was previously before he was the Town Administrator and that it is being brought back in front of the Board. J. Beaudoin states that this was brought back in August when the Captain position was made full-time and that this now places the pay over other classifications that now need to be increased as well. J. Beaudoin states that what his plan is to start with a new member with no certifications to start at \$16.00 and then with each certificate it will increase their pay. J. Beaudoin states that with this change it brings all the correct pay to the write areas. J. Beaudoin does state that this also includes a position named EMR (Emergency Medical Responder).

R. Wentworth motions to approve the new Fire Department Min/Max that is presented in the letter dated January 5, 2022 and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of motion.

Selectmen Reports

Reuben Wentworth states that the contract that was signed for the Town Administrator's position should be resigned since the one that was has "non-pub" in the upper corner.

Paul LaRochelle says thank you to the Public Works Department for the snow removal and keeping up with the winter weather as much as they have been able to.

B. Holt has nothing to add.

B. Mitchell has nothing to add.

V. MacDonald has nothing to add.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath states that there is a letter from NH DOT about the Sale of State Owned Land in Alton and that Matt Leahy from the Forestry Society has reached out and that they are looking to purchase the property off of Mount Major Highway and that they had spoken to the Board before about this property. R. Heath states that there intension to expand the parking lot for the Mount Major parking area. They are required to reach out to the Town to make sure that they have no interest in buying the property before they try to purchase.

V. MacDonald motions to allow NH DOT to sell the property to NH Forestry Society and that the Town has no interest and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of motion.

R. Heath states that the second item he has is the Septic Easement for Pop's Clam Shell and the easement was reviewed and that the board was in favor of the easement. R. Heath states that the easement will be across the street from Shibley's.

R. Wentworth motions to accept the easement from Jonathan Benton of 19 Sheridan Avenue, Rochester, NH and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

R. Heath mentions the update of the boiler system in the Town Hall and states that a contractor states that it was not the boiler and that it was the lines, but have discovered that the valves are on order and should be fixed in a day or two. R. Wentworth is wondering if there is actually any heat of downstairs and R. Heath mentions that there is only residual heat from the building.

Approval of Minutes

December 20, 2022 - Public Session

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021 Public Session and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of the motion.

December 20, 2022 - Non-Public Session

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021 Non-Public Session sealing #2 and divulging #1 and #3 and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

January 03, 2022 - Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of January 03, 2022 Public Session and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

January 03, 2022- Non-Public Session

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of January 03, 2022 Non-Public Session sealing #1-6 and P. LaRochelle seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (BH).

January 19, 2022 - Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 Public Session and B. Mitchell seconded with 3 in favor and 2 abstentions (BH, RW).

January 19, 2022 - Non-Public Session

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 Non-Public Session releasing #1 and sealing #2-5 and B. Mitchell seconded with 3 in favor and 2 abstentions (BH, RW).

Consent Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Solid Waste Department

Title Change - Facility Attendant II to Attendant/Assistant Director - Min/Max change - Min: \$19.00 and Max: \$25.00

2. Building Department

Secretary; Katherine Bowden, \$16.61 per hour, effective 01/31/2022

3. Assessing Department

Land Use Items - Approval

Administrative Abatements

Kee Realty Trust; Map 34 Lot 33-100; 67 Rand Hill Rd; \$181

Elderly Exemption (2022)

Stone; Map 6 Lot 1-12; 47 Eagles Way; \$40,000 (\$455 in 2022)

Veteran's Credit (2022)

Frucci; Map 18 Lot 29-26; 163 Dewitt Dr; \$750

4. Assessing Department

Land Use Items - approval

Land Use Change Taxes

Jones Trust; Map 15 Lot 31-C; Drew Hill Road; \$8,000
Hall; Map 15 Lot 60-11; Brynn Lane; \$10,000

Whelan; Map 8 Lot 3-10; Ingalls Terrace; \$7,500

Timber Taxes

Miramichie Hill LLC; Map 15 Lot 10; 53 Miramichie Hill Road; \$3,031.52
Everson; Map 10 Lots 13-1, 2, 11-1; Avery Hill Road; \$1,349.11

Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

Loring Carr, approaches the table. L. Carr states that he is not happy that at the beginning of the Deliberative Session that they did not have a State of the Town Report, which was spoken at the beginning of the meeting, with accomplishes and what's going on within the Town. L. Carr is happy with the Facilities Committee and is a great resource.

Kenneth Roberts, approaches the table. K. Roberts that with the plans for the septic easement that with all the work that he did in Alton Bay when he was Highway Director that he wanted to make sure that there is a vault in that area. V. MacDonald mentions that he can look at the plans to make sure that they are not in that area.

Non-Public Session

V. MacDonald moved at 7:07 pm to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (employee matters), b (hiring), c (Reputation), and e (Litigation) P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - **yes** B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 7:07 pm Chair MacDonald convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

- V. MacDonald, Chairman
- P. LaRochelle, Vice Chairman
- B. Mitchell, Selectmen
- R. Wentworth, Selectmen
- R. Holt, Selectmen
- R. Heath, Interim Town Administrator
- Deputy Police Chief T. MacDougall

V. MacDonald moved at 7:59 pm to exit nonpublic session. R. Wentworth seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - Yes
R. Holt - **Yes** B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

V. MacDonald moved to 'not divulge' the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - **yes** B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

Public Session:

V. MacDonald motioned to appoint Todd MacDougall as the new Police Chief and excepting his terms and conditions as presented with the exception of item #7 (working extra details and grant funded shifts). P. LaRochelle seconded. **Motion Carried**

The board reviewed a draft selectmen's report for the town book, all members were in favor of using the report as written.

Adjournment

V. MacDonald moved at 8:02 pm to adjourn. R. Wentworth seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Shannon L. Hart
Recording Secretary