

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
March 1, 2021
(Approved - March 15, 2021)

Chairman R. Wentworth convened the meeting at 6:02 PM.

R. Wentworth announced the following:

Until Further Notice: To keep our members and staff safe, and to comply with RSA 91-A, the State of Emergency, and Governor's Orders, restrictions on public gatherings, The Town of Alton is moving from "in-person" meetings to "remote audio participation meetings". To remotely attend the meeting (audio only) visit our website: www.alton.nh.gov for telephone access and remote access instructions listed under News and Announcements on the home page or telephone the Selectmen's Office 603-875-2113 or 603-875-0229 between 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM for the Dial-in Code and Meeting ID for each Selectmen's Meeting.

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

Reuben Wentworth, Chairman
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman, Excused Absence
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
Paul LaRochelle, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator
Laura Parker, Finance Manager

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted and P. Wittmann seconded.

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Announcements

- The Town Clerk/Tax Collector Office will be closed on Tuesday, March 9th for Town/School Elections which will be held at St. Katharine Drexel Church (lower level), Hidden Springs Road from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Submission of Public Comments - Questions - Concerns

None

Public Hearing - 6:20 pm

P. Wittmann made a motion to recess the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing and P. LaRochelle seconded.

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, yes R. Wentworth, yes

- Water Department - Water Use Ordinance

C. Mitchell, Water Superintendent, remotely joined the meeting. C. Mitchell stated some of the things that were adopted in the past are outdated. Simple things such as the type of pipe used, the way fittings and service lines are put together have changed. Basically the new ordinance is a complete re-vamp of the original ordinance. The idea behind it is the same. It goes more in depth to the definitions of the water use and rules and regulations. More in-depth with the definitions. The original one had seven definitions and the new ordinance goes more in depth as to what the Water Department recommends as far as safe ways to operate the system and how rules can be implemented. It ensures things can be done in a safe manner to protect the public water system. It explains how the service connections work. How the billing works. C. Mitchell highlights some of the changes that are in

the new ordinance. She asked the Board if they had any questions. R. Wentworth stated that he read through the new ordinance and agrees with it. B. Holt asked what it means if someone does something wrong. Can they be fined. C. Mitchell stated that the way this ordinance is written it is \$100.00 for the violation.

B. Holt made a motion to accept the Water Use Ordinance as submitted on March 1, 2021 and P. LaRochelle seconded.

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, yes R. Wentworth, yes

R. Wentworth closed the Public Hearing at 6:37 PM.

The regular meeting commenced.

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Milfoil - 2021 DES Milfoil Grant Application

D. Gould remotely joined the meeting. K. Troendle remotely joined the meeting. She stated that this is the standard grant application. It is a 40 % match this year which is what it was last year. D. Gould stated this is the regular thing done every year.

B. Holt made a motion to approve the grant application for Milfoil in the amount of \$15,793.00 P. Wittmann seconded.

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, yes R. Wentworth, yes

2. Hurd Brook Project - Permission to Access, Map 15 Lot 49, 18 Hidden Springs Road

R. Wentworth expressed his concern with putting trees into the water. J. DeStasio remotely joined the meeting. He explained that he works for "Trout Unlimited". He went over the concerns of R. Wentworth. He explained that it would prevent nutrient influxes downstream. The wood that is being added is not a significant source input of phosphorous. B. Holt asked what the cost of the project is and where is the money coming from. J. DeStasio stated that a majority of the money comes from the Moose plate program. D. Happ remotely joined the meeting. She stated there is no cost to the Town of Alton. The cost is about \$25,000.00 per mile. The large wood additions slow storm water they also help catch excess sediment and nutrients that would otherwise be flowing into the lake.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve Trout Unlimited access to Map 15 Lot 49, 18 Hidden Springs Road to complete 1.7 miles and R. Wentworth seconded.

B. Holt, no P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, yes R. Wentworth, yes

3. Heidke Caregiver Wage Discussion

R. Wentworth stated that in their booklets the Board will find all the information that was requested on the Heidke Caregiver position. He did state that he did not see the position listed on the Min./Max. wage chart. L. Dionne stated that the chart was included for comparison and the Heidke Caregiver position is not a Town employee. It is a Trust Fund employee. B. Holt asked if there was an applicant and if the wage was a problem then. L. Dionne stated that it wasn't. She stated that the whole issue was brought up by Selectman MacDonald. R. Wentworth asked if they were getting paid for mileage. L. Dionne believes they do not. R. Wentworth would like the Board to look at this for the next week and then bring it back up. B. Holt asked how many Caregivers we have right now. L. Dionne stated that we have one and one that stopped coming to work when the State of

Emergency occurred. P. LaRochelle feels that if the wage is not increased then mileage should at least be added. R. Wentworth would like it brought back next week.

Old Business:

1. Bay Hill Road Signage Discussion

R. Wentworth read aloud a memo from the Police Chief in reference to Bay Hill Road. P LaRochelle stated that there are far less accidents year round compared to January, February, March and December months. He feels there should be some sort of signage reminding people that it is not a through road. He stated that the statistics are good but are not accurate. There are a lot of accidents that do not get reported. B. Holt stated that he agrees with P. LaRochelle on certain things. B. Holt feels that there should be a traffic count on the road. P. LaRochelle stated there should be a temporary sign of "Seek Alternate Route" with a flashing light. R. Heath, Police Chief, and K. Roberts, Highway Manager remotely joined the meeting. R. Heath stated that the main thing that needs to be looked at is what they are trying to do is change behavior. He doesn't think there will be any change in behavior if they put temporary signs up. He is not in favor of a temporary signage because he doesn't think it is going to affect people or the change that they are looking for. He stated that something like "Closed to Through Traffic" is easier to enforce. There is another option to consider. You could change the verbiage to "Not Suitable for Inclement Weather". He recommends at both ends. P. LaRochelle asked if the "6 Ton Weight Limit" signs are temporary. R. Heath stated that the spring posting of roads done by K. Roberts are temporary during mud season. P. LaRochelle stated that those work. R. Wentworth asked if you could put "Closed October 2 to April 30". That is not temporary but seasonal. Just like the Winter Parking Ban. R. Heath stated that would work too. P. LaRochelle stated that they do have signs at the bottom and top of the hill showing an incline or decline. They still have trucks constantly going up and down the hill. R. Heath said you can't stop trucks doing local deliveries. K. Roberts stated that the State put up a sign at the bottom of Bay Hill Road. He thought it was for Route 28A. R. Heath will make it a point to go out and look at the signs. B. Holt mentioned that if that sign is for Route 28A then they will go up Bay Hill Road if it means no through trucks. R. Wentworth stated that if it is the sign he is thinking of it is there for the tractor trailers going on Route 28A. He doesn't recall anything being put on Bay Hill Road for no through trucking. B. Holt stated that if they were interested in putting signs up for Route 28A then they should be interested in putting signs up on Bay Hill Road. He stated that this has been talked about since he has been a Selectman for over a year. P. LaRochelle stated that he has witnessed it for 20 years, people coming down the hill and getting into accidents in the snow. R. Wentworth stated that he has no issue putting up signs that have dates on them. P. LaRochelle doesn't feel putting up a sign that says "Road Closed" is the answer. R. Wentworth stated that this subject will be tabled until next week. He would like the Board to think about what type of sign they want and bring it back. R. Heath stated that a sign for inclement weather would be a cautionary sign and would not be enforced. B. Holt feels that would be a sign that means absolutely nothing.

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2. Discipline, Grievance, Complaint & Appeal Policy

R. Wentworth stated that L. Parker went back through the policy. They are some words changes that need to be made. He would like the Board to look at it and bring it back next week.

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Selectmen Reports

B. Holt has nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that the Ice Runway had a short two-week season. There were approximately 125 planes on the first Saturday and 118 planes on Sunday. There were no incidents. Over 300 aircraft came into Alton in two weeks.

P. Wittmann has nothing to report.

R. Wentworth stated that he would like people to know that the Warrant Article for the boat is not a regular Fire Boat. This is to transport firemen and medical personnel and bring back people who need medical attention. It's not a family boat to go out and cruise on.

Town Administrator Report

L. Dionne stated that there is a document in the binders. It is a document that explains what the New Hampshire Municipal Association does for the Town. It is a flyer with all the services that they provide. R. Wentworth would like the Board to review it and if there are any questions to call the Town Administrator.

L. Dionne stated that at the last meeting she brought an email from the Town of Gilford in regards to Atlantic Broadband and renewing their contract. She does not have the cost if they joined the other area communities in the 10-year renewal of the contract. There is an email in the binder from the Town of Gilford that they do not know how much it is going to be. They do know that everyone will be saving some taxpayer funds by paying collectively. She asked the Board if they would like to participate in this group negotiation of the Atlantic Broadband contract. B. Holt asked if the Town of Alton does not approve the contract what would happen. L. Dionne stated that means we would be on our own to re-negotiate the contract and she would bring information to the Board on the law firm that does it.

L. Dionne recommends that the Board joins the Town of Gilford for the negotiations with Atlantic Broadband. The issue will be brought back next week to see what consequences there are if the contract is not renewed.

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Approval of Minutes

February 1, 2021 - Non-Public

Discussion:

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Consent Agenda Approval

B. Holt made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded.

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Solar Exemption

P. Smith 2010 Rev. Trust; 304 Woodlands Road; Map 57 Lot 9; \$9,075

Timber Tax

Doris Eley-Sigler; Drew Hill Road; Map 15 Lot 74; \$2,888.26

Marlene Meinelt; L/O Davis Road; Map 7 Lot 15; \$7,297.63

Administrative Abatement

Dennis Ducharme; 38 Locomotive Dr; Map 65 Lot 17-38; \$43

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

None

Non-Public Session

R. Holt moved at 7:46pm to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3,II,b,c,e. P. LaRochelle seconded.

Roll call vote:

P. Wittmann - yes
R. Holt - yes

P. LaRochelle - yes
Roll call vote carried unanimously

R. Wentworth - yes

P. Wittmann moved at 9:11pm to exit nonpublic session. P. Larochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

P. Wittmann - yes
R. Holt - yes

P. LaRochelle - yes
Roll call vote carried unanimously

R. Wentworth - yes

P. Wittmann 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 and render the proposed action of the board ineffective. R. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

P. Wittmann - yes
R. Holt - yes

P. LaRochelle - yes
Roll call vote carried unanimously

R. Wentworth - yes

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 9:12pm to adjourn. R. Holt seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Stacy L. Bailey

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary