

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

Public Session I

March 2, 2015

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

**Approved: March 16, 2015**

R. Loring Carr 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:

R. Loring Carr, Chairman  
Marc DeCoff, Vice Chairman  
Cydney Johnson, Selectman  
Lou LaCourse, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

David Hussey, Selectman was absent

**Approval of the Agenda**

E. Russell Bailey requested adding under Old Business #4, Milfoil Grant; under New Business #6 Highway Gasoline Tank and #7 Grant for Canine Vest.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Appointments:** None

**Announcements:**

- Elections are scheduled for March 10, 2015 at PMHS Auditorium from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- The Road Reconstruction materials are available to view on the town website or they may be picked up at the Town Hall.
- Beginning March 20<sup>th</sup>, MetroCast will no longer be transmitting LRPA programming on cable channels 24, 25 & 26 for local viewing.
- A rabies clinic will be held on April 11, 2015 at the Alton Central Fire Station, 65 Frank C. Gilman Highway from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM; the cost is \$15.00 per shot, dog licenses are available for Alton residents only.

Cydney Johnson wanted it clarified that the Board of Selectmen meetings are still available on the town's website for viewing and the DVD is available at the Library.

## Selectmen's Committee Report

Lou LaCourse reported that the Budget Committee had met and the ZBA will be meeting Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

R. Loring Carr reported that the Old Home Week Committee had met; a draft pamphlet was provided to the Board for their review. Any questions can be answered at the next Board meeting.

## Town Administrator's Report and Updates by E. Russell Bailey

1. Alton Community Services has requested being added as a link to the town website. Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve adding the link to our website for Alton Community Services and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
2. There was a question at the last meeting regarding the tent being purchased and possible insurance issue for the Senior Center; this is to inform the Board that there are no issues with insurance as it would fall under the town's normal coverage.
3. A letter and survey was received from Lakes Region Planning Commission. Each region puts together a list of roads that take first priority. Ken McWilliams will review, fill out the information, as the representative to that Board who sits in on their discussions, it will be brought back to the Board before submission to them for recommendations to the state. This is used for the ten (10) year plan.
4. A letter was received from White Mountain Kettle Corn thanking the town for working with them in the past as a vendor in the spaces down in the Bay.
5. A question for the Board has been brought forward in reference to application of policy regarding mailboxes getting hit during the winter plow season. The general policy has been: if it is due to snow damage, we are not responsible but if a mailbox is knocked over or physically hit by us we replace or repair the box. We currently have a box which is in the middle, we believe that we hit it but the box was covered with snow and it seemed that it was not being used. It usually is less than \$100.00 for repairs. Cydney Johnson made a motion to replace the mailbox and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 opposed, R. Loring Carr. A discussion transpired regarding the policy in reference to replacement of the boxes. It was noted that the policy is already set; the box would be replaced if we hit it with exceptions being looked at on a case by case basis.
6. We have received word from the state requesting that by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 all towns need to set up a new network through our internet system to connect to the state for vehicle registrations. These changes need to be made for security purposes and it will be done through our IT person.
7. In speaking with Kathy Oblenes, (it is on their agenda tonight), the school wants to go out to bid again on oil, to get better pricing due to the market being down. The bids are currently based on fixed pricing around \$3.00 a

gallon, they are not based on “rack plus” (from the supplier) if the prices skyrocket you pay a higher price. There is a consortium that is out there who went out to bid recently.

8. A memo was received from DOT, District 3 with a list of plans for resurfacing under the betterment plan. The only item for Alton is the Mt. Major parking lot; the plan is to repave and expand the parking area. This is not part of the 10 year plan. R. Loring Carr made a motion to write letter to the District 3, District Engineer asking that Main Street in Alton be paved from the circle down to the Alton Bay Bridge and drop the Mt. Major plan and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## **Public Input I**

None

## **Approval of Selectmen’s Minutes**

### **February 3, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, February 3, 2015 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session, February 3, 2015 opening 1, 2, 4 & 6 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, February 3, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **February 4, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session I, February 4, 2015 opening 1, 2, & 3 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **February 9, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session, February 9, 2015 and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, Lou LaCourse.

## **Old Business:**

### Review 2015 Warrant/Budget

E. Russell Bailey would like to emphasize that the major issue before the voters is Article 11 for the bond issue. In order to maintain and go forward on the road reconstruction we would ask for support on the bond issue. We need a 3/5 vote for this to pass. Information is available on our website for the public. The list of roads is a guide and will be reviewed before hand for priorities.

R. Loring Carr noted that there seems to be some mis-information on Article 22, the Operating Budget. This Article is 1.45% lower this year than it was last year. We really held the line down this year on the Budget.

#### Sidewalk Plow Machine ~ Sander

There is a need to look at something to use on the sidewalks for sanding. If we need to sand the sidewalks we have nothing; we take a truck, drive alongside of the sidewalks and use shovels. We have 18K in the Grounds and Building Equipment account and would like the Board to pursue obtaining something. R. Loring Carr mentioned a tailgate spreader on a pickup truck. All the information was sent to the town mechanic for his input but he has not given any input yet. The season is nearing an end so we will wait to hear back from the mechanic. This will be brought back to the Board at a later date for consideration to get something for next year.

#### Request for 2 Handicap Parking Signs

The Police Department and Highway Department are in agreement that these signs are necessary. These are currently marked on the ground; based upon approval, the Highway Department would install them.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the request for installing the two (2) handicap signs at the Alton Central School parking area across from the bus loop and Marc DeCoff seconded. R. Loring Carr amended the motion to be sure that the signs are moved back further on the road due to snow being pushed back. The vote was 3 approved, 0 opposed and 1 abstention, Lou LaCourse.

#### Milfoil Grant

This is the annual grant for milfoil. The herbicide is \$18,810.00 with a grant of \$4,702.00. The Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting is \$13,875.00 with a grant of \$3,469.00. The Board was asked to file the application and approve the acceptance of the grant and authorize E. Russell Bailey to sign the grant and R. Loring Carr to sign the authorization form.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to accept the Milfoil Grant as presented and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### **New Business:**

## Land Use Items as recommended by the Town Assessor

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2014 Abatement request for a total amount of \$5,569.00 for Map 36 Lot 45; Map 65 Lot 58; Map 64 Lot 7; Map 43 Lot 16; Map 2A Lot 17; Map 64 Lot 1-1; Map 68 Lot 5; Map 69 Lot 1 and Map 69 Lot 2 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2014 Current Use Penalty for Map 58 Lot 5 in the amount of \$18,320.00 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2014 Abatement Denial for Map 36 Lot 45-B and Map 29 Lot 71 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2014 Elderly Exemptions for Map 10 Lot 25-1 and Map 29 Lot 71 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2014 Administrative Abatements for a total of \$141.00 for Map 9 Lot 14-107; Map 9 Lot 14-23; Map 9 Lot 14-63; Map 9 Lot 14-14 and Map 9 Lot 14-55 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Alton Housing for the Elderly

This is the annual agreement for the Alton Housing for the Elderly. This was originally agreed upon back in the 1990's. They are to be taxed based on the town portion of taxes; this year's amount is \$4,965.35 with a property value of \$1,289,700.00.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Pole Petition, Route 11D

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the Pole Petition for Route 11D, License #3593 as presented and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Tax Deeds

E. Russell Bailey is requesting the acceptance of the tax deeds for properties that have defaulted in paying their taxes. There has been no response and no payments well beyond the 3½ year timeframe. All properties have houses on them; one (1) is believed to be occupied; we have pursued making contact with whoever is there. The Town Attorney has been consulted stating that we need to proceed; there is a procedure for notification which will be followed, we will give them legal notice effective tomorrow and we will notify our insurance company. We need to take the properties in order to start legal proceedings. R. Loring Carr voiced concerns of being

a landlord. The process takes roughly 60-90 days and the sooner it is done, the better. There has been no response to the notifications.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve for tax deeding for 192 Main Street, Map 0029 Lot 0054, 36 Scott Drive, Book 0072 Map 0076; 15 Bender Lane, Map 0015 Lot 0021-001 and 7 Bender Lane, Map 0015 Lot 0021-001-0001 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Review Town Website Format

The goal is to have the new website finalized in the next two (2) months. Joshua Monaco will present to the Board for viewing the new proposed website at a meeting sometime in the next 30-40 days. Also, we are looking at using a company to load the videos. We do it ourselves on our server now, it does work but it is not the easiest and not as user friendly as it could be this would make it much more efficient. The first fifty (50) videos are free then there is a fee of \$25.00 a month. We do have money in the PEG account within the budget. It would be live streamed and much easier to use and view. We are still looking into this and will bring it back to the Board.

### Highway Gasoline Tank

An inspection on the highway gasoline tank was done; it didn't pass this inspection. There are several issues; we have contacted four (4) different companies for quotes in reference to doing the repairs; if necessary we will remove the tank. We don't use the tank very often as it is an emergency backup, we use the state DOT tank system as they usually have a better price. This needs to be addressed and the possibility of getting a smaller tank was brought forth that way it would not fall under these regulations. We would like to get pricing with different options and costs which will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

### Canine Vest

There is a non profit group, Vested Interest in K9s; that would provide a vest specially fitted for Siren, our K9 dog at no cost to the town. We would like to pursue this grant but there is no guarantee we will get it. The attached strings are agreeing to disseminate two (2) press releases.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to apply for the grant allowing the Chief to sign and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## **Public Input II**

Barbara Howard approached the Board and posed a question in reference to whether the Town Attorney had been consulted prior to having people removed from a meeting during Public Input; Ms. Howard specifically referred to Jeffrey Clay being taken out of the last meeting. R. Loring Carr responded with "no" and Lou LaCourse

wanted it corrected “that he was not taken out of the meeting in handcuffs”. Ms. Howard corrected herself stating that “then, he was escorted out”.

Ms. Howard also questioned if there would be a new assessment done on all the properties within town; usually  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the town is done each year. She elaborated further stating “that with the actions of this Board and what’s going on with the School Board and other various things in town, I think our property values have been grossly deflated and I can’t imagine anybody wanting to come into this town to live. So, you might want to consider that before you have people escorted out”.

**Non-Public Session:**

R. Loring Carr made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II (a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims/litigation and Marc DeCoff seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary