

**Alton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2007
Public Session I
Alton Town Hall**

At 6:00pm, Chairman Blackstone convened the meeting of the Selectmen, those present including the following members of the Board and staff:

Cris Blackstone, Chairman
Stephan McMahon, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Alan Sherwood, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Convene

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

Approval of the Agenda

A. Sherwood amended the agenda in New Business to add Item #5 (corrected to #6) in as "Location of Disciplinary Hearing" P. Fuller motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with 1 abstention(CB)

**Public Hearing
Roads at St. Katherine-Drexel Church**

C. Blackstone noted the Public Hearing is to consider the petition to accept Bridgid's Way and the Class 6 extension of Hidden Springs Road as Class V Town-maintained roads. The Board met with Steven Wood, Facilities Director of St. Katherines' and Clerk of the Works during the construction process. Also present was Paul Harrington, the real estate Secretary for the Diocese of Manchester and who handles real estate for the Diocese in the State of New Hampshire. Mr. Wood and Mr. Harrington both described how their work on these roads had met the Road Standards in accordance with the previous Town Planner and the Highway Agent and they were led to believe by meeting the requirements and specifications, the roads would be accepted as Class V roads including Bridget's Way. In a discussion, the Board noted there was lack of density on Bridget's Way. Work was done in the event of development, but there was no intent to take over the road at the time it was brought up to Class V standards

The Chairman opened the hearing to Public Input. Being none, she closed Public Input.

A. Sherwood motioned to accept Hidden Springs Road as a Class V Town- maintained road to include the previous Class 6 section as upgraded to Class V standards but the decision on Bridgets Way will be set aside until such future time when there is further development on that road, seconded by P. Fuller and passed unanimously. R. Bailey advised he would research the road bond being released and then contact Mr. Wood.

Appointment

The Board met with David Tower, President of Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro and Jodie Blant, VP of Physicians Services for Huggins Hospital. D. Tower and J. Blant discussed the Hospital expansion and various services provided by the Hospital currently being implemented to meet the needs of surrounding communities such as Alton. They noted the need for input and communications from Towns using Huggins Hospital. Also discussed was the possibility of a clinic in Alton, and a High School nursing program. They will continue to be involved and working with the Town departments as their services expand.

At this point, the Chairman changed the agenda format

Public Input I

The Chair recognized Alan Bald. A. Bald made a brief statement concerning a disciplinary hearing and legal fees and effects on taxpayers and stated the only winners would be attorneys, he asked the Selectmen to reconsider.

C. Blackstone recognized R. Longabaugh. R. Longabough advised he and Mr. Fuller were utilizing the new camera proved by Metrocast. And also were using a backup camera during the taping this evening, as they were still learning how to operate the new camera effectively.

R. Longabaugh suggested that two of the selectmen recuse themselves from the proceedings against Lt. Ed Corriea. It should not be this Board spending thousands of dollars in legal fees when the next Board might have a different vote after the elections, he urged this Board to invite everyone on the ballot to come to the hearing and hear testimony and defer any action until after the election.

The Chair recognized Dawn Brooks who expressed her feelings about the hearing including place and timing of the disciplinary hearing to keep the public out.. She continued witnesses are afraid of retaliation, if they speak the truth they should have nothing to fear. She did not understand why fear was so prevalent in this Town.

The Chair recognized Maybee Longabaugh. M. Longabaugh suggested when interviewing for a top position, that during the interview process there should be a "real search committee" to include townspeople not just Selectmen, and persons working in the department involved. What is needed is to have a true search committee as done by colleges and the final results will be presented to the Selectmen to make a choice. She would like to see more Town input, and suggested that when hiring a Planning Director for instance, a person who has been in planning, such as her husband who is a certified planner, could be on the search committee.

M. Longabaugh added that with the timing for the hearing on March 7th 2007, she stated she is dis-infranchised, as she is committed to be elsewhere during the day and unable to be back in time. She suggested that two Selectmen should recuse themselves from the hearing.

Selectmen's Committee Reports

A. Sherwood noted his participation in the Belknap Mountain Range Committee along with representatives from towns in other communities, including Gilmanston, Gilford and Belmont. Also on the committee are personnel from the University of NH Co-Op Extension Service, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, The Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and others and that the next meeting will be on March 12th at the Gilman Museum. They are working on a mission statement and organization. The intent is preserving land within the Belknap range. And he read a portion of minutes that certain landowners had donated their land. It is hopeful that more property owners would donate land. As of now 12-14 persons are on the Committee. They are researching examples as to how other similar organizations are organized.

He had attended an Alton Conservation Commission, their next meeting is scheduled for the 8th.

P. Fuller reported the ZBA had met, she was unable to attend. With regards to education funding, approximately 15 bills are before the Legislature and another possible 25 to 30 bills. Forums are ongoing defining adequacy, one is being held in Dover this evening, tapes are available for viewing on computer. At the statehouse the various house committees are retaining Education Funding Bills of all varieties rather than passing or killing them which is unusual. Sub-Committees have been chosen to review the many bills filed to define adequacy and to make recommendations to a full committee. Pat Remick will be monitoring this situation. She stated a broadbased tax may be necessary because of the Court's actions or we go back to being one of the donor towns.

S.McMahon stated he did not have a report at this time.

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C. Blackstone reported the Lakes Region Planning Commission had a meeting she attended with regards to persons who had farms and ways for them to receive tax-relief and earn money in different ways and maybe revitalize or rekindle an interest in farms. She noted barn easements had been given in Alton, these owners are allowed to carry on with other allowed activity on their property. Shoreline protection was also reviewed. And to think about the future of Alton.

Town Administrator Report

R. Bailey noted he had provided notices for the Board with regards to the Lakes Region Planning Commission and relative to the Transportation Committee for this region, they need comments on two main projects affecting Alton, these road projects concern 28S and Rte 11 in West Alton. The Board agreed these two roads are still high priority and should not be pushed out of the 10-year plan. R. Bailey will respond. S. McMahon stated other tourist areas and roads receive much more attention. The Board noted Commissioner Murray did make some progress. R. Bailey advised this problem is not just in our Town.

S. McMahon also noted the increase of traffic through Alton and the Bay.

R. Bailey noted the Highway Agent posted the weight limits on the roads, effective March 9th.

R. Bailey continued tree cutting bids had been received for Powder Mill Road. The bids were reviewed, six bids had been received. The Highway Agent recommended the award go to Waterman Tree Service. R. Bailey noted the Highway Agent wanted to move forward on this in anticipation of road reconstruction, P. Fuller motioned to award the bid to Waterman Tree Service for the amount of \$18,000, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey handed the Board members copies of a letter from the Christian Conference Center concerning moving a sign and illuminating it. He continued the existing sign is on Town Property. This will be researched and put on the next agenda. The Board asked that more information be provided. R. Bailey will provide a layout. C. Blackstone would like to know about the impact on roads. R. Bailey will get input from the Police Department.

R. Bailey noted the letter to the recently retired NH DOT Commissioner, Carol Murray has been prepared for the Board's signatures. S. McMahon read it aloud for the record.

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Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

A. Sherwood motioned to approve the minutes as presented for Public Session I & II including the Sealed Non-Public Session Minutes of February 12, 2007, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Employee ID System – R. Bailey advised he would be working on providing ID's for all employees. These employee ID tags could be made "in house" as the Police Department has the equipment to make them up. He would have more specifics at the next meeting.
2. Milfoil Grant – R. Bailey advised the contract for the Milfoil Grant is signed, but has not been mailed pending final approval from the Board. The grant is approved for \$2600.00. The potential cost could exceed \$5200.00, the Town has \$500 in the Grounds and Maintenance Budget, and R. Bailey also advised the Contingency Fund may have to be utilized. P. Fuller motioned to approve the contract with Lycott, seconded by C. Blackstone and the motion passed with all in favor.
3. Contract – Engineer Landfill Program/Contamination Monitoring – R. Bailey reported that 3 monitoring wells are situated on private property, the manganese issue is ongoing, this contract is for the expense for the Engineers, and is not to exceed \$5800, P. Fuller motioned to approve the contract, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor, funding comes from the Landfill Closure Capitol Reserve Account.
4. Purchase Order Policy – R. Bailey advised he is still reviewing financial controls that would not overburden departments and he will bring this matter before the Board again.

New Business

1. City of Dover Letter – R. Bailey noted this is in reference to the retirement system for municipal employees. The Board agreed this should be pursued, P. Fuller will contact our representatives on this issue.
2. Safe Routes to School Program – R. Bailey advised he would contact the SAU about this program and come back to the Board on a future agenda. There is a survey form, and also the Town would have to consider building sidewalks, etc. And is geared towards the elementary schools. C. Blackstone noted perhaps K. Troendle would have some input on this. Networking would be valuable.

3. Vote on Items as Recommended by the Town Assessor - A. Sherwood motioned to approve the items as submitted by the Town Assessor and to sign the documents accordingly, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.
4. Request – to display Alton Central School Student Art Work at the Town Hall – The Board voted unanimously to grant permission for the Art Display, conditional that the murals will not be covered.
5. Alton Bay Parking Lot – Recommendations concerning the traveled way at the Pavilion Site - R. Bailey advised the owner of the Pavilion has requested fencing off the parking lot in front of the demolition site, they reviewed the recommendations of the Highway Agent and Code Official. P. Fuller motioned to approve the request based on no issues from the Fire Chief and Police Department. The motion was discussed, and a time frame was reviewed and it was agreed that the fencing should be removed by May 14th. P. Fuller amended her motion to include that the area to be contained until May 14th, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed on a 3-1 vote (SM)
6. Disciplinary Hearing - A. Sherwood noted the Town Attorney had advised that the Board rule on a motion relative to the hearing which is to change the location and an objection to motion. A. Sherwood motioned to deny the motion as presented and the Hearing would take place in the Town Hall as scheduled, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with one abstention (CB).

Public Input II

Chairman Blackstone recognized Greg Fuller. G. Fuller suggested that the Town may want to review a State bid when purchasing trucks as it may be cheaper. He also noted the meeting had been filmed with the new Town camera.

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Non-Public Session

At 7:30pm, C. Blackstone moved to enter in non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II (a) (c) (e) following a 5-minute recess, the motion was seconded and the Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 26, 2007