

**Alton Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2009 –Public Session 1  
Alton Town Hall**

At approximately 6:08pm, Chairman McMahon convened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen, present were the following members of the Board and staff:

Stephan McMahon, Chairman  
Peter Bolster, Vice-Chair  
Patricia Fuller, Selectman  
R. Loring Carr, Selectman  
David Hussey, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

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

**Approval of the Agenda** – The Agenda was amended to table Item #2 in Old Business and Item #2 in New Business, and to add Item #5 to New Business – regarding the Twombly Property. P. Fuller motioned to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by David Hussey and passed with all in favor.

**Announcements** – The Chairman thanked the voters for re-electing him to office and he also acknowledged David Hussey the newly elected Selectman who will serve for two years. P. Fuller expressed her appreciation to the voters. The Board members expressed their appreciation to Russell Bailey for his efforts on the budget and deliberative session.

**Reorganization of the Board :**

Nominations were made and the Board voted as follows:

Chairman – Stephan McMahon

Vice-Chair -Peter Bolster

**Appointments to Committees as follows:**

Planning Board – David Hussey

Budget Committee – Loring Carr and (alternate) Stephan McMahon

Parks and Recreation – Loring Carr

Conservation Commission – Peter Bolster

NH Coalition – Patricia Fuller

ZBA Liaison - Patricia Fuller

L.R.P.C. - Thomas Hoopes

Household Hazardous Waste Committee – Stephan McMahon

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Peter Bolster

B.C.E.D.C. – Patricia Fuller

Fire Department - Patricia Fuller (alternate) S. McMahon

School Liaison – Peter Bolster

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Members discussed representative to other organizations but agreed no appointment would be needed but to perhaps attend in an unofficial matter.

L. Carr asked for the definition and role of a liaison. It was agreed to discuss this matter during Item #5 of New Business.

### **Selectmen's Committee Reports**

D. Hussey provided a report on the activities of the Planning Board, he advised the Board had met with representatives of Brewster Academy with reference to property on Roberts Cove Road and noted this matter was referred to the ZBA, Huggins Hospital received the go ahead to present their engineering specs. and coming up is the wind ordinance committee, class 6 roads and the review of fire ponds and water hydrants.

P. Bolster provided an update as to the moving and re-location of the Loon Cove station to the B&M R.R. Park, the Committee expects that all will be in readiness for the move within a month. The Committee is working on the final design for the plaza . He clarified a headline in the news regarding B.E.D.C.E

Loring Carr had no report at this time.

P. Fuller advised the ZBA is still in need of alternate members, anyone interested should contact Sharon Penney the Town Planner. She continued that as far as eliminating donor Towns a constitutional amendment is needed, she will continue to keep the Board updated.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

1. R. Bailey reported a workshop is scheduled for the March 30<sup>th</sup>. R. Bailey will confirm a time with NH Dot between the hours of 3-4:00pm.
2. R. Bailey advised the Town Assessor has prepared a draft document with regards to the public hearing on the Chamberlain barn easement, Item #9 for the Board's review. This matter will be on the next agenda.
3. R. Bailey noted the Highway Department schedule will change on March 30<sup>th</sup> to a seasonal 4, 10 hour days work week. The clerk will be in the office on Fridays. A discussion also ensued regarding coverage in the event of an emergency and the procedures currently in place as established by the Town.

### **Public Input**

Ruth Messier – R. Messier welcomed the new Board members and wished the Selectmen a successful year. She asked about fire equipment and improvements to the Bay Fire Station. It was noted fire equipment is kept at each station and is usable except for the antique engine stored in the Bay station. Also no decision has been made yet concerning improvements to the Bay Station. R. Messier asked if the Town has a Police Chief and why the Police Chief did not present his Police Department articles at the Deliberative Session. R. Messier noted that at the deliberative session an unoccupied police cruiser was left running in the parking lot. She asked who is in charge of the Police Station, she was advised the Chief is responsible for the daily operations of the police department, he reports to the Selectmen. R. Messier questioned why the Historian Line Item was removed from the budget and that the Town should have a Town Historian. She hoped all Boards and Committees would be made aware of the RSA concerning their meetings.

MaryBee Longabaugh – M. Longabaugh, Chairman of the Supervisor of the Checklist, expressed her concerns with regards to polling places and that the High School is not adequate and this year that included parking for the voters. She has received many complaints. She will be meeting with school officials to discuss other options. L. Carr noted he had suggested utilizing the music room in the past and she could check that out, he also questioned why the school staff and students did not park their vehicles further away to accommodate voters on election day.

### **Approval of the Selectmen's Minutes**

February 2, 2009, Public Session I & II and (sealed) Minutes – S. McMahon motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with two abstentions (LC) and (DH).

February 10, 2009 – Selectmen's Workshop Minutes – the minutes were amended to change the wording on the vote from 2-1 to read 2-0, *I abstention (LC)*.

March 4, 2009, Public Session I & II and (Sealed) Minutes - The Board voted to approve the minutes as submitted with two abstentions (LC) and (DH).

### **Old Business**

1. Review Election Results/Budget – R. Bailey advised that in reference to the budget Department Heads have been advised to hold Minimize spending until the summer pending any unusual events. He continued that although many articles had failed the generator had passed and he presented a draft for the bid proposals, he noted \$15,000 is a good figure. It was agreed to go out to bid for the Town Hall generator and the specifications should include that the bid price should include costs for exterior and interior installation.
2. Pending Legislation – Members reviewed pending legislation items as provided by the Local Government Center and agreed to keep "an eye out" relative to the Town's best interest and R. Bailey will also draft a letter for the Board's review. The Board also discussed the stimulus package and if any items were worth pursuing. It was agreed to review the information and bring this up at a future meeting.

### **New Business**

1. Vote on the recommendations of the Town Assessor Land Use Items – S. McMahon noted the 12 abatements and Veteran's Credits and motioned to accept the recommendations and to sign them accordingly, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.
2. Transfer Station - Solid Waste Disposal – The Board reviewed and approved the recommendations of the Solid Waste Director concerning T & J Management.
3. Highway Bid Proposals - R. Bailey advised after the bids are opened they will come back to the Board for approval. P. Fuller motioned to approve the Invitations to Bid as written, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor. L. Carr asked about a generic name for material known as Geo tech fabric and suggested the cost would be less. The motion was amended to change the invitation to bid to include the words "or equivalent" and passed with all in favor.
4. The Board reviewed bids as opened on March 11, 2009 – R. Bailey advised these were for normal maintenance. P. Fuller motioned to accept the bids as recommended by the Highway Agent, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor. The Board discussed the procedures for sending out requests for bids, including advertising, proof of insurance and the low amount of bids received for certain items. R. Bailey will look into these matters and report back to the Board, he noted bidders are not pre-approved.

5. Twombly Property - Loring Carr addressed a question to the Board as follows: if the Board would consider that the Board pursue seeing if the Twombly property is viable for a green space for the Town and if so to pursue it, acquiring it. v To research this as a benefit for the Town. He moved that "the Board investigate the Twombly property for a possible future purchase" v the motion was seconded by P. Fuller. During a discussion P. Fuller clarified this was to research and investigate this as to the possibilities, the motion was not to spend money. The Chairman took a vote and the motion passed on a vote of 3-2. P. Bolster stated the school has not "given up" on this project and this needs more consideration and stated the Board should not be in competition with the school. Peter Bolster and David Hussey voted against this motion.

L. Carr asked about a clear definition of a liaison, for instance he noted P. Bolster is the Selectmen's Liaison to the School Board but he has spoken more on the Twombly Property than the School Board has done. P. Bolster clarified that prior to making any statements or speaking about the Twombly Property he would make note that he was speaking as a private citizen and not as a the Selectmen's representative to the School Board. P. Bolster advised he had also voted while serving on the School Building and Grounds Committee. It was agreed to contact Town Counsel for clarification on the duties and definition of a Selectmen's liaison. S. McMahon advised that the Board had not contested P. Bolster appointment as the Selectmen's liaison to the school.

## **Public Input II**

Ruth Messier – R. Messier asked about a special town meeting, P. Bolster explained legislation is being proposed that could make it easier to go through Superior Court to have permission to hold a special town meeting.

Greg Fuller – G. Fuller asked about the status of repairs to the 10-wheel truck and the assigned driver and if the driver is still employed. R. Bailey advised the driver is still employed, insurance has covered costs of the truck repair in the meantime the highway department is using other vehicles G. Fuller suggested contracting out for plowing services to save on costs.

## **Non-Public Session**

At 8:15pm, S. McMahon motioned to enter in Non-Public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II (a) (c) and (e) after a 5 minute recess, seconded by P. Fuller, the Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary  
**Minutes Approved April 6, 2009**

