

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes  
Reorganizational Meeting  
March 16, 2015  
6:03 PM  
Public Session  
ALTON TOWN HALL  
**Approved: April 6, 2015**

R. Loring Carr convened the meeting at 6:03 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  
Cydney Johnson, Selectman  
Lou LaCourse, Selectman  
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman  
Virgil MacDonald, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator  
James N. Sessler, Town Attorney

R. Loring Carr welcomed the new members of the Board; Virgil MacDonald and Phil Wittmann.

**Reorganization of the Board:**

After a brief discussion amongst the Board and a vote of the members; Cydney Johnson was appointed to serve as Chairman and Lou LaCourse was appointed to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen with all in favor of the motions.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to adjourn to enter into non-public session for a consultation with Legal Counsel pursuant to RSA 91-A:2-1 (b) and R. Loring Carr seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

At this time the Board moved downstairs to the Heidke Room for Non-Public Session.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to move from Non Public Session to Public Session and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

A reorganization of the Board transpired with appointment to the various Board and Commissions as follows:

	2014	2015
Chairman Board of Selectmen	R. Loring Carr	Cydney Johnson
Vice Chairman Board of Selectmen	Marc DeCoff	Lou LaCourse
Planning Board	Marc DeCoff	Virgil MacDonald
Planning Alternate	David Hussey	Phil Wittmann
Budget Committee	Lou LaCourse	Lou LaCourse
Budget Alternate	Cydney Johnson	Virgil MacDonald
Parks & Recreation	Cydney Johnson	Phil Wittmann
Conservation	David Hussey	Lou LaCourse
ZBA Liaison	Lou LaCourse	Lou LaCourse
LRPC	David Hussey	Phil Wittmann
Household Hazardous Waste	R. Loring Carr	R. Loring Carr
BECDC	Cydney Johnson	Cydney Johnson
Milfoil Committee	David Hussey	Cydney Johnson
Economic Development Committee	Open	Open
Zoning & Ordinances	Lou LaCourse & Marc DeCoff	R. Loring Carr Cydney Johnson, Alternate
Old Home Weekend Committee	R. Loring Carr & Cydney Johnson	R. Loring Carr
Non Profit Funding Committee		R. Loring Carr & Virgil MacDonald

**Appointments:** None

### **Announcements:**

- A rabies clinic will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Town Road Bans (Weight Limits) are posted beginning March 16<sup>th</sup> for at least 3 weeks.
- Beginning March 20<sup>th</sup> MetroCast will no longer be transmitting LRPA programming on cable channels 24, 25 & 26 for local viewing. Selectmen's meeting will still be available on the town's website and the DVD will be available at the Library.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Virgil MacDonald seconded.

R. Loring Carr asked to discuss the Public Input Policy before Public Input and after the Town Administrator's Reports.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to discuss the Public Input Policy before Public Input and after the Town Administrator's Reports and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

E. Russell Bailey requested adding to New Business #7 in reference to the Police Motorcycle Leases.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

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

Lou LaCourse reported on the Zoning Board meeting who met with two (2) items being discussed.

R. Loring Carr reported on the Old Home Week Committee which met and is fine tuning and finalizing the draft plans to move ahead.

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

There is a request from a resident for a blind driveway sign. There are comments from the Highway Department; normally this type of sign is not supported. Mr. Bailey is looking for direction from the Board and not necessarily a decision tonight, wondering if the Board wants to get into the

position of putting up signs to warn people of a blind driveway. There has never been a request for this before. Not enough information was available at this time to make a decision. A question to table this was brought forth with the possibility of the homeowner purchasing the sign then the town placing it. There was also the question of what the definition would be of a blind driveway. Virgil MacDonald's thought was If we gave permission for the driveway and it is our road then we should put one up. There are a lot of driveways that were in place long before there were any regulations. E. Russell Bailey will ask the Highway Department and Police Department for their recommendations, asking for a definition of a blind driveway along with a cost estimate. This item will be tabled and brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

There is a good opportunity for the town which just came up on Friday. Approximately three (3) weeks ago we had a chance to join with a consortium with twelve (12) other towns along with the school for #2 fuel oil based on rack pricing; unfortunately we missed the deadline. Our current supplier, AD&G has made us an offer to extend our bid agreement for one year, for #2 fuel oil, in the amount of \$2.22 a gallon, up to 10K gallons of fuel. This is a very good deal to lock in for next year's oil at \$2.22 per gallon and would highly recommend this bid extension for another year.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve AD&G and continue with the contract for the next year at \$2.22 per gallon, for #2 fuel oil and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

The road weight limits are posted which was mentioned during the announcements.

In order to get Emergency Management grants through the state and federal government we must have an updated Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan in effect. These grants may help if there is a need for a culvert or bridge it would provide us with funding or any other needs under Emergency Management. The State has funding for consultants to do the plans. LRPC has been the one that has helped prepare the mitigation plan for the last three (3) times for us at no cost to the town. This needs to be done by March 20, 2015. Mr. Bailey is asking for approval to use LRPC as in the past to coordinate and assist us with the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Without the updated plan we would not be eligible for any of these grants.

Philip Wittmann would like to see the wording of the entire grant; wondering what would be expected from us in return; Russ will obtain the grant for

viewing. A concern is there is a deadline of March 20, 2015. E. Russell Bailey noted that it could be a conditional approval.

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to allow E. Russell Bailey to move forward and get a hold of LRPC to set this up so that we can get the grants letting them know that there is a possibility that once we receive details of the grant and the Board reviews that we may withdraw and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion

A Tax Deed was approved and signed a few weeks ago. Three (3) days later after the deed was signed and recorded at the Registry, a representative of the owner sent us a check for all the past due penalties, fees, taxes and interest. They were informed that there is an additional 15% required by state law which comes to approximately 23K. They have no problem with paying this amount. By state law, upon receipt of payment it would be deeded back to the owner it was taken from. Approval is necessary from the Board to tell the representative that upon payment of the full amount that the Selectmen will deed the property back to the owner.

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve the deeding and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

At this time, R. Loring Carr suggested and motioned that within the Public Participation at Board Meetings Policy that Public Input should be for addressing just the items on the meeting agenda. Otherwise a communication needs to be in writing to go before the next meeting or speak to the Town Administrator to make an appointment to go before the Board at the next meeting for their discussion and Virgil MacDonald seconded. Cydney Johnson noted that this will be added to the Public Participation Policy as #5. Cydney also inquired about an incorrect word in item #3, "*libelous*" should be changed to slander.

Cydney Johnson called the motion of amending the above policy which would be pertaining to public input, to addressing only what is on the written agenda, any item not on the agenda would need to have a request for an appointment much like we have now where other people come in for appointments. The vote was 4 approved; 1 opposed, Philip Wittmann.

## Public Input I

Don Kleeberg approached the Board stating that the Board had already addressed his main concern, the Warrant Articles but was curious as to why the Police Department was present at the meeting? E. Russell Bailey responded

that there was an agenda item pertaining to the Department later in the meeting. Mr. Kleeberg noted that it seems that the Board is taking away the people's freedom of speech in reference to the Public Participation Policy amendment.

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

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, March 2, 2015 as presented and Lou LaCourse seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention Virgil MacDonald.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session, March 2, 2015 opening 1, 5, 6 & 7 and Lou LaCourse seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention Virgil MacDonald.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, March 2, 2015 as presented and Lou LaCourse seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention Virgil MacDonald.

### **Old Business:**

#### Review 2015 Projects/Warrant Articles

A handout was provided to the Board in reference to some of the Warrant Articles. As everyone is aware the Bond issue was defeated however it received approximately 55% of the vote; all other Articles supported by the Selectmen passed. Some of the Articles will require decisions made and planning done as well as some of the Articles will require a Workshop to be held.

**Article #12 Old Home Week:** passed for \$2,500.00; that money can only be used by direction of the Selectmen or its delegate. E. Russell Bailey inquired as to how the Board wants to handle this as it could be an issue. An answer is not necessary tonight.

**Articles #13 and #15 Sidewalks:** Article 13 passed for 35K, which is strictly for the Bay area sidewalks; they need work to be done on them. Article 15; passed for 20K for the Sidewalk Capital Reserve which can be used on any sidewalks in town. E. Russell Bailey is looking for direction from the Board for putting the sidewalks out to bid for the Bay area sidewalks. There are safety issues with the bricks shifting. There was a question and discussion on replacing them with

concrete, resetting the bricks adding new sand or changing them to concrete with the stamped look of brick. Along Route 11 the pavement on the sidewalks has actually broken off so there are now hazards there. We only did a “band aid” fix on them a few years back; noting, asphalt over concrete does not work. We own all the sidewalks by the road and by the water in that area. The sidewalks end by the Mt. Washington then go across the street to the little bay area. The sidewalks start just before the Diner on Route 11. The brick sidewalks begin in front of the old Prudential Building and go over by the boat docks proceeding to the Community Center. There was a question brought forth of sidewalks from the bridge by Parker Marine in front of Busy Corner of being included in the bid. The Board needs to make decisions in reference to what sidewalks are to be done and the work is dependent on the costs obtained and what we can afford or not afford. We didn’t look at the Parker Marine/Busy Corner area. The Route 11 area was based on pricing from the area out in front of town hall; they were in the 50K range which is how the 20K and 30K numbers were determined. These numbers were not combined due to the not knowing if the bricks would be reset with stone dust which would be less money; the bricks need to come up at least 2-3 inches. These were done back in the 1990’s and the curbing is rolling outward. Further discussion transpired regarding brick vs. concrete, resetting the current bricks, sealing the bricks, etc. The sidewalks can be bid both ways concrete/brick, evaluating it both ways once pricing is in and they can be broken into different areas. We can take the Bay Area having an option of either resetting the current bricks or replacing it with concrete. The Route 11 area can be broken into two (2) sections one from the Diner up to the Alton Bay Community Center (Section 1) then the other from Busy Corner to the bridge area near Parker Marine (Section 2) obtaining the cost to be replaced with concrete. Virgil MacDonald stressed that the sidewalks need to be sandblasted to be properly sealed, even with new concrete.

Based upon the discussion, E. Russell Bailey recommends putting together bids specs based on upgrading and repairing the existing brick sidewalks and also to bid them for all new concrete. The sidewalks on Route 11 that are asphalt/concrete replace with concrete and do them in two (2) sections, obtain the costs and determine how to proceed. Everything along the water would be the same either stamped concrete looking like brick or reset with the current bricks which is how they are now.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to go out to bid for the sidewalks as previously mentioned. There were concerns voiced on how the funds would be used. There was no money left in the Capital Reserve. After the bids come in, the Board can decide how the funds are to be allocated.

**Article #14 Town Hall:** passed for 25K; the roof, siding and windows have been done. There are several other items one being the handicap lift; it is working now, not recommending doing anything at this time, it is over 20 years old. The main issue is the HVAC system that is very inefficient using window units for air conditioning is not very efficient and not the way to go. There is new technology available called a mini split heat pump system used for both heat and air conditioning. If the mini system couldn't handle below zero (-15 to -30) temperatures then the old steam system would be used for backup which would reduce our oil consumption by better than 50% or more but it would increase the electric usage. There are only three (3) thermostats in the whole building and it would not be recommended to re-pipe that system. Russ doesn't feel that he is qualified to put together specs for the sizing of the mini system but he has talked with a person in the energy program at Lakes Region Community College and was given some names of consultants. Russ is asking for the Boards permission to pursue obtaining cost estimates to hire someone to put together the technical portion of the specs hoping that it wouldn't be any more than 1K-2K; the rest of the spec would be done in house believing that the long term savings would easily cover those costs along with the savings in oil consumption.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to direct E. Russell Bailey to get some companies to do the specs for the mini split heat pump system and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Article #16 Landfill Closure Capital Reserve:** passed for 12K for the landfill monitoring; there is contamination which has plumed underground that is why at town meeting it was approved to buy the property next to the landfill approximately 3-4 years ago. Additional wells were put in; tests are clean, the contamination is stable and has slightly declined. Testing has not been completed yet this year. There is water contamination getting into the landfill; it is not a fully sealed landfill, it is just capped. On the far side of the recycling building there is a wet area bordering on the edge of the cap. This was discussed with the Board previously. There was a meeting last week with the engineer who has been talking with the wetlands people and DES to see what can be done to redirect the water away from the landfill. We would like to see correcting that wet area by redirecting the water which is adding to the contamination. We have created a wetlands area, once established we cannot touch that area; it will require permitting costs with the engineer. We would do all the dredging work to get the water away from that area.

**Article #21 Senior Center:** at the Deliberative Session this Article was amended from 20K and increased to 125K it passed; therefore we have all the funds to complete the Center. A breakdown of cost estimates was provided to



the Board to finish the Senior Center building, its septic system, finish the parking lot, landscaping and a new sign. The new addition is built but it is not finished inside. We would like to get the electrical and plumbing started, we already have an electrician and plumber who started the work on the project and would like to continue with those contractors (there have been no problems with their work). The cost estimates are \$9,651.00 by G. Brooks for electric and 12K by S. Hillsgrove to complete the HVAC system. The new section will have its own separate furnace and duct work and tied into the air conditioning unit inside the building. Virgil MacDonald inquired as to the two (2) units for heat. The one that is in place now will not handle both areas. Virgil also questioned why not use just one unit that would handle everything. Based on conversations with John Dever separate units is the best way to handle this. A discussion continued on which way to handle this issue and what would be best; see the different pros and cons along with cost issues associated with changing it to one unit which doesn't seem feasible at this time.

The question for the Board is do we continue with the same contractors to finish the project which was done through bids? It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the existing contractors. E. Russell Bailey will bring back to the Board at the next meeting, answers to the questions Virgil MacDonald brought forth. The drywall is a different contractor which will go out to bid. Quality Insulation already was awarded the bid for the building and the flooring is a quote of 5K from a local company; Ken and John have been asked to obtain more quotes therefore this will come back before the Board. Where the partition door will be the wall needs to be torn out and replaced with an accordion door; quotes will need to be obtained then it will come back to the Board. We need to have the specs for this door before the carpentry can be done. Middleton Lumber was awarded the bid for the interior building supplies so we will continue with them. The tent was already discussed by the Board with no insurance issues. Another issue is the parking lot paving which would be included with the other paving bids with Highway. The septic system is not in failure, we have a design to upgrade or replace it but we will not do this until necessary, DES will allow us to operate with the understanding that if the system fails we need to implement the new design. The money will remain in the Capital Reserve Fund.

**#27 Highway Building:** previously approved was 40K for repairs on the Highway Department building. The roof is leaking and the insulation is contaminated, moldy and wet in the ceiling. This was put out to bid already to replace the metal roof; they came back in at approximately 53K and we only had 40K in the Capital Reserve Fund. This will need to get done ASAP. The question posed to the Board is to make sure that it is okay to put the roof back out to bid. The bid specs will be prepared including re-insulating.

**#28 Road Reconstruction:** the budget for road reconstruction was laid out for both the 750K as well as the bond. The 2015/2016 schedule will need to be modified based on only having the 750K to work with. E. Russell Bailey recommends that the Board review the schedule of roads then hold a Workshop with Ken Roberts to go through the road schedule in order determine which roads will be done in order to get the bids out and get the schedule put together.

### DOT 10 Year Plan

DOT has a 10 year construction plan based on each region of the state; the regions are based from the Regional Planning Commission. The two (2) main roads for Alton are Route 28 South to Barnstead and Route 11 from Minge Cove to Gilford. These are the two (2) worse roads; ranking just below is Route 140. Letters were provided to the Board for review. Right now only Route 11 is in the plan but we also want to include Route 28 for consideration. E. Russell Bailey is requesting notifying Lakes Region Planning of our intended plans for both Route 11 and Route 28. The state will not consider anything unless it comes in through the region; if we don't go through them then we get eliminated from the plan.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to send the two (2) letters on Route 11 and Route 28 to the Acting Executive Director, Lakes Region Planning and Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed, Philip Wittmann.

### Highway Gasoline Tank Status

This was discussed at the last meeting; the inspection results with the issues with the tank. We have received quotes but they are not the best for an equal comparison. The tank is not used very often as all our diesel fuel is obtained through state bid from the state pumps and 99.9% of the gasoline is obtained from the state pumps; 90% of the time the gas sits in the tank unused and becomes separated however it is available for emergency purposes. The recommendation would be to remove or downgrade the tank to a smaller tank. A discussion transpired and concerns were voiced in reference to not having a tank of our own with a fact that if the tank is removed; we won't have anything of our own for a backup. Also discussed was doing away with the tanks all together which would eliminate all inspections.

Lou LaCourse made a motion to get rid of the existing tank, using the gas in the tank first, if it is any good and Virgil MacDonald seconded. Further discussion transpired referencing emergency situations with concerns of having no gas.

Cydney Johnson called the motion of eliminating the tank. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed R. Loring Carr.

There are two (2) quotes to remove the existing tank one for \$5,350.00 and another for \$5,800.00. E. Russell Bailey is asking for approval to approach the low quote company; there is a timeline from the state that needs to be met as well as them meeting all state requirements for removal. Virgil MacDonald questioned the contractors as they are in ground removal companies. A list was provided to us by the state of companies that are certified and qualified to do the work under their guidelines. There are a lot of other companies out there that can do that kind of work. The quotes received are the only contractors that provided quotes. E. Russell Bailey will go back to the state; telling them that the Board has voted to remove the tank and see if they will allow us to look at other contractors than what was provided to us. If not we need to start moving on getting the tank removed due to the timeline.

Cydney Johnson made a motion for conditional approval to use American Tank Management, Inc. in the event that the state won't allow us to use any other vendors outside of the list provided and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**New Business:**

Land Use Items as recommended by the Town Assessor

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the 2014 Abatement requests for a total amount of \$3,215.00 for Map 34 Lot 33-90 for \$62.00; Map 31 Lot 49 for \$332.00; Map 8 Lot 48 for \$211.00; Map 11 Lot 11 for \$132.00; Map 11 Lot 11-4 for \$51.00; Map 11 Lot 11-2 for \$108.00; Map 36 Lot 3 for \$611.00; Map 63 Lot 9 for \$499.00; Map 2 Lot 31 for \$223.00; Map 52 Lot 21 for \$612.00; Map 40 Lot 51 for \$258.00; Map 8 Lot 7-3 for \$19.00 and Map 36 Lot 47 for \$97.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the 2014 Veteran's Credits for Map 6 Lot 1-9 for \$500.00 and Map 4 Lot 6-5 for \$500.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the 2014 Excavation Warrants for Map 12 Lot 16 for \$60.80 and Map 19 Lot 16 for \$70.86 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to approve the 2014 Excavation Intents for Map 12 Lot 16; Map 19 Lot 16 and Map 21 Lot 36 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments Boards/Committees

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve the Board and Committee Appointments as listed below and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Fundraising Committee 1 year appointment**

David Countway  
David Hayden  
Fred Sallah  
George Feeney  
Muriel Stinson  
Peter Bolster  
Shirley Young

**Milfoil Committee 1 year appointment**

Henry Carl  
Jonathan Downing  
Laurence Hallin  
Nancy Downing  
Nancy Merrill  
Paul Richardson  
William Mannion

**Old Home Week Committee 1 year appointment**

Brian Mitchell  
Carolyn Schaeffner  
Duane Hammond  
Justin Avery  
Roger Sample  
Nelson Kennedy  
Leslie Rentel

**Levey Park 3 year appointment**

Nancy Downing

### Parks & Recreation 3 year appointment

William Lionetta  
Jonathan Downing  
Peter Leavitt

### Conservation Commission 3 year appointment

Roger Burgess  
Russell Wilder

### 2015 Fireworks Schedule

The Fireworks Company has been contacted; prices have been held with no increases from last year's contracts; \$12,500.00 for July 4<sup>th</sup> event and \$6,500.00 for the August Old Home Week Event. These have been budgeted and it is recommended to use Atlas Fireworks for the Displays.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to use Atlas Fireworks for the fireworks as presented and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Milfoil Treatment Application

The treatments will be a chemical herbicide and hand pulling. Aquatic Control Technology is the same company awarded the bid last year for the chemical treatment. The application needs to be submitted to the state and it takes roughly 90 days to get the permit through the state process. E. Russell Bailey is asking for authorization to allow him to sign the milfoil application as a representative of the town.

Lou LaCourse made a motion to authorize E. Russell Bailey to sign the milfoil application as a representative of the town. Virgil MacDonald questioned the timing of when this would be done with E. Russell Bailey responding "we are shooting for end the of May beginning of June, depending on the permitting". There will be signs posted in the area and it is shut down for 24 hours. Virgil MacDonald requested it be done before that timeframe however a commitment cannot be made to that timeframe noting it is usually is done mid week. After the discussion the motion passed with all in favor of the motion.

### Sign Request, Alton Bay

There is a request from a business for a directional sign in the boat dock area showing all the businesses in the Bay. A sketch was provided to the Board but more detailed information is needed from them, they have stated that they

will have the sign done at their expense but we need to be sure the Board is accepting of the proposal, as it would be on town property before we move forward. A suggestion was made for it to possibly be a cast iron type of sign that is aesthetically pleasing to tie in with the railroad theme. It would be a benefit for the town but it needs to have the town's interests included such as the beach etc. the Board was in agreement and in favor if it was going to help the businesses in the area; move forward. Based on the Board's response more information will be gathered, fine tuned and brought back to the Board.

### Communications Procedures

R. Loring Carr wanted to make sure that if any of the new Board members or current members wants to have something on the agenda they need to contact Russ. We don't veto any items going on the agenda. Sometimes items get brought up after meetings; which is fine, but most of the time they don't get passed because people want more information reiterating again we don't veto items on this Board. It previously passed that there are no emails between Board members which could be a problem with the Right to Know Law. The Board decided to re-vote the email issue.

R. Loring Carr made a motion that this Board has a policy that we don't send emails between themselves and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Police Motorcycle Lease

Ryan Heath approached the Board noting that motorcycle units have been a part of their fleet for many years this was established 7 years ago through state grants. Each year there have been motorcycles leased through the Harley Davidson Lease Program. March is the time to renew the leases; Chief Heath requested to lease two (2) 2015 motorcycles through the program asking for permission to sign the lease agreement and depending on the decision of whether the Board prefers to go into a second year of the existing bikes or to get two (2) new bikes at the same price of the old bikes which is \$2,760.00 per bike or a total of \$5,520.00 for both bikes, for the year. Manchester Harley Davidson prefers a one (1) year return on equipment for resale value. All the equipment belongs to us and transfers over to the new bikes; that equipment is installed on the new bikes at no charge. The only exception is the decals for the tanks that are approximately \$120/\$150. The maintenance on the old bikes would outweigh the cost of new decals. The new bikes are fully serviced and they are well utilized except during the winter season.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to allow Ryan Heath to sign the agreement for the new motorcycles and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Public Input II

Don Kleeberg approached the Board regarding public meetings opposed to non public meetings. His feeling is that the public's chance to speak has been taken away. It's gone, you voted on it and we can't speak without an appointment. He doesn't think it is right; believing that we (the public) will have to start writing some letters.

Sheila Shapleigh requested that the Board individually explain the reasoning for why the Board wants an appointment from now on for discussion during public input, limiting it to just what is on the agenda. This leads the public to wonder why the Board has chosen to do this simply thinking that it is for the reason of time. Four (4) of the Board members are in agreement for their reasons and Phil Wittmann is against this for his reasons. Ms. Shapleigh referred to Mr. Kleeberg's concern of freedom of speech as maybe he could be right or maybe he could be wrong and asked the Board again to individually explain that reasoning which would alleviate any misunderstandings, suspicions, thoughts of lack of transparency, that sort of thing and what brought the Board to do this; you took a vote so it must be important and it is important to explain this decision.

Cydney Johnson stated that this would require a vote of the Board as the Board doesn't normally respond to public input. The Board was polled in the affirmative.

Cydney Johnson responded there was discussion of timing for the Board needing to discuss town business, for an orderly conduct of a town meeting, sticking to what is on the agenda that's before the Board, it will help to move the meeting along, appropriately and in a timely manner. People who wish to bring items before Board that are not on the agenda, normally make an appointment. We are going to make that a formality and a practice to do that consistently. The RSA's read that this is a meeting of the Board of Selectmen in public not a board meeting with the public and some town's have a no public input rule. However we have chosen to have public input sessions and will continue to do that but are just looking to do that in a more orderly manner.

R. Loring Carr responded that the inputs have become subjects that we don't have any control over; it has been something that has escalated. We are taking up the business of the town and it should be those items that we are talking

about. I don't think it has bothered anybody's freedom of speech, if they want to talk about something else, write a letter, we will get the information and we will talk about it. That is why I made the motion and the other members agreed.

Lou LaCourse responded and agreed with R. Loring Carr. Also stating under RSA 91A there is actually and it is written down that there is no right to speak, there's nothing in the law that says people have a right to input; it is something that individual Boards allow. We want the public to speak and we want everyone's opinion on what we do and we want people's input because a lot of the times the input we get from the public is much better than the input that we get with just five (5) people because you see it from a different side than we do. We want it to be in an orderly fashion, we come here and we would basically like to have input on what we are talking about and if someone wants to talk about something different than what is on the agenda all we are asking for is the public let us know ahead of time so that the next time we are ready to talk about it. Nobody here is in fear of talking with anyone and I'm certainly not above being chastised by people; it doesn't bother me if somebody sits on the other side of the table and disagrees with me; I am fine with that.

Philip Wittmann responded that his "no vote" was mainly due to public perception; right now in this time and place I don't think it is a good idea for the public in general or some of the public to think that we are trying to curtail opportunities to talk. Having just run for office, one of the things I ran on was I want to hear all I can from the public and I don't want people to think it's my first night on the job and I'm doing a turn around. It's public perception, maybe a lot of people will be upset, we'll see.

Virgil MacDonald responded he hopes that for meetings down the road, (once past meetings and the grey areas are cleaned up) public input will come back to let everyone speak and say their mind. We need to get the grey areas out of the way first so that the public knows where the town stands. Believing that public input is a big part of a meeting; that is why we are here to serve the public. I think that once that is worked out hopefully we can bring it back.

Sheila Shapleigh welcomed the new members to the Board.

Don Kleeberg stated that he appreciated what was said and understands it but believes you are slapping our hands. I don't know who did these injustices but you are coming out slapping everybody in town saying no, you can't do that; that's how it sounds.



Lou LaCourse responded from what I understand what we are doing right now is actually what a lot of other towns do; that's the way they set up their meetings. Basically we are getting in line with how other towns are doing their meetings.

Mr. Kleeberg inquired as to the time someone is allowed to speak with a response of five (5) minutes on the subject. He also noted that he wasn't sure how long there have been problems at the meetings, having attended quite a few and never saw these problems. He voiced concerns of if you want public input, by implementing this; a lot of people aren't going to come to the meetings.

Cydney Johnson responded that we are not curtailing anyone's ability to have public input. We are asking that it be kept to the issues at hand or to notify us ahead of time so it can be put on the agenda in order to get information about the subject. Mr. Kleeberg stated a lot of people will not go through that step. Cydney Johnson responded that's their choice, they have an option.

Cydney Johnson 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 R. Loring Carr seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary