

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

April 20, 2021

(Approved - May 3, 2021)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:04 PM.

V. MacDonald 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.

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

Virgil MacDonald, Chairman
Paul LaRochelle, Vice Chairman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes	P. LaRochelle, yes	B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes	R. Wentworth, yes	

Announcements

None

Submission of Public Comments - Questions - Concerns

Richard Shea - Roberts Cove Road

V. MacDonald read the following into the record:

*Richard Shea
84 Roberts Cove Rd
Alton NH
4/5/21*

This letter concerns the completion of the reconstruction of Roberts Cove Rd. Last year a significant part of the road was improved, with extensive work on tree removal, culvert repair and repaving. The portion of the road from its south entrance off Route 28 to the Greentops campground area remains to be completed. This section has a significant surface runoff issue, causing the pavement edges to erode during heavy rain events and creating dangerous icing conditions when temperatures drop below freezing.

As I understand it, Roberts Cove Rd. was slated for reconstruction over a period of 2 to 3 years, starting in 2020. Currently the surveying of the portion yet to be completed has been done, as has some sub-surface rock removal. The next step is to obtain quotes for engineering of the section, required due to the drainage issues and the existence of ledge in some areas. Completion of the engineering work would identify any areas of special concern and provide a preliminary estimate of project cost. It would also facilitate a review of the planned work with each affected property owner, something promised in lieu of a public hearing due to Covid-19 concerns.

At a recent BOS meeting work on both Roberts Cove Rd. and Lilly Pond Rd. was discussed. It appeared that a decision was needed as to which project should go forward next. Lilly Pond Rd. is in poor condition and certainly needs attention, but Roberts Cove Rd. carries a significant amount of traffic including heavy truck traffic. It serves a popular marina and provides the only access to a number of residential streets. In its current condition it represents a safety issue, especially during the winter months.

I ask that the Board give full consideration to moving forward with Roberts Cove Rd., with engineering work accomplished this year and reconstruction completed in 2022.

*Thank you.
Richard Shea*

L. Dionne informed the Board that S. Kinmond has been notified of this concern.

Penelope Blanchard - Powder Mill Road

V. MacDonald read the following into the record:

This is my 2nd attempt to reach out to this board regarding the heavy truck traffic on Powder Mill Rd. I originally reached out prior to the board meeting on October 19, 2020 and no consideration was taken. My concern is the very large trucks that go flying up/down this road: very large container trucks, large trucks carrying commercial heavy equipment. They all speed through. Friends, family and I used to walk on our road but don't walk any longer as we truly don't feel safe.

I don't feel confident that this is an important issue with our Board of Selectmen.

Perhaps you can be motivated by how degraded Powder Mill Rd. is becoming.

*Sincerely,
Penelope A. Blanchard*

L. Dionne informed the Board that S. Kinmond has been notified of this concern. V. MacDonald noted that the only pit the Town has is located on the end of Powder Mill Road. V. MacDonald stated you really cannot shut the roadway down. R. Wentworth disagreed and suggested that Ms. Blanchard have more neighbors on the road to voice their concerns with letters or petitions to the Selectmen such as the people did from Stockbridge Corner Road. The pit is actually in New Durham and they have State Road access to the pit, it might take a little longer and would be to the safety of the residents of that road and should be considered by the Board. V. MacDonald feels that a letter should be sent to the Police Chief. B. Holt spoke in reference to the truck traffic which is unknown and wondered just how much truck traffic there actually is and asked if there are any traffic counts. A traffic counter can be purchased which can decipher truck traffic opposed to auto traffic. P. LaRochelle mentioned that there are other roads that are coming forward for discussion for the same issues. The Police Department has been spoken to in reference to setting up radar for slowing the traffic down. He feels that Police presence needs to be increased. B. Mitchell commented that he personally has driven a large truck pulling a large piece of equipment and one person's perception of speeding can vary differently from another persons; there is no way someone is speeding with that type of equipment behind their vehicle. The Board feels a response should be sent to Ms. Blanchard stating that the Board is not ignoring her concerns and ask that she encourage her neighbors to send comments to the Board. In addition, communication should be sent to the Police Chief for increased patrols and police presence.

Press Release - Atlantic Broadband

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Atlantic Broadband Cable Television Franchise Agreement

TO: ALTON RESIDENTS

The Town of Alton has received official notice from Atlantic Broadband Company of its intent to renew their cable television franchise. The current franchise agreement expires on December 31, 2023.

As part of the renewal process, the Alton Board of Selectmen is soliciting public input to ascertain the cable-related needs and interests of Alton residents in addition to requesting feedback on the performance of Atlantic Broadband under the existing Franchise Agreement.

Unfortunately, federal law does not allow a community to review or regulate the following subject matters when considering the renewal of a cable television franchise agreement: broadcast and channel programming, fees charged for services, internet services or telephone services. The focus of this renewal process will be on video programming quality, reliability, availability, customer service and local access channels.

Anyone interested may respond in writing to selectmen@alton.nh.gov or you can mail a response to the Alton Board of Selectmen, PO Box 659, 1 Monument Square, Alton, NH 03809. The deadline to reply is July 15, 2021.

Appointments

None

Old Business

None

New Business

1. **Fire Department - RFP - East Station Well**

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the RFP for East Alton Fire Station Well and B. Mitchell seconded.

Further Discussion: V. MacDonald read the Fire Chief's memo. At this time, J. Beaudoin remotely joined the discussion. The usage of the building was explained as well as elaborating on the particulars of the well and its issues. The building Capital Reserve Fund can be used. The provided RFP was acceptable to the Board.

The motion on the table was called. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes	P. LaRochelle, yes	B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes	R. Wentworth, yes	

Selectmen Reports

R. Wentworth reported on Mill Pond. He observed a hydro-seed company filling its tank and feels that in light of the bacteria in the pond that it is a safety issue and why would it be allowed. He suggested that the Board have the Town Administrator contact the State DES to see if this presents any hazards. According to V. MacDonald, the signage that is presently on location have the appearance of Fire Department signs and feels that there needs to be a larger sign so that people can see it, spelling out the dangers of Cyanobacteria. This should be placed across from the Fire Department. It was the consensus of the Board for the larger signage and to check with the Health Officer about verbiage for commercial usage.

B. Mitchell had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle informed the Board that the Master Plan Committee has narrowed the candidates down to one for the Master Plan Consultant. He reported that the Water Bandstand Committee would be meeting the following night then informed the Board about the various general upgrade/maintenance items that would be done. In addition, it was brought to his attention that there were lighting issues at the Town Hall and in the Bay that would need to be fixed whether it is bulbs that need replacing or timers that were not set properly. Both Grounds and Maintenance and an Electrician have been consulted with a possibility to change them to LED fixtures in the future. This change would be through the electric company as there are incentive rebates being offered.

B. Holt had nothing to report.

V. MacDonald mentioned Mill Pond feeling that possibly the island should be pushed back and tied off using the Town's boats before it anchors itself to the bottom.

Town Administrator Report by L. Dionne

Surplus Items

The Board was informed that there were no surplus items for Auction. V. MacDonald asked that this be visited when the Personal Policy is discussed; there is no need to bring this before the Board.

Approval of Minutes

March 22, 2021 - Regular

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 22, 2021 as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, abstain
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

March 22, 2021 - Non Public

B. Holt made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Meeting, March 22, 2021 as presented releasing all and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, abstain
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

April 7, 2021 - Regular

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 7, 2021 as presented and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, abstain
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

1. Assessing Department

Veteran's Tax Credit

GREALY; 33 HORNE ROAD; MAP 4 LOT 2-5; \$750

Excavation Intent

WILLIAMS; 332 FRANK C GILMAN HIGHWAY; MAP 8 LOT 3-2; N/A

Barn Preservation Easement Renewal (10 Year)

HAMMOND; 184 RINES ROAD; MAP 19 LOT 58; N/A

Land Use Change Tax

THOMPSON; 870 STOCKBRIDGE CORNER ROAD; MAP 6 LOT 42; \$6,500

2. COLA 1.6% Increase - retroactive to 1/1/2021

Fire Department:

Esther Berolami, Firefighter/EMT \$15.49 to \$15.74

Allison Brown, Secretary \$16.74 to \$17.01

James Brown, Fire Lieutenant \$18.23 to \$18.52

Robert Brown, Firefighter/Paramedic \$18.41 to \$18.71

Thomas Chagnon, Firefighter \$15.13 to \$15.38

Dawson Cotreau, Firefighter/EMT \$15.36 to \$15.61

John Cunningham, Firefighter/ Paramedic \$21.01 to \$21.35

Thomas Decowski, Firefighter \$19.73 to \$20.05

Bryan Fenn, Firefighter \$17.61 to \$17.90
 Donald Filete, Firefighter \$15.35 to \$15.60
 Matthew Johnson, AEMT \$16.27 to \$16.53
 Evan Lagrant, Firefighter \$13.92 to \$14.15
 Jeremy Lambert, Firefighter \$14.97 to \$15.21
 Kyle Latino, Firefighter/EMS Coordinator \$17.52 to \$17.80
 Rebekah Lehouillier, AEMT \$16.60 to \$16.87
 Christine Lloyd, Firefighter \$17.44 to 17.72
 Ryan McQuade, Firefighter/AEMT \$18.22 to \$18.52
 Samuel Norton, Firefighter/AEMT \$17.62 to \$17.91
 Patrick O'Brien, Captain \$20.77 to \$21.11
 Michael Okoniewski, Firefighter/AEMT \$17.67 to \$17.96
 Leslie Rentel, Firefighter \$14.90 to \$15.14
 Kyle Russell, Fire Lieutenant \$16.03 to \$16.29
 Trevor Smith, Firefighter \$14.60 to \$14.84
 Lawrence Sullivan, Firefighter \$14.90 to \$15.14
 Amelia Sweezey, Firefighter/EMT \$15.60 to \$15.85
 Gregory Trombi, Lieutenant/Paramedic \$22.66 to \$23.03
 Evan Turcotte, Deputy Chief \$25.26 to \$25.67

3. Merit Increase - retroactive to 1/1/2021

Fire Department:

Esther Berolami, Firefighter/EMT \$15.74 to \$16.06- 2%
 Allison Brown, Secretary \$17.01 to \$17.35- 2%
 James Brown, Fire Lieutenant \$18.52 to \$18.80- 1.5%
 Robert Brown, Firefighter/Paramedic \$18.71 to \$18.99-1.5%
 Dawson Cotreau, Firefighter/EMT \$15.61 to \$16.00-2.5%
 John Cunningham, Firefighter/ Paramedic \$21.35 to \$21.78- 2%
 Thomas Decowski, Firefighter \$20.05 to \$20.66- 3%
 Bryan Fenn, Firefighter \$17.90 to \$18.26- 2%
 Donald Filete, Firefighter \$15.60 to \$15.99- 2.5%
 Matthew Johnson, AEMT \$16.53 to \$16.86- 2%
 Jeremy Lambert, Firefighter \$15.21 to \$15.52- 2%
 Kyle Latino, Firefighter/EMS Coordinator \$17.80 to \$18.25- 2.5%
 Rebekah Lehouillier, AEMT \$16.87 to \$17.21- 2%
 Christine Lloyd, Firefighter \$17.72 to \$18.08-2%
 Ryan McQuade, Firefighter/ AEMT \$18.52 to \$18.89- 2%
 Samuel Norton, Firefighter/AEMT \$17.91 to \$18.27- 2%
 Patrick O'Brien, Captain \$21.11 to \$21.64- 2.5%
 Michael Okoniewski, Firefighter/AEMT \$17.96 to \$18.41- 2.5%
 Leslie Rentel, Firefighter \$15.14 to \$15.30- 1%
 Trevor Smith, Firefighter \$14.84 to \$14.92- .5%
 Lawrence Sullivan, Firefighter \$15.14 to \$15.30- 1%
 Amelia Sweezey, Firefighter/ EMT \$15.85 to \$16.17- 2%
 Gregory Trombi, Lieutenant/Paramedic \$23.03 to \$23.61- 2.5%

Water Department:

Courtney Mitchell, Superintendent \$80,446.86 to \$81,251.33, 1%

4. American Legion - Raffle Permit - Conditional Approval

Raffle Application/Permit, 10/1/21 - 4/30/22 - Conditional Approval
 (Conditional approval is based on EMT approval 30-days before the event and also dependent on the status of the State of Emergency.)

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

Steve Rewucki - Pavilion Parking Plan Unit 2

P. LaRochelle informed the Board that he would be recusing himself from this discussion as he performs management services at this location.

V. MacDonald read the request for replacing the parking spot for Pavilion Unit #2. R. Wentworth voiced he does not agree with making an appointment for this matter by making public parking and providing it to a private home. Somehow a parking space was designated by some Board (not Selectmen) of this Town and believes that a Town Meeting vote was necessary. Apparently years ago two (2) spots were previously designated. The Board requested that all information be gathered before an appointment would be granted. P. LaRochelle offered to look into this matter.

It was the consensus of the Board to deny the Appointment Request and send a letter to Mr. Rewucki informing him of the denial.

Non-Public Session

R. Wentworth moved at 6:52pm to enter into nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3,II,e (legal). B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

R. MacDonald - yes	P. LaRochelle - yes	R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes	B. Mitchell - yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u>

R. Wentworth moved at 7:00pm to exit nonpublic session. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

R. MacDonald - yes	P. LaRochelle - yes	R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes	B. Mitchell	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u>

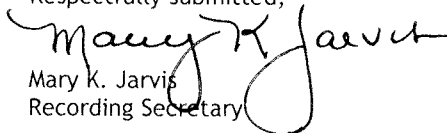
V. MacDonald moved to "not divulge" the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would render the proposed action of the board ineffective. V. MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote:

R. MacDonald - yes	P. LaRochelle - yes	R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes	B. Mitchell - yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u>

Adjournment

V. MacDonald moved at 7:03pm to adjourn. R. Wentworth seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary