

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

May 10, 2021

(Approved - May 24, 2021)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 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
Bob Holt, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda and P. LaRochelle 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

- R. Loring Carr

I submitted a letter to the Alton Board of Selectmen on March 24th, 2021. I received a response on March 25th, 2021 from the EMT. At the April 7th, 2021 Selectmen's meeting, the Chairman and two other Selectmen agreed that the Board had "decided" and directed the EMT respond to my letter of the 24th.

The Town Clerk has no posting record nor minutes of a Select Board meeting on the 24th or the 25th of March.

How was a decision and direction made without an open or posted meeting held as required by the Right to Know Law?

R. Wentworth stated that he can answer that and settle this. There was no meeting by the Board of Selectmen prior to that. The letter came in which was in my box, I read it, handed it to Liz, the Town Administrator and said I believe this needs to go down to the Emergency Management Team because the questions he was asking had to do with the public and not letting people in yet. It had to do with the recount vote. There was no meeting. It had to go to the EMT and that day they were having a meeting. She brought the letter to them. She did what was asked by me as Chairman and as a Selectman. The EMT are the ones who have set the protocol for the Town of Alton for meetings, for individuals, and also to clear up this recount that needed to be done. The ones that were concerned with the recount were there and had their witnesses. It was also on Zoom so the public was invited to attend. At the next meeting as Chairman, I read that letter in to the record and asked if the Board wants the EMT to answer this. We said yes. Fortunately, Chief Heath, the Director of the EMT, had decided already to answer the questions. There was no meeting, there was no foul here. Somebody is jumping to the gun and always think

that the glass is half full. I was trying to stay one step ahead. I wasn't trying to circumvent the Board. I was trying to get the message down to where it belonged. To put it out to the public that we held a meeting in private and not posted is totally wrong and I can't believe someone would do that without knowing the facts. V. MacDonald stated that hopefully that will answer the question.

Appointments

Old Business

1. Highway Department - Bid Recommendation - Church and School Street Road Project

S. Kinmond joined the meeting through Zoom. C. Mitchell remotely joined the meeting. V. MacDonald asked if it is a \$22,000.00 difference in the bids. S. Kinmond stated that he believes it is. The larger variance is on the water side of things. C. Mitchell stated that she has been talking with S. Kinmond and the only concern she has is with awarding it to Integrity is the difference in price. It will cost her about \$50,000.00 more to take on that project. That is the only concern that she has. She has no issues with the low bidder. Discussion ensued on the differences between the two low bidders. S. Kinmond stated that there are several different options that can be looked at in several areas to lower the cost on some things. R. Wentworth asked how much the anticipated revenues from the state would be. L. Dionne stated that it would be about \$220,000.00ish. Several options were discussed to lower costs for several areas. L. Dionne stated that a document at their seats is in reference to Bills being prepared for funding. That is for fiscal year 22. The federal government's fiscal year is different than other people's fiscal year. Their fiscal year starts October 1st and ends September 30th. This funding, if it is approved won't be available until October 1st. It needs to be a project in the year 22. C. Mitchell stated that she wants to highlight for the board needs to take into consideration is less the pipe, the hydrants, and the wet taps. She still needs the \$55,000.00 to purchase that stuff as well. B. Holt asked who would oversee the inspections on this project. S. Kinmond stated that it would be him and C. Mitchell doing the day to day check ins. Probably the engineer would be consulted on a weekly basis. P. LaRochelle asked if S. Kinmond had ever worked with Integrity Earthworks before. S. Kinmond stated that he has not worked with them personally. He has looked into their references. B. Mitchell stated that he will not vote for Integrity.

R. Wentworth made a motion to go along with the Public Works Director recommendation Integrity Earthworks in the amount of \$862,224.50 and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes	P. LaRochelle, yes	B. Mitchell, no
V. MacDonald, yes	R. Wentworth, yes	

New Business

1. Water Department - Revenues and Past Due Balances

C. Mitchell stayed on the line. L. Dionne stated that the past due balances will be done in Non-Public. C. Mitchell stated that the revenue account balance is \$391,339.40 through March. Right now the operating budget spent as of May 5 \$130,329.91. The bills for the summer accounts are going out this week. Current receivables as of today are \$178,590.21. V. MacDonald asked if it has been looked at about moving some of that money out into different funds. R. Wentworth stated that with the transition to a new Finance Director it has not been done yet. Discussion ensued about past due accounts.

2. Water Department - Position Approvals

C. Mitchell remained on the line. She stated she has been working with L. Dionne, and L. Parker on Min. Max. chart for the Water Department. It was discovered that there was no wage structure for the Water Department. The job descriptions were updated to match the template used by the Town. It now matches all the other departments in town.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept the Min. Max. Structure for the Water Department and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Selectmen Reports

B. Holt stated that he missed the meeting tonight for the Old Home Week Committee. He stated that he had a concerned citizen wondering about the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. L. Dionne stated that L. Carr filed A Right to Know Request with the office. B. Holt asked if it has been addressed yet. L. Dionne stated that it has.

R. Wentworth has nothing.

B. Mitchell has nothing.

P. LaRochelle gave information on the Master Plan earlier and is going well. It is down to one candidate. The Water Bandstand got a phone call with an approval for the Water Ski Show with the Ski jump. He would like to discuss Town Hall. He would like to consider re-opening Town Hall.

V. MacDonald has nothing.

Town Administrator Report

L. Dionne stated that the first thing is the Congressional Directed Spending request. She had the printout last week. She sent an email out to all the departments last week. This is just informational purposes for the Board. If the department heads have a project that might qualify need to have it done in 10 days. It will be coming to the Board next week if there are any proposals. Then the form will be filled out.

L. Dionne stated that the next item is Atlantic Broadband. The consortium that was approved is looking for a representative from the Town. It is to make decisions. She asked if anyone would like to be on that Board. It will be brought up at the next meeting to make a decision.

L. Dionne stated that Memorial Day, the Town Hall is closed and asked if they would like to meet on another night or skip it.

R. Wentworth made a motion to skip the meeting on Memorial Day and V. MacDonald seconded. P. LaRochelle stated that he is alright with going every Monday. R. Wentworth stated that he likes every Monday night. Roll call vote:

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

L. Dionne stated that workshops need to be scheduled to go over the Non-Public Minutes that have not been released. It was decided to do some at regular meetings.

Approval of Minutes

None

Consent Agenda Approval

1. Old Home Week Committee
Appointment Request - Christy Painchaud - 2 Year Term expires 3/31/2023
2. Planning Department
Contract Approval - Master Plan Consultant - Tara Bamford - 12 month contract
3. Water Department
Abatement - Credits to Customer Account - Alton Bay Campmeeting Assoc. - 12 Oak Hill Rd., Mann Property - Acct. 5/945 - Credit \$1,412.77

4. Administration Department

Promotion - Stacy Bailey -Secretary to Executive Secretary - Effective 5/4/2021 - \$18.09 to \$20.86 per hour

Promotion - Stacy Bailey -Deputy Welfare Officer to Welfare Officer - Effective 5/4/2021 - \$862.77 to \$2,444.56 per year

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, yes
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

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

- Joseph S. Haas - ConVal Case

L. Dionne stated she made a recommendation to deny because the Town of Alton is not in the ConVal School District and this has already been discussed on June 13, 2019.

B. Holt made a motion to approve the deny the request as recommended by the Town Administrator and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Non-Public Session

V. MacDonald moved at 7:14pm to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3,II,d (properties),e (legal). R. Wentworth seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

R. Wentworth moved at 7:37pm to exit nonpublic session. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

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

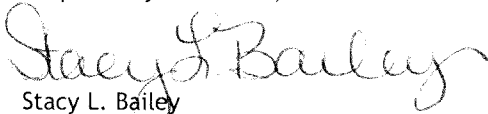
V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to clarify that since the Master Plan Consultant was approved on the Consent Agenda that the Master Plan Committee voted to approve Ms. Tara Bamford for the contract. It will go to the Planning Board for the May 18, 2021 meeting for their approval. If the Selectmen approved first Ms. Bamford would be able to attend the Planning Board on the 18th.

Adjournment

V. MacDonald moved at 7:40pm to adjourn. R. Wentworth seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Stacy L. Bailey
Secretary