

**ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Minutes**

**June 7, 2021**

**(Approved - June 21, 2021)**

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Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

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

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](http://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.

**Agenda Approval**

V. MacDonald stated that he would like to add Public Input I and Public Input II. R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

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

**Announcements**

V. MacDonald stated that he would like to thank the Town Crew and Kellie and Scott for a job well done on the cemeteries. Nice job.

**Public Input**

K. Roberts approached the table. He stated that there are several items where the Public Works Director is going to talk. He knows about several of them already. He stated that they hired a Public Works Director for a reason. Not to be questioned. He hopes the Board takes his professional recommendation into consideration.

**Public Hearing 6:05 pm - Suncook Valley Solar, LLC**

V. MacDonald opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 pm. Allen Funk from Blue Planet is attending remotely. V. MacDonald asked if there was any public input.

L. Carr approached the table. He is for this idea. He thinks it is a good idea for the Town. There is no pollution. It helps with energy needs in the future. It is a win-win for the Town.

D. Hussey approached the table. He stated that we should be happy that someone is coming to us and extending an offer of money to us every year for the next 25 years. If you have seen the land you would know that you would be making less than \$200.00 on taxes. He thinks it is a no brainer. Everyone one of the State public handbooks state that solar will be encouraged.

V. MacDonald closed the Public Hearing at 6:10 pm.

B. Mitchell made a motion to sign the PILOT and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Appointments

None

### New Business

#### 1. 19 Depot Street Property

B. Casoni approached the table. He stated that he had this property on the market a few years ago. He was wondering if the Town had any interest in purchasing the property. P. LaRochelle asked if it was 10 1/2 acres. It is. He asked if there is still an issue as far as gaining access from Route 28. B. Casoni stated that there is. L. Dionne stated that the owner has a letter from DOT stating that a driveway cut on Route 28 is available to be purchased. Discussion ensued in reference to putting it on the Warrant.

It is the consensus of the Board to have the Town Administrator speak to the Town Attorney about this and speak to DOT for an approximate cost of the driveway cut on Route 28.

#### 2. Water Fund Transfer

L. Dionne stated that this is added on to the agenda because the Board has previously discussed once a year transferring the surplus funds from the Water account into the Capital Reserve fund. C. Mitchell, Water Superintendent, approached the table. She stated that one thing that needs to be kept in mind is the Church and School Street project. They are receiving quite a bit of bills already. V. MacDonald stated that maybe this should be put off until the project is finished and all the bills have come in.

R. Wentworth made a motion to move \$200,000.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund into the Water Main CRF account and leave the rest as is for now and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### 3. Highway Department - Decommissioning 2006 Dodge 2500 - Request for Auction

S. Kinmond approached the table. V. MacDonald stated that he did not like the minimum bid. P. LaRochelle stated that it should be \$1,500.00 for a minimum. S. Kinmond stated that this truck is pretty well used up. The mechanic recommends to place it out for auction.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to put a \$1,000.00 minimum bid on the vehicle and allow the vehicle to go to Muncibid and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### 4. 2022 Budget Merit Cap and COLA Percentage

L. Dionne stated that there is a spreadsheet at their seats with the previous year's information. B. Holt stated that he is against merit. He thinks it should be a merit bonus. Discussion ensued as to how Merit and COLA should be done.

R. Wentworth made a motion for the year 2022 is a repeat of the year 2020 and give up to 3.5% Merit and P. LaRochelle seconded. V. MacDonald stated that it should be up to 3%. The vote was 3 approved, 2 opposed.

### Old Business

#### 1. NE Solar Gardens Contracts for Hurd Hill Road Capped Landfill

Postponed

#### 2. Fire Department - East Station Well Bid Recommendation

J. Beaudoin approached the table. He stated that it went out to twelve companies. Only one bid was received. He asked that it not be put out to bid again. He would like to move forward. B. Holt thinks better specs should be written up and sent out again. L. Dionne stated that this had already gone to the Board for approval of the specs and the Board did approve it.

V. MacDonald made a motion to award the bid to Forest Pump & Filter Co. Inc. as recommended and P. LaRochelle seconded. B. Holt stated he would like to see it go out for a re-bid. R. Wentworth stated that he would also like to see it go out again too. The vote as 4 approved and 1 opposed.

3. Alton Bay Community Center Repairs

K. Troendle approached the table. She gave an update on the Community Center. The front siding and the trim around the windows were pressure washed, scrapped, and painted. The front support beams were painted. The remaining siding was touched up with paint. Missing shakes were replaced and painted. The railings were painted. Screens were replaced. The missing spindles were replaced and painted. The deck around the building was pressure washed. The roof needs to be replaced, pressure wash, scrape and paint all four sides of the building, pressure wash and scrape all the ceilings, sand, and replace three light fixtures, replace three support beams, etc. Spindles are being replaced on a daily basis because of vandalism. She recommends appropriating \$25,000.00 per year until all the major portions of the repairs and replacements are accomplished. THE ABCC is on the National Historic Registry. Grant monies may be available.

4. Highway Department - 2021 F550 Diesel Cab & Chassis Bid Recommendation

S. Kinmond approached the table. He stated that there is a shortage of vehicles right now. The low bid on this had a delivery of 30 weeks. He would like to see something sooner.

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow S. Kinmond to purchase the Cab and Chassis from Hight Motors, Skowhegan, ME for \$52,349.00 and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

5. Highway Department/ Parks & Recreation - Truck Replacement

S. Kinmond remained at the table and K. Troendle approached the table. He would like the Parks & Rec. Department to buy the Water Department truck and let the Water Department get a new one. Discussion ensued about the value of the Water Department truck.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to grant the Public Works Director to make the purchase of the Water Department 2018 Ford F-550 gas powered 4x4 dump for the Building and Grounds and Maintenance Department for the sum of \$40,000.00 and then purchase for \$65,325.00 2021 F-550 4x4 Diesel with dump. P. LaRochelle withdrew his motion.

V. MacDonald made a motion that the Town of Alton buys the Water Department's 1 ton for the sum of \$40,000.00 and B. Mitchell seconded. The vote is 4 approved and 1 opposed.

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow the Water Department to lease a new 2021 F-550 4x4 for \$65,325.00 and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

B. Holt reported that Old Home Week would like to continue the Boat Show this year. They would like to have the Car Show again. Same location as last year.

R. Wentworth had nothing to report.

B. Mitchell had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that last Thursday the ZBA meeting went well. On June 2, the Master Plan Committee met with Tara Bamford.

V. MacDonald had nothing to report.

B. Holt stated that he had one more thing. He asked about the Fire Truck CRF and the research. L. Dionne stated that it was sent out last Friday with a copy in the Reading File.

**Town Administrator Report**

L. Dionne stated that her first item is a memo from the Public Works Director in regards to his application to a grant through DES. It is for an Asset Management program. S. Kinmond explained the grant.

L. Dionne stated that the next item is from S. Kinmond. It is an article about solar arrays on closed landfills.

The next item is the 2022 Budget. Instructions were sent out to the Department Heads. They were instructed to be mindful of needs and not wants.

The last item is an email about a health insurance meeting on June 23 at 1:00 pm in the meeting room. She would like two Selectmen Reps. B. Mitchell volunteered.

**Approval of Minutes**

May 17, 2021 - Regular

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 17, 2021 as presented and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

May 17, 2021 - Non Public

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public May 17, 2021 as presented releasing all only and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

May 24, 2021 - Regular

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 24, 2021 as presented and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

May 24, 2021 - Non Public

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public May 24, 2021 as presented releasing #1 only and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Consent Agenda Approval**

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. **Highway Department**

Secretary, Probation Completion - Katie Wood, \$16.11 per hour to \$16.36 per hour effective 5/16/2021

2. **Grounds & Maintenance Department**

Full Time to Temporary Part-Time - Andrew Jackson - \$17.05 effective 6/11/2021

3. **Town Clerk's Office**

Annual Civil Forfeiture Warrant for 2021 Unlicensed Dogs

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

**Non-Public Session**

V. MacDonald moved at 8:04pm to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3,II,a (personnel). P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes

P. LaRochelle - yes

R. Wentworth - yes

R. Holt - yes                      B. Mitchell - yes                      Roll call vote carried unanimously

B. Mitchell recused himself and left the room at 8:05pm.

V. MacDonald moved at 8:39pm to exit nonpublic session. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes                      P. LaRochelle - yes                      R. Wentworth - yes

R. Holt - yes                      Roll call vote carried unanimously.

B. Mitchell back in the meeting at 8:40pm.

V. MacDonald moved to "not divulge" the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. V. MacDonald seconded.

Roll call vote:

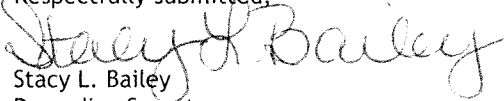
V. MacDonald - yes                      P. LaRochelle - yes                      R. Wentworth - yes

R. Holt - yes                      B. Mitchell - abstained                      Roll call vote carried 4-0-1.

V. MacDonald moved to change Executive Secretary Stacy Bailey's hours from part-time at 32 hours per week to fulltime at 40 hours per week. R. Wentworth seconded. Motion carried.

V. MacDonald moved at 8:41pm to adjourn. P. LaRochelle seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey  
Recording Secretary