

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2009
ALTON TOWN HALL

At 6:00pm, Vice- Chair, Peter Bolster convened the meeting of the Board, those present included the following members of the Board and Staff:

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

D. Hussey led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence.

Approval of the Agenda

R. Bailey added items to New Business, #6 American Legion Request and #7 Renewal of the Town Forester Contract. L. Carr added an additional item to New Business as Item #8 – Road Work Maintenance. D. Hussey motioned to approve the agenda as amended, the motion was seconded and passed with all in favor.

Announcements – R. Bailey noted the next medicine collection for Household Hazardous Waste will take place on September 12th. Basically the same as last year, brochures are out and information is also on the web site.

He noted Town Offices will be closed on Labor Day. He continued the ZBA has openings for 1 full-time member and 2 alternates.

BOARD OF HEALTH

P. Bolster motioned to recess as Board of Selectmen and to convene as Board of Health, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor. The Board met with Thomas Varney, P.E. with regards to a septic waiver reference Tax Map 63, Lot 18. P. Fuller motioned to approve the three waivers seconded by D. Hussey for discussion. The Board reviewed distance from the neighboring well and clarified other issues of concern with T. Varney. T. Varney advised he would adjust the design concerning the well and would notify the Health Officer when containimates are removed from the site. P. Fuller then amended her motion to include a 10' setback from the neighbor's well, the motion was seconded and passed with all in favor. P. Fuller motioned to adjourn as Board of Health and reconvene as Board of Selectmen seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, COMMITTEE REPORTS

D. Hussey advised he will be attending a Planning Board meeting tomorrow night.

L. Carr stated he had met with Parks and Recreation and they were discussing the softball program and slash bunting.

P. Fuller stated she had no report but that the ZBA needs members.

P. Bolster reported the Conservation Commission had met, however he was away and could not attend the meeting. He continued that the patia at the B&M R.R. Park is now under construction and that the lumber and other materials for the decking has been delivered, plans are on-going regarding the installation of the slate roof on station. He advised he plans to attend the next School Building & Grounds Committee meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

R. Bailey advised the Board agreed to support the litigation of the LGC and that he had spoken to the school superintendent that the Town supported this with a payment of \$37.00 last year and one of the issues was in reference to making retirement payments. P. Fuller suggested that two checks be issued, one for the 30% and one for 5% written on it "in protest" and not just send one 35% check. R. Bailey stated this has been paid on a monthly basis. A discussion ensued followed by a motion to write two checks, and to write "in protest", seconded by D. Hussey and passed with one abstention (PB)

R. Bailey continued that the letters with new assessment values will be mailed within a week, there is a 2-3% drop in value. R. Bailey reported that copies of the emergency management grant will be available for the next meeting. L. Carr asked about the County grant issue. P. Bolster stated the county delegation is meeting next week on acceptance of the grant, the court will make a decision and the executive commissioners should approve. R. Bailey noted the COPS grant will be coming before the Board for acceptance, he should have that paperwork in September. R. Bailey advised that Pittsfield will no longer accepting sewage from Alton, that contract will be up at the end of this year. He will be looking at contacts around the State for an agreement. R. Bailey explained that the electrical work continues in the Town Hall before the generator is installed. The Energy Committee has not been scheduled as of yet.

Public Input I

P. Bolster clarified that Public Input is to correct misinformation.

Stephen Parker – S. Parker advised the Board on the deteriorating conditions on a portion of Trask Road, including culvert, ditches and washouts and why was the road painted with a double yellow line, when instead the road should be maintained, he stated it was an insult to residents of the road and why did the Town start painting lines after all these years.

Two Citizens of Lockes Corner Road advised the Board that after the Town graded the road that large rocks were left in the road obstructing traffic and leaving it up to residents to pack down the road(at this point they produced two large rocks to the Board and photos). Also that within 3 days after grading there were 200 potholes. The Board advised they would look into all these issues as brought forth during Public Input.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes as submitted for July 27, 2009, Public Session I and II and (sealed) Non-Public Session, .seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Old Business

1. Special Event Policy – R. Bailey presented draft guidelines for a special event policy as provided by the LGC Property Liability. The Board asked R. Bailey to send a draft copy to the school as well. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda.
2. Disposal of Town Property – The Board reviewed disposition of approximately 45 Fire Call Boxes. P. Fuller motioned to give the Town Hall fire call box to Mrs. Rockwood, give five to the Historical Society and give the rest to the fire association, the motion was seconded and passed with all in favor.

New Business

1. Welfare Policy Review – the Board reviewed rental increases and unanimously voted to approve the recommendations as submitted to be effective August 18, 2009.
2. Energy Grant – Study Request – The Board and Town Administrator discussed the possibility of a windmill at the Transfer Station to reduce utility costs and also the costs of a study and how it will be funded. P. Fuller motioned that Scott Simonds proceed with a study for \$1400, funds to come out of the capital reserve seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor. D. Hussey asked to verify the windmill height before approving the study to tell us what height is necessary to get the best wind velocity.
3. 2010 Budget – R. Bailey noted it was time to start the budget process and the Board would need to set its goal for salaries and the overall budget. The CPI for the Northeast as of July is minus1.9%. The Board voted unanimously to have department heads prepare their budgets with no COLA and with and without steps, and to level fund their budgets.

4. Vote on Land Use Items – D. Hussey excused himself from voting on this Item #. L. Carr motioned to approve the items as recommended by the Town Assessor, seconded by P. Fuller and passed on a vote of 3-0. D. Hussey rejoined the Board.
5. Boot Drive – Fire Association – L. Carr motioned to approve the Boot Drive request to be held 9/20/09, from 6:00pm – 12:00pm and for no other time or place as noted in the request, seconded by P. Fuller who noted the specific location and the motion passed with all in favor.
6. Request of American Legion – D. Hussey motioned to approve the request seconded by L. Carr and passed with all in favor.\
7. Town Forester Contract Renewal – P. Fuller motioned to approve the contract and to keep the same salary rate at \$38.00 per hour, and to have the Town Administrator sign the contract, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.
8. Roadwork Maintenance – L. Carr asked about the control measures being in place and evaluating the work that has been performed. D. Hussey stated this is the Selectmen's burden Following a discussion that including priority lists, the highway budget, line painting, supervision measures and keeping the Board informed on road issues, R. Bailey advised that the highway budget had been approved by the past Board and Budget Committee. However, these items and other issues will be considered during this budget season. He continued there is no specific plan for maintenance. R. Bailey suggested the Selectmen should have the Highway Superintendent submit a plan for their review.

Public Input II

G. Fuller asked about the cost of living added to the budget. He was advised that the Board will follow the Town policy. G. Fuller noted that Union Telephone is being sold as noted in the media. R. Bailey will check into this information with the PUC.

Non-Public Session

At 7:45pm, P. Bolster motioned to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A,3;II, seconded by P. Fuller. P. Bolster polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Minutes Approved: September 8, 2009