

**Alton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2008
Alton Town Hall**

Chairman Sherwood convened the meeting at 6:02 pm; those present included the following member of the Board and staff:

Alan Sherwood, Chairman
William Curtin, Vice Chairman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Stephan McMahan, Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

The Chairman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence.

Approval of the Agenda – A. Sherwood noted certain sets of minutes from July 21st were not included in the packet. It was agreed to exclude the minutes of July 21st from the agenda. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Announcements – A. Sherwood extended his congratulations to the Town’s departments for a great job after the tornado. The Highway Dept., Police Dept. and Fire Dept. over weekend, their involvement was appreciated. P. Fuller expressed her thanks also to R. Bailey and Paulette Wentworth. P. Bolster noted the community was thankful for the quick response. His neighborhood was one of the hardest hit. W. Curtin – Also thanked the citizens and neighbors for “stepping up to the plate” and offering their assistance.

P. Fuller stated Senator Sununu had reviewed the property damage in Alton and is working along with Governor Lynch to have FEMA funds approved, not only for community services but individual homeowners as well.

A. Sherwood advised subsequently, the day after the President’s decision to declare Federal Disaster for just three counties and just for public assistance, he had discussions with the staff of Senator Sununu and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter. They assured him the delegation is working together to ensure resources and help will be expanded.

Meeting Schedule – Because of the Labor Day Holiday, the Selectmen agreed to meet on September 2nd.

Selectmen’s Committee Reports

S. McMahan – Selectmen McMahan stated he had no report at this time.

P. Bolster – Selectmen Bolster expressed his thanks to the organizations and volunteers responsible for improvements and contributions to the B & M Railroad Park. The paths have been paved in the area including the parking lot. He added that the Elm Trees as planted are disease resistant. The Historical Society has finished their path to the J. Jones building. Signage is in place. P. Bolster continued that Parks and Recreation members will be meeting next week and reviewing a number of items for the coming year. He also stated the School Building and Grounds Committee is moving ahead on some decisions with regard to renovation and expansion on the present site. They will be trying to work with Selectman on some of the issues that are going to be involved in that process.

W. Curtin – Selectman Curtin stated the Planning Board will be meeting tomorrow. He advised that the Water Department Supervisor will be undergoing surgery on Tuesday.

P. Fuller – Selectman Fuller advised that a public information session on changes to the Shoreland Protection Act Standards will be held August 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the Alton Town Hall. The speaker will be Darlene Forst, Shoreland Section Supervisor, from NHDES.

P. Fuller provided a report on the Coalition stating that even though Legislation is not in session, House and Senate members have been named to a joint legislative committee who will make recommendations in December that could change who can become a donor community. The Coalition will be closely monitoring this committee's work. They do not expect to change the formula to totally eliminate donor communities, but a new legislation could make a change and Alton could once again become a donor town. The Coalition is recommending that we make education funding a legislative issue for this coming election, especially with our representatives who are up for election or running for election for the first time. P. Fuller continued that the only one representing Alton is Senator Sgambati and she supports a constitutional amendment if it is specific enough, concerning the amount of aid to be given to towns. She is very agreeable to listen and is responsive to our needs, all our representatives to this point are very responsive.

Town Administrator's Report and Updates

R. Bailey advised approval will be needed for him to sign a Purchase Order for \$9600 from the Highway Office to purchase rip rap stone for road reconstruction. W. Curtin motioned to approve the amount, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey noted the Alton Bay Fire Station, the historic little Fire Station needs renovations. The Trustees of the Trust Fund have agreed to support \$9000.00 but will go higher if more funding is necessary. The Fire Dept. is working towards getting prices and the work will be put out to bid.

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R. Bailey advised the Board on the Energy and Milfoil Committees. Three citizens have expressed an interest in the Energy Committee and he will schedule a meeting for September. Also five other persons are willing to serve on the Milfoil Committee. He will report back to the Board on these two committees.

R. Bailey explained the telephone bids. The main objective is to save on tolls when the current system changes, he may do a straight bid or utilize a consultant. He will have a format laid out for a proposal at the next meeting.

R. Bailey and the Board agreed to have a workshop session on August 27th to include a site review at the Solid Waste Center followed by a meeting with McLeod Consulting Services at the Town Hall.

R. Bailey reviewed the availability of FEMA public assistance and noted a training session scheduled for August 26th.

Timber Tax - In their review the Board discussed tornado damages and waivers on the timber tax, expediting the notice of intent to cut, noting this is not to be a permanent policy, having the town forester to inspect, avoiding abuse, clean up, harvesting timber in this instance, forms, and abatements and taking into consideration case by case issues.

R. Bailey advised that sadly Ken Gilbert has passed away and there is a vacancy on the Levey Park Trustees. An appointment will have to be made and he will post a notice.

R. Bailey noted that the current payroll forms are redundant. When signing off on the payrolls it includes taxes and direct deposits. They are duplicates, and recommended eliminating this step. If approved by the Board, the change would be conditional based on the auditors. A. Sherwood motioned to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.

Public Input I

None

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

1. August 5, 2008 Minutes, Public workshop Session I & II and (sealed) Non-Public Session. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of August 5, 2008 as submitted, and to include the ordinance relative to Owl's Nest.

Old Business:

1. 2009 Budget Schedule - The Board and Town Administrator reviewed the Department Head Budget Schedule. R. Bailey advised he and the Budget Committee chairman had discussed the Budget Committee scheduling as well. A tentative capital improvement plan is completed and a CIP Committee is under consideration. R. Bailey continued that basically everyone has been instructed on their budgets for non personnel line items. In October or November he will have an insurance rate, and a better idea on retirement costs. The increase in our tax base is basically flat. The MSI should be finished by next week.

A. Sherwood stated that the assessor will do incremental updates for each of the past several years, including this year R. Bailey noted letters will be mailed this week.

A. Sherwood stated that Mr. Bailey had proposed the Board single out utilities and remove it from department heads so we can focus on costs and there is some question if that best way to look at it.

P. Fuller noted that the Town Administrator did explain he checked with DRA about this issue, but would like to be able to keep this in department budgets. If these items are pulled, only personnel is left and they do not have control over personnel.

R. Bailey explained that the only departments carrying their own building are Police, Fire, Solid Waste and Highway. The idea here was to focus in on what it is costing us for electric and such we are doing it on a spreadsheet, he is aware of what has been spent for the last four years in each building. A. Sherwood advised this would be a way to review expenses and utilities by combining them.

After a further discussion it was agreed to leave the utilities as they are and to look at reformatting the spread sheet, telephone expenses, computer and networks and further review of programming our own phone systems, including emergency systems.

2. 2008 Budget Status - R. Bailey and the Board discussed a \$50,000 - \$60,000 budget shortfall. Unexpected expenses occurred with excessive snow removal operations, overtime, the fire at Mt. Major and the tornado and fuel costs. Concerns were a FEMA check would not received until January 2009 and not be applied to the 2008 budget. Emergency funding may be required.

3. Legislative Review- LGC - It was noted Local Government Center had forwarded a packet of information on several legislative issues. While supporting certain proposals, the Board will discuss others during the next work session.

New Business

1. Donation Acceptance – A motion was made by A. Sherwood to accept a donation in the amount of \$1000 in memory of Michael Whalley to be used for welfare purposes, although the donor's intent may be that the check is intended for Alton Community Services Program, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor. R. Bailey will follow up this matter with Mrs. Rockwood, Welfare Officer.

2. Vote to Approve Land Use Items as Recommended – A. Sherwood read the items as submitted and moved to approve the recommendations of the Town Assessor, and sign them accordingly, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.

3. Authorization – Building for Fire Training - R. Bailey advised the Christian Conference Center would donate a building for fire training purposes but requested an acknowledgement from the Board that they will be removed from the accessing records at this time for \$136,000. Following a discussion, P. Fuller motioned to approve that R. Bailey send a letter to Mr. Goodwin at the Christian Conference Center stating the Board accepts the use of their buildings for Fire training and to acknowledge the assessment prior to any planned destruction, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

4. N.H. Electric Co-op Petition– Vote to approve Petition Plan for Buried Cable W/O# 2740-T - A. Sherwood moved to approve the petition as submitted, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.

5. Bandstand Bids (2) – R. Bailey advised the budget on the water bandstand is \$9800. The (2) bids received were for \$33,330 and \$39,500 respectively, exceeding the budget allotment and he recommended that both be rejected. P. Fuller motioned to reject both bids, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all favor.

6. Farmers Market Request – Sale of Farm Produce – Following a review, P. Fuller motioned to allow Maple Glen Farm to have a Farmers Market at the Bay, fees to be waived, conditional that the products are produced or grown by vendor seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.

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Public Input II

Greg Fuller- G. Fuller asked about the new Budget Format. R. Bailey advised he plans on attending the Budget Meeting in September and he will also speak to the Budget Chairman about putting this matter on their Agenda.

Non Public Session – At 7:40pm Chairman Sherwood moved to enter into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II (a) (c) and (e), seconded by P. Fuller. The Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Cindy Calligandes
Recorder, Public Session

Minutes approved _____