

**Alton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2007
Alton Town Hall**

At 6:30pm, Chairman Alan Sherwood convened the meeting of the Selectmen, present were the following members of the board and staff:

Alan Sherwood, Chairman
Patricia Fuller, Vice-Chairman
Stephen McMahon, Selectmen
William Curtin, Selectmen
Peter Bolster, Selectmen
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

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

Approval of Agenda: R. Bailey advised that he had items to add to New Business: Item #4 Paving bid approval and Item #5 Land Use Abatement. Motion made by W. Curtin to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by P. Fuller. Motion passed with all in favor.

Announcements:

A. Sherwood noted that the Board will probably be meeting at 6:30pm through most of the fall and winter season.

A. Sherwood noted that the Town Clerk's office will be closed Tuesday, September 18th and Wednesday September 19th. Her office is in the process of converting over to a new vehicle registration system, eventually people in town will be able to register heavy duty vehicles here.

Board of Health:

A. Sherwood motioned to recess as Board of Selectmen and convene as Board of Health, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.

1. John Salamon Map 22 Lot 5 Suncook Valley Road - Tom Varney – Agent

T. Varney advised the property is on Half Moon Lake. It is an existing cottage and the owner is improving his driveway and needs a septic waiver. A. Sherwood read the letter from the Health Officer recommending this waiver request. Following a discussion and review of the design as proposed, Selectman Fuller motioned to grant waivers as presented for the leach bed and septic system, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.

2. Catherine Schroeder Map 55 Lot 5 Woodlands Road – Tom Varney – Agent

T. Varney advised this cottage has been family owned for some time. The septic system has failed.

Board of Health (con't)

A. Sherwood read the letter from Brian Boyers, Health Officer which stated that the design as presented is the best location for the septic tank. Following a discussion and review of the proposed design, P. Bolster motioned to grant the waiver as presented for Map56 Lot 5, seconded by S. McMahon and passed with all in favor.

P. Bolster motioned to adjourn as Board of Health and re-convene as Board of Selectmen, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Selectmen's Committee Reports:

S. McMahon – Nothing to report at this time.

P. Bolster – Selectman Bolster reported that the Downtown Revitalization Committee was rescheduled. He continued major improvements have taken place at the B&M R.R. Park and the playground is almost completed. The Committee could always use volunteers if anyone is interested in helping out to contact Town Hall. The Duck Race earned about \$1000.00. The Beach Committee will postpone the dedication of the beach until next spring, when the shade pavilion is scheduled for completion. The funding for this has been donated and it is being built in memory of Dave Countway's father. There is now a perched beach and a regular beach. The Committee is working on consideration for snowmobile accessibility. P. Bolster continued there have been no Parks and Recreation Commission meetings recently, but two openings still exist.

P. Fuller – P. Fuller stated questions are being raised about the cost of a beach and the impact on the tax rate. She has repeatedly said the Beach Committee has done a wonderful job on the work that they have done down in the Bay, but if she had five-million dollars she would give consideration first to town roads, reconstruction and paving. She continued that the Police and Fire Department buildings need to be expanded, there is the possibility of a new K-8 school and bond issues. She continued. the legislature decided nursing homes would be paid through the county tax in the future. With regards to the matter of education funding, P. Fuller noted the Coalition is meeting next week and House Speaker, Terri Norelli will be in attendance, also the Governor or someone from his staff and possibly someone from the Senate. It would be up to the Board to decide if she should attend as well.

W. Curtin – Nothing to report at this time

A. Sherwood - A. Sherwood advised he attended a meeting on August 15th with the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition they are reviewing the process of looking at all of the parcels of land within the Belknap Range. On August 16th he attended a meeting of the Household Hazardous Waste District and discussed having a second collection at the Alton Transfer Station and the tentative plan is to do that on the 2nd Saturday in October. Director, Sarah Silk will be on site and possibly a chemist.

Town Administrator's Updates and Reports

R. Bailey noted that several persons have inquired about the Echo Point land and boat ramp. He advised all the information has been forwarded to the Town Attorney for his review and clarification. R. Bailey recommended the Board may want to meet with the Attorney prior to this matter being on their public agenda. The Board agreed and suggested that R. Bailey schedule the meeting with the Town Attorney.

R. Bailey discussed the engineers' recommendations on Robert's Cove Road Drainage and Rand Hill Drainage, he should have them in approximately a week. He continued that major culvert replacement and riprap and basin upgrade is necessary on Spring Street and noted the Highway Agent's response concerning conditions on Spring Street. He would like to respond to the residents who have written a letter, he has spoken to the person with the initial signature and explained the issues are under review, also the residents will receive a copy of the response from the Highway Agent.

R. Bailey continued the lease for Shibley's at the Pier is due to expire at the end of the year. In other matters R. Bailey advised on road construction, long term planning and funding of road reconstruction and that the engineers have put together a proposal. P. Fuller asked about consideration for Hayes Road.

Public Input I

The Chairman recognized Loring Carr. L. Carr questioned where the Beach Committee posted their agenda, the status of their meeting minutes, and where their meetings took place. R. Bailey advised he had met with the committee, their meetings will be posted in two places and the minutes are up-to-date, and meetings are held at the Meredith Village Savings Bank in Alton. L. Carr also asked about Selectmen's Goals & Objectives.

Approval of Selectmen' Minutes

Minutes of July 30, 2007, Public Session, (Sealed) Non-Public Sessions – W. Curtin made a correction to the word “employees” on page one and motioned to approve the minutes of July 30th as amended, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes (con't)

Minutes of August 6, 2007, Public Session, (Sealed) Non-Public and Workshop Sessions
P. Fuller made a correction to change the name of Stephan "Fuller" to Stephan *McMahon*, P. Bolster noted the workshop minutes should state " *actively continue to pursue the idea of recognition of employee of the month and local citizens on a regular basis*". W. Curtin motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

Minutes of August 8, 2007, Public Session and (Sealed) Non-Public and Workshop Sessions – R. Bailey corrected the minutes to remove the names of Selectmen Bolster and Selectman McMahon as they were not present on this date, A. Sherwood motioned to approve the minutes of August 8th as amended, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with two abstentions (SM) and (PB)

Old Business

1. FEMA Update – R. Bailey noted that the Town has received 75% of FEMA reimbursement in the amount of \$673,229.00. He has sent a letter to the State asking for their 12.5% share which amounts to \$109,128.00. He continued the Selectmen would need to conduct a Public Hearing pursuant to RSA31:95B in order to accept these funds. He reviewed emergency fund issues with the Board and noted the State has not reimbursed the Town for the storm in 2006.
2. Engineering – Horne Road Culvert Replacement – R. Bailey advised he would need a vote authorizing him to sign the engineers agreement to go out to bid on this project, funding will come out of road reconstruction funds, not to exceed \$26,000. P. Fuller motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement and go out to bid, the amount not to exceed \$26,000, seconded by W. Curtin and passed with all in favor.
3. Budget Schedules – R. Bailey advised the Board will meet with Department Heads beginning September 24th. P. Fuller asked about the Capital Reserve for the Fire Department Building. R. Bailey noted it is \$122,000.

Old Business (con't)

4. Town Clerk's Office - R. Bailey advised upgrades for carpentry and on-line expenses for this office are estimated at \$6800. Hopefully the conversion will consist of going on-line with the State, two working stations for the Town Clerk's room and a station for the Tax Collector, appearing very similar to a bank. This work will also consist of new telephone lines and other major changes. He continued he has already approached the Trustees about utilizing funds from the Clough-Morrill Fund. It is hoped all work will be completed by October 6th and he would like permission to waive the formal bid and perhaps get two more quotes. P. Bolster motioned to waive the policy to put out to bid for the Town Clerk/Tax collector's Office, seconded by A. Sherwood and the motion passed.

New Business

1. 2010 Census – R. Bailey noted that documentation for the census bureau has to be in place for April of 2008. He discussed different options with the Board. It was agreed Option 2 is best for the Town. W. Curtin motioned to proceed with Option 2, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.
2. Representative to LRFP - Long Range Facility Planning – S. McMahon advised he would not be able to be the Selectmen's representative to this committee for the LRFP for the school. The Board appointed P. Bolster take his place.
3. Fuel Bids – R. Bailey noted these bids are due to expire this year. The Board was in agreement to have R. Bailey send out 3-year fuel bid requests.
4. Paving Bid Approval – Powder Mill Road R. Bailey stated three bids had been received. It was noted the Wolcott bid was incorrectly calculated. All bids had been opened by K. Roberts and Selectman Bolster on August 30th. The low bidder was PIKE Industries. A. Sherwood motioned to approve and award the bid to PIKE Industries in the amount of \$280,036.86 and confirm that Wolcott was notified their bid was in error and also that they will not hold to their original bid which was in error, seconded by W. Curtin and the motion passed with all in favor.
5. Vote to Approve Abatement as Submitted by the Town Assessor - Map 27-Lot 30
A. Sherwood motioned to approve the abatement as submitted, seconded by P. Fuller and the motion passed.

Public Input II

Loring Carr – The Chairman recognized L. Carr. L. Carr asked if the Heidke Fund was subsidizing Meals on Wheels program. R. Bailey stated the Heidke Fund is not used for the Meals on Wheels program. The fund partially supports a portion of the Director's salary, to assist with senior programs scheduled at the Pearson Road Community Center to help manage the building, and has been budgeted. This matter was reviewed by the Town Attorney who advised there was no conflict in utilizing the Heidke Trust Fund for this purpose.

Gregory Fuller – G. Fuller noted that during their discussion of upgrades in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office the Selectmen noted the amount of the estimated costs. If the Board does go out to bid, those other bidders will now have an advantage over the first bidder.

Non-Public Session

At 7:30pm, Chairman Sherwood motioned to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II (a) (c) and (e), seconded by P. Fuller, and the Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Fortin Secretary Pro-Temp
Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Minutes Approved: October 1, 2007