

Alton Board of Selectmen
Monday, September 14, 2015
6:00 PM

TOWN OF ALTON
1 Monument Square
Alton, NH 03809

Approved: October 26, 2015

Cydney Johnson convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following members and staff were present:

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman
Lou LaCourse, Vice Chairman
R. Virgil MacDonald, Selectman
R. Loring Carr, Selectman
Philip Whittman, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Approval of Agenda

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Philip Whittman with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

Halloween hours are scheduled from 5:00pm to 7:00pm on Saturday, October 31, 2015.

Appointments

None

Selectmen's Committee Report

Lou LaCourse attended the ZBA meeting and informed the Board of two items that were discussed. The Alton Bay Camp Meeting Association that was put on hold until the October meeting and the second item was the Holt Hill Trust requesting a garage and it was accepted. The garage was reduced from 30x40 to 24x32 to meet the needs of a neighbors concern. In addition, he informed the Board that the Conservation Commission met and there were no new requests. The next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday and the Budget Committee is scheduled for Wednesday October 16, 2015.

Town Administrator's Report and Updates

E. Russell Bailey informed the Board that the Parks and Rec/Grounds and Buildings would like to close the two restrooms at the end of September or in October for two days to paint and clean the floors. R. Virgil MacDonald asked if they should wait until spring. E. Russell Bailey stated they had wanted to do it in the summer and the request was denied because it is too busy. It is only for two days and that it is heated and they are looking to complete the work on a Monday and Tuesday. The work is usually done every couple of years. R. Loring Carr stated he believed R. Virgil MacDonald was stating that it would be a fresh coat of paint to start the season. E. Russell Bailey stated from a cleaning standpoint the floor does not clean as well when it needs a paint job. It would mean closing them for two days. The West Side is open year round and the East Side is closed at the end of October. The West Side has more activity than the East Side.

There was a discussion by the Board on the best time to close the restrooms.

E. Russell Bailey will recommend that it be pushed out until October and he will speak with Parks and Rec and Grounds and Buildings.

Public Input 1

None

Public Input Closed.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

July 20, 2015

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the minutes of Public Session 1, July 20, 2015 as written and R. Loring Carr seconded. The motion passed 3-0-2; with Cydney Johnson and R. Virgil MacDonald abstaining.

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the Non Public Session, July 20, 2015 as written opening #1, and 4 and Philip Whittman seconded. Cydney Johnson, R. Loring Carr and E. Russell Bailey disagreed with opening #4. R. Loring Carr recommended opening 5 and 6 with E. Russell Bailey confirming that it was all public. R. Loring Carr asked about #3 and E. Russell Bailey stated it was not complete. Lou LaCourse amended his motion to approve the Non Public Session, July 20, 2015 and opening #1, 5 and 6 and R. Loring Carr seconded. The motion passed 3-0-2; with Cydney Johnson and R. Virgil MacDonald abstaining.

Lou LaCourse motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, July 20, 2015 as written and R. Loring Carr seconded. The motion passed 3-0-2; with Cydney Johnson and R. Virgil MacDonald abstaining.

August 26, 2015

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session 1, August 26, 2015 as written and R. Virgil MacDonald seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1; with R. Loring Carr abstaining.

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the Non Public Workshop Session, August 26, 2015 opening #1, 2, 3, 8, and 9, and Cydney Johnson seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1 with R. Loring Carr abstaining.

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II August 26, 2015 as written and Cydney Johnson seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1; with R. Loring Carr abstaining.

August 31, 2015

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, August 31, 2015 as written and R. Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session, August 31, 2015 and R. Loring Carr seconded. Cydney Johnson amended the motion to include opening all and R. Loring Carr seconded. The motioned passed 4-0-1 with R. Virgil Macdonald abstaining.

Lou LaCourse motioned to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, August 31, 2015 as written and seconded by R. Loring Carr with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

1. 2015 Project Status Report - E. Russell Bailey

E. Russell Bailey informed the Board that paving for Chestnut Cove and Bayhill Road is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 21st either within that week or the following week. He has been in contact with several Board members regarding concerns on Bayhill Road. The Engineer was asked to review the drainage issues and has looked at it and completed his calculations. The Engineer feels that the drainage installed by Ken Roberts will work and he will provide his findings in writing this week.

E. Russell Bailey stated that a public hearing needs to be scheduled for Places Mills regarding the drainage and tree cutting. There is a significant amount of tree cutting required. We would like to schedule a public meeting in October and with the Board's approval go out to bid for the tree cutting this winter so they will be ready to start the work in the spring time.

Lou LaCourse motioned to schedule a public hearing. E. Russell Bailey stated he would like to schedule it for the second meeting in October to allow for sufficient time to send out letters to all of the residents of the road. The motion was seconded by R. Virgil MacDonald with all in favor of the motion.

E. Russell Bailey met with the contractor who received the bid for the sidewalks and walked from the boat docks all the way up across from the mini-golf. According to the Highway Department they believe there is 16 inches there. Testing was conducted a couple of times and they were hitting the footing at 12 to 13 inches and believe there is another 3 or 4 inches in the footing, Additional testing will be done to confirm. E. Russell Bailey informed the Board that there are not enough funds to complete the entire area. If the Board decides to do the project with the current funds he is recommending that the work start at the island area across from the swim docks and go all the way up to the break by the diner. This would still leave a small section by Bizzy Corner. The \$27,000.00 would not cover the area in front of the Alton Bay Community Center. R. Virgil MacDonald asked how much more would it cost. E. Russell Bailey stated that area was one of the longer stretches and the cost would be an additional \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00. There is currently just under \$35,000.00 and we will need an additional \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 on top of the \$27,000.00. R. Virgil MacDonald commented that we should be able to move a few thousand dollars around.

E. Russell Bailey stated that the contractor can't do it until November and it will have to wait until spring. If you wait until spring you can do another warrant article and add some money. Russ asked the Board if they wanted to start the project now or wait until spring.

The Board discussed when the sidewalk work should begin taking into consideration the time of year and how the cement would cure with a freeze.

R. Virgil MacDonald motioned to begin the sidewalk work in the spring and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

E. Russell Bailey stated the only other issue is the islands with regards to the Garden Club recommendations. The Garden Club would like to do some of the work this fall. This would include ripping up the islands and putting in the water lines. R. Virgil MacDonald asked if Matt and Ken Roberts were involved in this. E. Russell Bailey stated not in the detail they need to be. He was waiting to see if the Board was going to approve the proposal. R. Virgil MacDonald stated he was not going to approve the island design as he feels the walls take up too much area where people sit. Philip Whittman commented that he believed the Garden Club wanted to work in conjunction with the construction on the sidewalks. E. Russell Bailey stated we need to coordinate the work. When we remove the sidewalks it will make it difficult for the Garden Club to complete their work. He

recommended completing the sidewalks and then doing the finish work for the islands. E. Russell Bailey asked the Board if the water lines should be installed this fall. R. Virgil MacDonald stated we should speak to Ken Roberts to see how much room we have and see if the area can be widened.

There was a discussion by the Board on approval of the latest Garden Club proposal and the coordination of the work and installation of the water lines.

R. Virgil MacDonald and Philip Whitman will meet with the Garden Club and present their results to the Selectmen at the next meeting.

E. Russell Bailey will meet with Ken Roberts to discuss the installation of the water sleeves in the late fall. R. Loring Carr asked if there was any chance that when they put the sleeves in and when they tar Bay Hill they could fix the patch. E. Russell Bailey stated they want to irrigate three islands and there will be two driveway entrances that will be cut. E. Russell Bailey stated he will talk to Ken Roberts.

The red walkway will remain at this time. E. Russell Bailey stated all of the money available for Route 11 will be used. If the Board wants to do work on the walkway they could include it in a warrant article.

E. Russell Bailey informed the Board that the Community Center/Senior Center sheet rock and painting work is complete. We are getting costs to rip out the wall between the old and new buildings. They are going to frame on both sides because there is concrete that has to be saw cut. It will be sealed off on both sides due to the dust and the cutting will be done when the Center is not occupied. We are also getting cost estimates for the installation of the curtains.

The Highway department roof materials will be dropped off in the next couple of weeks and there is currently no start date.

2. 2016 Budget Status Report

The budget books should be completed by the end of the week. The first budget workshop will be held on the 29th which will be the first of the budget workshops. The Selectmen will be notified when the books are ready for their review.

3. Non Profit Committee Procedure

L. Carr reported on the non-binding advisory Committee recommendation to reduce the number of non-profit warrant articles. The Committee would request that the non-profits come in and complete a form which would include a breakdown of expenditures, and the number of Alton residents who receive services. It can be changed by the Advisory Committee but it is a start. It would go to the group, they would make their recommendations and the Selectmen

would present the warrant article to the Budget Committee. If they felt a non-profit organization was not recommended then they can always do a petition warrant article to get it on the ballot. It doesn't exclude them. It gives advice to the Budget Committee and Selectmen.

Lou LaCourse asked if the breakdown of the administrative services expenditures was going to be a percentage or explain where the percentage of the money they give us goes to. What piece is going to the people and what piece is going in their pocket? An administrative service breakdown is the breakdown of what their costs are. What percentage of the total amount that they receive is their cost?

L. Carr stated the breakdown is a suggestion of what they feel is important. If the independent Committee wants to ask different questions they can change the form. They feel there hasn't been a level playing field for everyone to get the same information from all of the organizations and that is what we are trying to do. We would have all of the same information from all of the organizations. As long as it is uniform for everyone then it will be fair to everyone. Some organizations don't have the administration costs. They are made up of volunteers, like the Caregivers. The committee will have to weigh that. It may not work. It is an idea to try to do something. Some towns just put it in their budget. Others do it the same way as Alton with multiple warrant articles. There are different ways of doing it. There is no state format.

R. Virgil Macdonald motioned to accept the recommendations of the Non-Profit Committee as written and seconded by R. Loring Carr.

Cydney Johnson stated she is opposed to it as it takes the vote away from the voters. If there is one organization in there that they don't want to vote for then everyone will lose. R. Virgil MacDonald stated that the Budget Committee and Selectmen vote on it before it goes on the ballot. Cydney Johnson continued that she wants to be able to have the right to vote. If there are twelve organizations on the ballot she wants to be able to say yes or no on all twelve. R. Virgil MacDonald stated that is why we broke it up in the first place and combined it all together to shorten up the town meeting. Cydney Johnson stated it is one night of our lives and it takes an extra 37 seconds in the voting booth, I want to have my say on who I vote for and I believe a lot of people in town will want to have their say on who they vote for.

R. Loring Carr stated that there are plusses and minuses to doing it either way. We have had a lot of complaints from people about the number of articles, that it is too much. People are sitting in the audiences because all of the booths are full and they are trying to understand it. Cydney Johnson stated she doesn't believe because we have 12 non profit articles that is the reason why the booths are full. She believes it is because people come at a certain hour, when they get out of work and there is a big push at that time and it takes longer to read through zoning

amendments. The non profits are the least of the issue and I would hate to penalize one non-profit and another may not be accepted because they are all lumped together. R. Loring Carr stated we had two or three last year that we did not put on.

R. Loring Carr stated we have a problem. The non-profits have not been bringing in the same information. Cydney Johnson stated we could have a standardized format for information, to be submitted and include it in the warrant article the amount that goes to administration versus to the people. Her concern is not being able to vote on the individual organizations.

Lou LaCourse stated he is looking for not just an application that the institutions fill out but guidelines that we can establish that says we are going to recommend or not recommend certain institutions. He continued that those guidelines will be built on something no more complicated than the percentage of the money they receive that goes back to the people. If you have an institution keeping 90% of what they received and then giving 10% to the people, I don't want to waste my time giving them money.

Cydney Johnson stated last year the big concern was the Red Cross. She can see a lot of people being upset if they are lumped in. If you have 12 really good charitable organizations that we use in the town and somebody is having a problem with one, they may then say no if my money is going to fund them then I am saying no to all of them. She does not want to see that happen.

R. Loring Carr stated if the five people on the Committee don't feel the Red Cross is not providing a decent return then the five members would not vote for them or if we do it the same way as we do when the warrant article is done the five of us could vote no because their administrative costs are way out of wack.

R. Virgil MacDonald stated it was about ten years ago that we broke them out. Cydney Johnson stated she is not concerned what we did ten years ago. She is concerned about what we do this year and what we did last year. Last year the people on the floor said no to the Red Cross. We've never had somebody approach us and not allowed them to go on the warrant to my knowledge. R. Loring Carr stated yes we have in the past. R. Virgil MacDonald stated it can still be cut on the floor. Cydney Johnson stated let the voters do it. Lou LaCourse stated last year we didn't include a couple of them and E. Russell Bailey responded we had two new ones that we had never funded before. The Board said they would have to get started through a petition but you funded all of the prior ones. R. Virgil MacDonald stated at the Deliberative Session anyone can make a motion to reduce the amount on any warrant article. E. Russell Bailey stated if you have them all bunched together it gets a little grey when they reduce it down, is it reducing them all or are they reducing just one. R. Virgil MacDonald stated it depends on what they write. It is up to the person writing it if they just want to

reduce it on one or all of it. E. Russell Bailey stated when you vote, you vote on the bottom line, you don't vote on the individual. If you had a total of 7 together you don't vote on number 5, you vote on the bottom line. R. Virgil MacDonald stated in the past Deliberative session you voted to remove one. Cydney Johnson stated you can't. E. Russell Bailey said he would have to check with the DRA because it would be an interpretation and they would want to see the minutes. Legally they are voting the bottom line of that warrant article. They would have to amend it and remove one of them. The problem will be when you vote as a voter. The deliberative session puts them through as a bunch you get voters who don't like number 2 and number 8 so they vote no on all of them. R. Virgil MacDonald stated it has been like that for 30/40 years and they have all passed. Cydney Johnson stated we also used to have Town Meeting as opposed to voting at the booth. The Deliberative Session is not the same as Town Meeting. They have been combined at the Deliberative Session. Where you vote as a voter would vote. R. Loring Carr stated at last year's Deliberative Session it was decided to have a committee to reduce the number of warrant articles. This is what the Committee has come up with. If you don't want to reduce the non-profits just vote no. The Committee was only for the non-profits. We want to come up with a method to bring down the number of warrant articles.

Cydney Johnson stated her other concern is historically people read what the budget is and if they are okay with it they may not come to the Deliberative session. In addition you have people who are snow birds and they can't be here for Deliberative Session. We have a lot of absentee ballots in the town and if we start taking away people's right to vote other people will say they should have come to Deliberative Session. Also, some people are not physically able to attend. Once it is out there I don't think people expect it to be zeroed out or changed completely. People want to vote. You have 45 people coming to Deliberative Session that try and change warrant articles for 4500 people to vote on. That was not the intention of switching to SB2.

R. Loring Carr suggested putting forth a warrant article to see if the voters want to use this method. Cydney Johnson stated she is not going to support a warrant article and that they could put forth a petition warrant article. R. Loring Carr asked why she did not want the voters to decide if they want to use this method. Cydney Johnson responded if the voters are that concerned and upset then they should do a petition warrant article. I think you are the one who wants to do the petition warrant article I think you are the one that wants to bring it down from 12 to 1. R. Loring Carr stated the people at the Deliberative Session voted to form the Committee. R. Virgil MacDonald stated it was voted on and passed. Lou LaCourse stated his understanding of the agreement at the Deliberative session was to come up with a way to determine which institutions we would give money to and which we wouldn't. R. Loring Carr responded no it was to cut down the number of articles. He continued that Mark Northridge approached him and stated that people were approaching him and complaining about the number of articles.

It was decided to approach the voters at the Deliberative Session to see if they wanted to come up with another method. R. Virgil MacDonald asked Cydney Johnson what she took away from the Deliberative Session and she stated she believes R. Loring Carr is correct. There was a vote to do a study to see if there was a way that they could be combined. Again, she stated she is not going to support it.

R. Loring Carr motioned to include a warrant article suggesting that this is the method. There was continued discussion on how the voting process would be and how would they be voted on at the Deliberative Session. It was noted that they would be voting on the bottom line of the warrant article.

Cydney Johnson informed the Board that there was already a motion on the table. R. Virgil MacDonald withdrew his motion and R. Loring Carr withdrew his second on the motion.

R. Loring Carr motioned to include a warrant article to the ask the voters if they want to use the method on next year's non-profit warrant article and R. Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4-1 with Cydney Johnson voting against. The motion passed.

4. Town Planner Position

E. Russell Bailey stated that in order to move forward in a timely basis approval is needed for advertising the Town Planner vacancy.

Lou LaCourse motioned to place an ad for the Town Planner vacancy and Cydney Johnson seconded.

R. Virgil MacDonald questioned the salary and correct step. E. Russell Bailey stated he will double check and if approved he will put in the ad what the existing step program is.

All were in favor of the motion.

New Business

1. Pole Petitions; Drew Hill Road and Bay Hill Road
R. Loring Carr motioned to approve the request for Pole License No. 35-87 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor.

R. Loring Carr motioned to approve the request for Pole License No 36-04 and Lou LaCourse seconded

R. Virgil MacDonald asked if poles are owned by NH Electric then why is the petition from the telephone company? E. Russell Bailey explained that the telephone and electric companies have an agreement. The Telephone Company has an automatic right to lower space on the pole. The request is coming from TDS. These are done in conjunction with the Co-Op. and the request is from the telephone company.

All were in favor of the motion.

Public Input II

None

Non-Public Session:

Cydney Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II (a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims litigation. R. Loring Carr seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

Adjourned 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Hawksley

Peggy Hawksley
Recording Secretary