

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2009
Public Session I
ALTON TOWN HALL

At 6:00pm, the Chairman convened the meeting of the Selectmen, present were the following members of the Board and staff:

Stephan McMahon, Chairman
Peter Bolster, Vice-Chair
R. Loring Carr, Selectman
David Hussey, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Chairman McMahon led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence.

Approval of the Agenda

R. Bailey amended the agenda to add Item #3 to Old Business – The Fire Station Bid and #4, Septage Agreement. Also in New Business to add #4 – Private Detail Cost Issue. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Police Department - Chairman McMahon introduced Police Captain Ryan Heath to the audience and announced R. Heath would be taking his Oath of Office as Police Chief. R. Heath introduced his family, followed by S. McMahon administering the Oath of Office. Mrs. Heath and son Dylan, then performed the pinning ceremony, which is designated by removing the captain's bars and replacing them with the stars of Police Chief. A brief recess was taken to allow citizens to meet and congratulate the new Chief.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Vote to Recess as Board of Selectmen and Convene as Board of Health, motioned by S. McMahon, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor. The Board met with Thomas Varney, Varney Engineering who explained the waiver request for 14 Peters Path, the system needs to be upgraded. Following a review of the specifications and plans, L. Carr motioned to approve the waiver request as submitted, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor. S. McMahon motioned to recess as Board of Health and reconvene as Board of Selectmen, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

SELECTMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORTS

David Hussey - D. Hussey stated the Planning Board held a special meeting concerning workforce housing issues.

Peter Bolster - P. Bolster reported the Milfoil Committee is working to put together an application for a state grant. The School Building & Grounds Committee continues to meet and look for solutions and should have an announcement soon. The Downtown Revitalization Committee has sent in for a grant, the RFP has been put out for repairs to the Loon Cove Station, and work continues on the deck and railings for the freight building.

Stephan McMahon - S. McMahon had no report at this time due to illness.

Loring Carr – L. Carr stated the Budget Committee had met, there were questions on the monthly expenditure report, they asked about a meeting regarding the default budget, they questioned the COLA , they set up the school's budget schedule and Russ is working on a schedule for the Town.

L. Carr continued that he would like to bring up a matter related to the Selectmen's Committee Positions that make up of the Board of Selectmen and would address his remarks to Selectmen Bolster. L. Carr stated that at a workshop meeting there was very distributing public input concerning remarks P. Bolster had made to individuals about the Chief of Police position, the Alton Bay fire and the cell tower, when he had been advised by the Town Attorney and Town Administrator not to do so.

D. Hussey agreed and stated that Peter had made remarks, he had heard them personally and these statements were contrary to what the Board had talked about

L. Carr motioned to remove Peter Bolster as Vice-Chair and to appoint Selectmen Fuller as Vice-Chair, the motion was seconded by D. Hussey. In a discussion P. Bolster stated it was difficult to get into all the issues. He stated his comments made at the fire site were not out of line. In conversations with individuals about the appointment of Ryan Heath as Chief he had spoken to Ryan and supported him, that his statements on this appointment or on any other issues including the cell tower were public knowledge. He stated his remarks had been misinterpreted and he had corrected those and explained himself. However, if the Board wanted Patricia Fuller to serve as vice-chair, he would not object.

S. McMahon noted a motion had been made. L. Carr stated his motion was to remove Peter Bolster as Vice-Chair, and install Patricia Fuller as Vice-Chair, and seconded by D. Hussey. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed with three in favor and one abstention (SM)

P. Bolster advised those assembled about the dinner/dance cruise on the Mt Washington, on October 16th. for the purpose of getting people together in Town. Tickets are \$30.

Town Administrator Report and Updates –

R. Bailey stated information from the Milfoil Committee will be in next month, they are working on assistance from DES , mapping out the milfoil and working on a grant application, and going out to bid for treatment of milfoil. He advised applying with the state for a matching grant to treat milfoil, L. Carr motioned to authorize the bid for treatment of milfoil, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey advised that in his conversation with Fire Chief Williams over the condition of the roof at the E. Alton Fire station, it needs to be replaced. Funds for this project could come from the Clough-Morrill Trust and operating budget and based on final approval to go out for bid. L. Carr motioned to put the project out to bid, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey stated he had received a letter from the Belknap Range Coalition, their next meeting will be at the Mt. Major parking lot. No permit from the Town is necessary as this is State property.

R. Bailey reported that the Town has been granted an extension on filing a document on landfill contamination. He will have more on this matter at a future meeting. R. Bailey noted there is contamination on abutters property.

Public Input I

Ruth Messier – R. Messier stated the September 8th agenda had not been amended to add Chief Smith's retirement letter. She asked if Public Input was allowed in Workshop Session. S. McMahon noted when it is pertinent or depending on the situation, it is allowed. She asked about the retirement letter. L. Carr noted he had asked Steve if it should be read that night, there is only one short letter. She stated she wondered how much discussion took place on this issue with regards to the Board's approval of Ryan Heath as Chief.

She asked if the Chief Ryan would have a contract, and was advised the only contract is with the Town Administrator. She asked for reconsideration of the liability insurance, noting that it would be difficult for non-profits to get liability insurance. She also stated that this issue is very disconcerting especially to people who want to have yard sales, auctions, private events, etc and the police are called because no permit is in place.

D. Hussey stated the neighbors had contacted the police with regards to a road being blocked by vehicles and that's what was discussed. R. Messier submitted a request for a copy of Chief Smith's retirement letter.

Robert Longabaugh – R. Longabaugh stated L. Carr had said the words "read the short letter" as recorded on tape.

Steven Miller – S. Miller stated the Board, with the exception of Loring Carr, had violated three separate articles of the Conflict of Interest Ordinance by voting themselves and two other town officials a raise on August 14th (Secretary's Note: I believe he means April 14, 2009) And this was done after the taxpayers voted "no" due to the default budget. And that the Board should rescind their motion, they took money that did not belong to them and it should be returned.

Robert Longabaugh – R. Longabaugh stated he would like the minutes to reflect that he came forward to castigate four of the Selectmen for their hasty decision with respect to the future of the Alton Police Department. He noted that Patricia Fuller did not vote with the Board. He had no issue with the appointment, but with the "whirlwind process" that decided the future of the Police Department, other options could have been considered including a Public Hearing, appointing a search committee, abolishing the Police Department, using the sheriff's department or using a commission the same as Wolfeboro, etc. He feels this appointment came "in the dead of night"

Ruth Messier – Stated that as far as their vote on the COLA, she stated the Board should be ashamed with the exception of Loring Carr.

Robert Longabaugh – R. Longabaugh advised that in the next edition of "The Baysider" he would have an article about the COLA. He noted the Workshop was in April.

Steven Miller – S. Miller clarified his only issue was with the Selectmen giving themselves a raise, and violating three provisions of the Conflict of Interest Policy. He had no issues with other Town Officials receiving a raise.

Steven Parker – S. Parker suggested taking care of the milfoil this year. He asked about the plans for painting the water bandstand and about snow removal at Alton Bay.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

P. Bolster motioned to accept the minutes of 9-8-09, Public Session I & II and (sealed) Non-Public Sessions as submitted, seconded by L. Carr and passed with all in favor.
S. McMahon motioned to table a vote on the Workshop Minutes of 09-15-09, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

Old Business

1. Emergency Management - NIMS - The Board reviewed information from the NH Emergency Management website concerning the purpose and need for adoption of the NIMS. R. Bailey advised the Board would have to adopt the NIMS process needed for the grant applications. L. Carr motioned to adopt the system, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.
2. 2009 Tax Rate – R. Bailey advised he has no number at this time, his recommendation would be to authorize the Town Administrator to use \$140,000 and maintain the tax rate. R. Bailey advised he hopes to have a number within a week, when the State has finalized the meals and rooms tax and school aid. L. Carr motion to keep a flat rate, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor. L. Carr motioned to maintain the overlay amount of approximately \$100,000 seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.
3. Painting Bid – Alton Bay Fire Station – The Board and Town Administrator reviewed bids as received. L. Carr motioned to approve the bid of M&L Maintenance, seconded by P. Bolster for a discussion on the time- frame and funding. R. Bailey advised funds for this project would come from the Clough-Morrill Fund, the building will be painted depending upon weather conditions, and the motion passed.
4. Septic Agreement – R. Bailey presented the members with a copy of a Septic Agreement with the Town of Allenstown. L. Carr motioned to accept the agreement, seconded by D. Hussey and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Halloween Schedule – October 31, 2009 – L. Carr motioned to approve the Trick or Treat Hours of 4:30-7:00pm, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.
2. NH Department of Safety – Radio Interoperability /Maintenance – R. Bailey noted there are 30-40 radios between the Police and Fire Department, time is of the essence and this document will be hand carried to Concord. D. Hussey motioned to grant approval and to have the Town Administrator sign the agreement.

3. Vote on Land Use Items - The Board voted unanimously to approve the timber yield tax and the intent to cut as submitted by the Assessing Department.
5. Private Duty Detail – R. Bailey noted the legislature had made changes on the amount of retirement costs. Following a discussion, P. Bolster moved to add a 5.8% charge to those who use private duty details, seconded by S. McMahon. In a discussion, L. Carr amended the motion to charge the full amount (100%) for private duty to the contractor, the motion and amendment, passed with all in favor.

Public Input II

Gregory Fuller – G. Fuller stated that to clarify some of the discussion of COLA , that the Cost of Living raise included all hourly and salary employees, 90% of them got a COLA raise in the default budget. He continued it was his impression that everyone received a raise, except Mr. Carr. But from the first Public Input, it sounded as though only the Board and two other department heads received a raise. He stated he had a solution to this but would not comment on that at this meeting.

Raymond Howard – R. Howard stated he has concerns about what goes on in secret, the agenda should define Non-Public Session items, releasing minutes, and the use of the police cruiser in detail work, including maintenance and cost of gas.

Non-Public Session - At approximately 7:55pm, S. McMahon motioned to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A;3,II (a) (c) and (e), the motion was seconded and the Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed..

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood
Town Secretary

Minutes Approved: October 19, 2009

