

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes  
January 18, 2024  
*(Approved - February 13, 2024)*

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Chairman P. LaRochelle convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

P. LaRochelle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

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Paul LaRochelle, Chairman  
Brock Mitchell, Vice- Chairman  
Andrew Morse, Selectman  
Nicholas Buonopane, Selectman  
Richard Shea, Selectmen

**Announcements**

- The Public Participation Policy applies to all Selectmen meetings. A copy of it is on the back of each agenda, posted outside this meeting room, and on our website.
- Due to NH's First In The Nation Presidential Primary held at Prospect Mountain High School; The Alton Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office will be closed on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon

**Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)**

None

**Appointments**

None

**New Business**

1. DPW - Winter Maintenance Snow and Ice Removal

R. Heath stated that unfortunately, the Public Works Director had a conflict tonight was not able to attend, so asked me to just proceed with the presentation. This is a housekeeping issue. He went through the policies for winter maintenance and operating procedures and his recommendation is to adopt the new language because it's based on the new DPW configuration. He also took out some of the private road stuff that we're no longer doing anymore.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept the Winter maintenance policy as written by the Public Works Director and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Map 43 Lot 40 - Interest Waiver/Abatement Request

R. Heath stated that Jennifer Collins, the Town Clerk, Tax collector, submitted the supporting documentation to outline the situation with this particular one. The woman is a member of the LLC, which is asking for to have the \$174.35 since waived or abated. She claimed that there was a software glitch and she didn't receive the bill that it didn't know that there was interest to. The Board discussed the situation and the fact that she has paid on time for the last few years.

R. Shea made a motion to wave the interest for 341 Trask Side Road as presented and outlined in the letter and documentation in front of the board and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Bench Donation Request

R. Heath stated that there is a request to install a bench in the Bay in memory of her husband. P. LaRochelle stated that he knew the person being remembered.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept the bench donation from Ruth Arsenault as written in the form and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Old Business

None

## Selectmen Reports

R. Shea stated they are looking forward to collections for HHW. The Budget Committee had the Public Hearing. There were no issues.

N. Buonopane stated that the Planning Board meeting went well.

A.Morse had nothing to report.

B.Mitchell had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to thank the staff who worked hard to clear the snow from the last snow storm.

## Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the street light mentioned a few meetings ago. They have discontinued the street light the Board wanted disconnected. He invites the Board to go by and see the difference with it being shut off.

R. Heath stated that they have started receiving FEMA payments for the first declaration. That is for the December storms of 2022. They are three quarters of the way through the application for the July floods.

R. Heath stated that the Board needs to decide who will move, second, and speak to the Warrant Articles at the Deliberative Session. R. Heath read the Warrant Articles out loud and the Board members choose.

### **Article #10: Benefit Pay Capital Reserve Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Benefit Pay Capital Reserve Trust Fund, previously established in 2000. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (The estimated tax impact is \$.02)

Move: Paul LaRochelle  
Second: Brock Mitchell  
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

### **Article #11: Town Operating Budget**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$10,269,813.00? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$9,521,748.00, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles voted separately. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$4.70)

Move: Budget Committee  
Second: Budget Committee  
Speak to it: Budget Committee

### **Article #12: Water Works Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$560,810.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution system for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by users' fees. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$538,475.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$.26)

Move: Budget Committee  
Second: Budget Committee  
Speak to it: Budget Committee

### **Article #13: Town Treasurer**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Town Treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e rather than electing a treasurer. If approved by the voters, the current elected Treasurer shall continue to hold office until the 2025 Town Election. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

Move: Richard Shea  
Second: Nicholas Buonopane  
Speak to it: Richard Shea

**Article #14: Municipal Parking Lot**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to expand the Library Parking Lot for Municipal use. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by 12/31/2028 whichever is sooner. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required.)

Move: Brock Mitchell  
Second: Andrew Morse  
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

**Article #15: Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 135,000.00 to be added to the following capital reserve funds:

Highway Sand Shed CRF	\$10,000.00
Sidewalk CRF	\$10,000.00
Highway Building Improvements/Repairs CRF	\$20,000.00
Senior Center CRF	\$20,000.00
Town Owned Parking Area CRF	\$15,000.00
IT CRF	\$20,000.00
Building & Improvements Transfer Station CRF	\$20,000.00
Jones Field CRF	\$10,000.00
Milfoil Treatment Program CRF	\$10,000.00

Said funds to be raised through taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (2-2). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.06)

Move: Paul LaRochelle  
Second: Brock Mitchell  
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

**Article #16: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.09)

Move: Andrew Morse  
Second: Nicholas Buonopane  
Speak to it: Andrew Morse

**Article #17: Aerial Ladder Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a 7-year lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$717,247 to finance the purchase and equipping of an Aerial Ladder Truck for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$128,438 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. The annual lease payments will be approximately \$128,438. Not recommended by the Selectmen (0-5). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.33)

Move: Richard Shea  
Second: Nicholas Buonopane  
Speak to it: Richard Shea

**Article #18: Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Rock & Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2017.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.01)

Move: Nicholas Buonopane  
Second: Andrew Morse

Speak to it: Nicholas Buonopane

**Article #19: Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995 and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.07)

Move: Paul LaRochelle  
Second: Brock Mitchell  
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

**Article #20: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (2-2). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.09)

Move: Nicholas Buonopane  
Second: Richard Shea  
Speak to it: Nicholas Buonopane

**Article #21: Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2018. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.02)

Move: Andrew Morse  
Second: Brock Mitchell  
Speak to it: Andrew Morse

**Article #22: Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000, to be added to the Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve fund, as previously established in 2020. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (2-2). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.01)

Move: Nicholas Buonopane  
Second: Richard Shea  
Speak to it: Nicholas Buonopane

**Article #23: Grounds & Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Grounds & Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2019. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1) Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.01)

Move: Richard Shea  
Second: Nicholas Buonopane  
Speak to it: Richard Shea

**Article #24: Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000, to be added to Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve fund, as previously established in 2011. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.03)

Move: Paul LaRochelle  
Second: Andrew Morse  
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

**Article #25: IT Network Server Replacement**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000, to be used for the replacement and upgrade of the Town's information technology servers. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required.)

Move: Brock Mitchell  
Second: Paul LaRochelle

Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

**Article #26: New Riverside Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum \$50,000 to be added to the New Riverside Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 2023. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$.02)

Move: Andrew Morse  
Second: Nicholas Buonopane  
Speak to it: Andrew Morse

**Article #27: Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,450,000.00 to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1998. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$201,935.00. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the Maintenance of existing roadways. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-0-1). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$.66)

Move: Paul LaRochelle  
Second: Richard Shea  
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

**Article #28: Environmental Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Environmental Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2022. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-2). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1-3). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$.01)

Move: Nicholas Buonopane  
Second: Paul LaRochelle  
Speak to it: Nicholas Buonopane

**Article #29: Local Radio Communications**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to repair and replace the local radio communications for the Town of Alton. Said funds are to come from the unassigned fund balance. There will be no funds raised from general taxation. This will not affect the tax rate. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0) (Majority vote required)

Move: Richard Shea  
Second: Andrew Morse  
Speak to it: Richard Shea

**Article #30: Nonprofits**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,325.00 for the purpose of supporting the following nonprofits and their individual appropriations:

American Red Cross	\$2,000.00
Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc.	\$2,000.00
Granite VNA & Hospice	\$12,000.00
Community Action Program (CAP)	\$10,000.00
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$500.00
Lakes Region Mental Health Center fka Genesis	\$15,750.00
Life Ministries, Inc.	\$3,000.00
New Beginnings	\$1,575.00
Waypoint fka Child and Family Services	\$2,500.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-1). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$.02)

Move: Paul LaRochelle  
Second: Nicholas Buonopane  
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

**Article #31: Discontinue The Old Rand Hill Road**

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely pursuant to RSA 231:43 the old portion of Rand Hill Road from the foot hills of Rand Hill to the house of Jonathan Jones as described in the March 12<sup>th</sup> 1850 Town Meeting minutes. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0). (Majority vote required)

Move: Brock Mitchell  
Second: Andrew Morse  
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

**Approval of Minutes**

None

**Consent Agenda Approval**

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for January 18, 2024 as presented and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**1. Alton Water Works**

**Abatements**

Bella Winni K92	Map 8-44	166 Wolfeboro K92	\$202.68	Billed for Wrong Property
Elaine Conboy	Map 32-57	332 Main Street	\$3.48	Billed Wrong

**2. Building Department**

Ditri, Norma, Building/Code Official, effective 12/04/2023

**3. Milfoil Committee**

Gould, David, 3 year term, expires March, 2027

**Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments** (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

None

**Public Input II** (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

None

**Non-Public Session**

P. LaRochelle moved at 6:25 pm to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters) B. Mitchell seconded.  
Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle – yes                      B. Mitchell – yes                      R. Shea – yes  
N. Buonopane III – yes                      A. Morse – yes                      Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 6:25 pm Chairman LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

P. LaRochelle, Chairman  
B. Mitchell, Vice-chairman

R. Shea, Selectmen  
A. Morse, Selectmen  
N. Buonopane III, Selectmen  
R. Heath, Town Administrator

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:35 pm to exit nonpublic session. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle – yes                      B. Mitchell – yes                      R. Shea – yes  
N. Buonopane III – yes                      A. Morse – yes                      Roll call vote carried unanimously.

P. LaRochelle moved to 'not divulge' item two of the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle – yes                      B. Mitchell – yes                      R. Shea – yes  
N. Buonopane III – yes                      A. Morse – Yes                      Roll call vote carried unanimously

**Public actions.**

The Board regretfully accepts the resignation of our Water Superintendent and APWD Courtney Mitchell.

P. LaRochelle moved to retain C. Mitchell as a licensed water consultant to assist with the management of the Department during this transition for \$875.00 per week. N. Buonopane seconded. Motion carried. (B. Mitchell Abstained)

P. LaRochelle moved to offer the Fire Chief's Position to Fred A. Mitchell Jr. N. Buonopane seconded. Motion Failed (2-3).

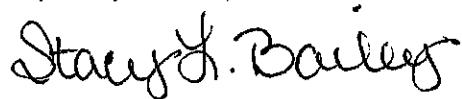
B. Mitchell moved to offer the Fire Chief's Position to James D. Reinert. A. Morse Seconded. Motion carried (3-2).

The Board expressed that the Town was very fortunate to have such great applicants for the Fire Chief's position. This made the final split discussion very difficult, however the Board expressed the Town will be in good hands with either applicant and the new Chief coming in will have the Board's full support.

**Adjournment**

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:40 pm to adjourn. B. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey  
Recording Secretary