

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
October 2, 2017
Approved: October 16, 2017

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

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman arrived at 6:05 PM
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
John Markland, Selectman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Board of Health

Cydney Johnson made a motion to recess as the Board of Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Health and Reuben Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Septic Waiver Request; Map 75 Lot 68, 984 Rattlesnake Island

John Dever and May Varney were present to explain the reasons for the waiver request. This is for a replacement of a drywell system installed in 1985. Due to the steepness and topography of the lot this is the best location for the tank allowing the use of a gravity drain from the house to the tank.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the septic waiver request for Map 75 Lot 68, tank to lake, required 75', Actual 51'; Pump chamber to lake, Required 75', Actual 59' and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Health and re-Convene as the Board of Selectmen and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

At this time, Virgil MacDonald arrived to the meeting.

Announcements

- The Town Clerk's Office will not be able to process motor vehicle registrations from Friday, October 6th through Friday, October 10th due to a software upgrade at the State Division of Motor Vehicles.
- Town Offices will be open for regular business on Columbus Day, Monday, October 9th.

Appointments

None

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

The following people were in attendance to voice their concerns against supporting the proposed Warrant Article for Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC):

- Rick Perreault; Warrant Article concern, not participate
- Mrs. William French; researched, regional science; do not consider, stick with your previous decision
- Aaron Sisoian; embarrassed and astonished to be here again, urged the Board for this issue not to reappear before the Board
- William French; research done; not in favor of the undertaking; placement on the ballot would be the proper way to go
- Ray Howard; Just a request by the Planning Board, rumble strip issue is a classic example of this agency
- Peter Keen; Rumble strip issue relating to the lack of planning on LRPC

Each person voiced their reasons and displeasure with supporting Lakes Region Planning Commission urging the Board not to participate.

Public Input I closed.

New Business

2018 Tax Map Maintenance Contract Renewal; Cartographic Associates, Inc. dba CAI Technologies

Liz Dionne noted that this is an annual contract renewal between the Town and Cartographic Associates, Inc. dba CAI Technologies for the tax maps information was provided within the scope of work and the cost is included in his budget.

John Markland made a motion to approve the 2018 tax map maintenance contract renewal with Cartographic Associates, Inc. dba CAI Technologies and Cydney Johnson seconded.

Discussion: Reuben Wentworth questioned the dates on the contract and why they were just receiving it when it was dated back to the 8th day of March 2017 for processing data recorded 4/1/2017 through 3/31/2018; why was this not done in the spring. Liz Dionne did not know the answers. Further, he recommended holding off for clarification on dates until the contract is printed correctly.

John Markland withdrew his motion and Cydney Johnson withdrew her second on the motion. It was the consensus to hold off and then bring it back to the next meeting.

Planning Board Warrant Article Request

A letter was provided in the packet signed by the Planning Board Vice-Chair requesting the Board to place a Warrant Article on the ballot to let the taxpayers decide whether or not to fund the dues for the Lakes Region Planning Commission.

Reuben Wentworth questioned if the Planning Board voted at a meeting regarding sending this letter for the proposal. Virgil MacDonald responded it was discussed sometime last year. In addition, Virgil noted that the Planning Board uses LRPC quite a bit; we are no longer voting members. Phil Wittmann voiced his experiences with the LRPC and provided various handouts and pointed out certain excerpts within the LRPC meeting minutes to the Board members. His feeling is that they do have a political agenda. His recommendation is not to put this Warrant Article out there.

Virgil MacDonald feels that it should be put out there to let the town decide.

Cydney Johnson noted that the Board will need to make that decision when the time comes.

Reuben Wentworth feels that a letter should be sent to the Planning Board advising that it was brought up at the meeting, it will be taken under advisement, and we will get back to them.

The consensus of the Board was to send a letter.

Halloween Hours; Tuesday, October 31, 2017; 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the Halloween hours for Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Deliberative Session Date Approval: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, Snow Date, Thursday, February 8, 2018

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the recommended Deliberative dates for Wednesday, February 7, 2018, Snow Date, Thursday, February 8, 2018 and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Liz Dionne inquired about the time for Deliberative whether to be at 7:00 PM or 6:30 PM. There had previously been discussion about changing the time.

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve the 6:30 PM time for Deliberative Session and Reuben Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Recommended Usage of Additional Highway Block Grant Funds for Road Reconstruction by Ken Roberts

A recommendation from the Highway Department was to use the money to purchase a tracked excavator. Having heard Ken Roberts' thoughts previously Cydney Johnson asked the members to speak if they had strong feelings against the purchase.

Reuben Wentworth voiced that he is not in favor of the purchase and would like to see the additional funds used for maintenance such as pavement, patching potholes, digging rocks from the pavement and additional sidewalks.

Ken Roberts approached the Board stating with nothing set in stone or scheduled yet for road reconstruction for next year; it all needs to come before the Board for approval. Ken's reasoning is this would be helpful to get on top of the maintenance issues. The first excavator does the work for road reconstruction.

Cydney Johnson questioned if this excavator would be used for anything other than its intention. Ken responded according to SB38 it cannot be used for anything other than highway maintenance. Cydney then voiced it may sit quite a bit.

Virgil MacDonald voiced that possibly road reconstruction should be shut down in order to work on maintenance. Ken is looking for direction from the Board. If the Board feels that reconstruction should be shut down then let's shut it down.

Cydney Johnson reminded everyone that they need to stay on the topic at hand; using the highway funds for maintenance, additional paving, etc. or are we going to purchase a piece of equipment.

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to use the additional highway block grant funds for road reconstruction for maintenance of the Alton highways or sidewalks and Phil Wittmann seconded.

Further discussion: John Markland questioned if the purchase of this motion is to reduce the cost of proposed road reconstruction for the following year.

Cydney Johnson voiced the concern of once we lower it we will never get it back.

Liz Dionne stated that you are not allowed to use these funds to lower the cost of your annual request of monies; this is something to be used totally in addition to your current amounts. It can be used for highways, sidewalks, drainage, pavement markings, traffic signals, guardrails, bridges, public ways, nothing that has been already established, it must be new maintenance. This can be carried over to next year but must be used by the end of next year.

Reuben Wentworth mentioned the possibility of doing chip sealing. Cydney Johnson stated the main decision is, do we want to use this money to purchase a new piece of equipment or for the reconstruction, maintenance, sidewalks etc.

The motion on the table was called.

Reuben Wentworth withdrew his previous motion to re-clarify his motion. Phil Wittmann withdrew his second.

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to use the additional highway block grant funds be used for maintenance of the Alton roads and additional sidewalks and Phil Wittmann seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed John Markland.

Acceptance of Additional Highway Block Grant Funds for Road Reconstruction; \$165,571.33

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to accept the Additional Highway Block Grant Funds in the amount of \$165,571.33 and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Vote on Usage of Additional Highway Block Grant Funds for Road Reconstruction; \$165,571.33

The vote was previously decided in the above discussions.

Atlantic Broadband Contract Approval

The Public Hearing has already taken place. MetroCast Cable has been bought out by Atlantic Broadband Cable. A favorable opinion from the Attorney who worked on the cable agreement previously was provided to the Board and sees no reasons. This will be happening 120 days from August 1st; we really have no choice.

John Markland made a motion to approve the Atlantic Broadband Cable Contract and Reuben Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Committee Reports

Reuben Wentworth had no reports.

Phil Wittmann reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting from September 26th. An overview of the meeting was discussed which included the following:

- Presentation by Derek Pappaceno, Alton Youth League for improvements to Jones Field including (1) remove the existing snack shack; (2) build a new snack shack in a centrally located area at the complex; (3) relocate the portable toilets; (4) establish a no pet policy on the playing fields; (5) move the home side bleachers to where the existing snack shack is located; (6) install irrigation for field watering; (7) improve the layout and traffic pattern of the parking lot and add parking spaces; (8) add lights to the field for night games. W. Lionetta stated that most of the items proposed by the AYL tonight have been discussed by the Commission at previous meetings, and he is in support of improvements at Jones Field. W. Lionetta noted that other groups have presented their plans to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the groups do not follow through on their plan/project because volunteers leave the organized group that proposed the plans. W. Lionetta stated that parking has been greatly improved in recent years, and spaces have been added. He also noted that there are limitations on space expansion because of wetland issues. K. Troendle stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended a warrant article in 2016 for an engineering study at Jones Field. It was noted the warrant article was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen, and the warrant article was defeated by the voters. It was recommended for the AYL to meet with the Board of Selectmen and present their proposal for field improvements in phases.
- Kiosk Maps
- 2018 Recreation Basketball Program
- P. Wittmann asked about hiring additional summer camp staff to handle discipline as discussed at the August meeting. K. Troendle reported that the summer camp program would be able to support the cost of the additional staff because the field trips would be held in Alton instead of at off site venues which would save money on transportation and admission costs.
- From the Director's Report: Staff Meetings: Cemetery, Grounds and Maintenance, Tennis Court surface repairs, Old Home Week Events, Soccer Coaches Meeting, 2018 Milfoil Grant paperwork to DES and BOS, Update on Water Bandstand: In 2014 a Capital Reserve Fund was established for maintaining/repairing the Water Bandstand. \$20,000 was appropriated. Due to weather the project was delayed a few years. The work performed by the contractor to do the roof, trim and north side soffit was completed and paid in July 2017. The CRF balance is \$13,540
- K. Troendle handed out hard copies of the revised Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaws dated 11/7/16 for PRC members to review in reference to their Commission member responsibilities.

The Snack Shack was briefly discussed and suggestions were made amongst the Board.

John Markland had no reports.

Virgil MacDonald had no reports.

Cydney Johnson met with the CIP Committee who met last week. Another meeting or two (2) will be forthcoming. People have been doing a great job laying out plans. A spreadsheet will be created. There has been discussion of wants versus needs; it will be a work in progress.

Town Administrator Report

Building Department; Boat Proposal

Liz Dionne called John Dever, Code Enforcement Officer to speak with the Board regarding a proposal for purchasing a small boat for his department; he would allow other departments to use. This would be independent of the Fire and Police boats. He routinely visits island properties for inspections. It is a 14' v-hull with a center console with a 70hp motor for sale on Stockbridge Corner Road. Steve Parker was kind enough to go with him to look at the boat and he thought it was in good condition being solid and sound checking a number of items on

the boat. It is in need of some TLC and within the discussion with the seller we told him we would put it in the water, run the motor make sure it will it start. John spoke with Andrew Kierstead from Minge Cove Marina who stated that parts should be available for the engine that is on the boat and offered to donate his labor with us paying for parts. The trailer is in excellent condition and John would negotiate the price. There is a dock next to Shibley's that the Town owns and it would fit there. The Highway Department has offered storage in the back in winter. Shrink wrap is approximately \$10/\$12 a foot. The boat is a 1983 and is for sale for \$800.00 which includes the boat, trailer and motor; it is worth making an offer. Reuben Wentworth made reference to the boat's age. This could benefit many departments.

Liz Dionne noted that this purchase would be under the \$2500.00 mark John does have the authority to purchase however she suggested that because it would be a fleet item that he bring it before the Board; he does have money in his budget. He normally uses the police boat. This would be covered under our insurance. A cost for a cover was questioned but had not been obtained; John could look into this.

Cydney Johnson noted that this is not really a voting issue.

Reuben Wentworth voiced he would never buy something that is 34 years old.

Virgil MacDonald stated if it runs then it probably would be a good buy; Johnson motors are a good motor. This might buy us a few years.

Police Department; Vehicle Lease Proposal

Liz Dionne called Police Chief Ryan Heath to speak with the Board regarding a proposal for a Police Vehicle Lease. The existing fleet consists of six (6) Dodge Chargers and three (3) Dodge Durangos. The current lease is a six (6) year lease at 4.5%, total financed \$214,365.52 with a yearly payment of \$39,920.28, leaving a balance of \$109,739.00 on the entire fleet. The new proposal is for nine (9) AWD Dodge Chargers, trading in seven (7) of the existing vehicles (6 Chargers and 1 Durango) and giving one (1) Durango to the Assessing Office and one (1) Durango to the Code Official Office. The lease would be for five (5) years at 3.3% with a total financed amount of \$179,016.66 including the outfitting. Seven (7) vehicles will be traded which will pay off the balance. Three (3) vehicle are to be purchased and equipped out of the private detail revolving fund in the amount of \$98,063.00. The Revolving Fund has \$124,541.00 with another 33K uncollected, which has been billed out; we will not be depleting the fund and this is an allowable use within the fund. The current lease is up in 2019 with no penalty for early payoff. The new yearly payment would be \$38,800.00. We own the vehicles at the end of the lease; there is no buy out. The current vehicles have approximately 40/51K miles. Nothing will be coming from taxation. The graphics would remain the same on the new vehicles.

John Markland stated that you may be lowering the interest but you are extending the lease term. In addition, he specifically remembers the need for the Durango's in the lease opposed

to the chargers; has something changed? Ryan responded with they are finding no difference between the clearance of the Chargers opposed to the Durango's.

Reuben Wentworth voiced similar concerns of extending the leases, never owning or keeping the vehicles; nothing ever goes away, we are continuing to turn things over.

Ryan Heath spoke about the fleet expense being reduced from previous years 25K down to \$7500.

Cydney Johnson questioned the warranty and thought that the warranties were for the life of the lease term or 100K/miles. Ryan responded with they have a 5 year 100K on the powertrain with a 3 year 36K in miles full warranty.

Ryan Heath stated that the pricing for each vehicle is \$26,021 oddly enough the bids from 2014; the price today is \$150.00 less per vehicle.

John Markland asked about the purpose of the detail fund and if purchasing vehicles is allowed or was it the intention to use it for such. Liz Dionne noted that the purpose of a Police Detail Revolving Fund is usually intended for; DRA was consulted and it is not taxpayers' money. This money is coming in from private companies.

Cydney Johnson noted that this does not have to be voted on tonight, it can be brought to a Selectmen's Budget Workshop for further consideration. It was the consensus of the Board to bring it to a future Selectmen's Budget Workshop.

Bay Project Completed

On behalf of the Highway Department, Liz Dionne informed the Board that the Bay project has been completed. There are 43 spaces that were created opposed to the initial stated 39 spaces; four (4) are handicapped plus two (2) spaces for Fire Department. This brings the overall total to 45 spaces.

Vigil MacDonald voiced that the Town did a beautiful job. Liz Dionne thanked Ken Roberts.

Bay Project; Public Parking Spaces, Reaffirm "No trailer and no overnight parking"

Liz Dionne mentioned that there currently is no trailer or overnight parking allowed in the Bay. After speaking with Ken Roberts she voiced concern with the new spaces and is suggesting that the Board reaffirm the no trailer or overnight parking allowed in the Bay due to the new additional spaces. In addition, Liz stated in order to make it legal the governing body would need to make a vote for specifying that it would be for all parking spaces. It would cover any potential issues that could come forward.

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to reaffirm no parking overnight or no parking of trailers in any area of the Bay and Cydney Johnson seconded.

Discussion: Both Ken Roberts and Ryan Heath spoke on behalf of the matter. Ken stated that it was part of the agreement with the State for the spaces to be designated for cars not for trailers. In an emergency, the person could obtain approval from a Police Officer on duty then he felt it wouldn't be an issue. Chief Heath responded that the Police Department takes on a case by case basis if there is an emergency or breakdown situation, fatigue etc. as long as they communicate with the Police Department.

The motion on the table held with all in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session, September 20, 2017 and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 abstention, Virgil MacDonald.

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session, September 20, 2017 and Cydney Johnson seconded. Virgil noted that he was not present at the meeting; correction add he was not present after his name. The vote was 4 approved, 1 abstention, Virgil MacDonald.

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session, September 25, 2017 and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 4 approved 1 abstention, John Markland. **The vote was clarified all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session, September 21, 2017 as presented and Phil Wittmann seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 abstention John Markland.

**John Markland noted he originally abstained on the vote for the September 25th meeting; he is in favor of the approval.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Reuben Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval, New Hire - Fire Department; Chris Gagnon, Firefighter II/EMT, \$14.50 per hour.

Approval, End of Probation Increase - Cemetery Department; James Andersen, Sexton/Maintenance Laborer, \$13.60 to \$13.85 per hour.

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

John Dever, Code Enforcement Officer approached the Board stated his first day of work was eight (8) years ago Columbus Day filling in part time. He wanted it known that this is one of the best job's he has had and thanked the Board and the residents for having their support. Ray Howard approached the Board stating that back in March he went to the department with it being the one (1) year anniversary of the revolving fund for the Police Department. He is flabbergasted by the fact that 18 months later there is 123K in the fund. The purpose of setting this up was so that we weren't losing any money with detail work. He can't believe that we have received that amount of money over and above our costs for detail work. He questioned this and he will be looking into this further. In addition, he received a letter from the Town in response to the State's denial of removing the rumble strips and questioned the other enclosed copies. Liz responded it was a done as courtesy. He has not seen the actual noise study. It is his understanding that there is a certain volume that builds up to about 50/55 mph when you get beyond that the decibel reading shoots up like a rocket. There was a comment about both the local Police and State Police doing a better job patrolling; any driver's manual shows when you pass someone you need to do it in a reasonable and prudent manner, you can exceed the speed limit while passing someone accelerating getting up to 75 mph in order to get around a vehicle with to oncoming traffic; this would increase the noise tremendously. The worse part of this whole deal is in every letter that has been sent it is stated that they have done this for safety purposes. Back in March, these rumble strips cost the life of a very beloved citizen all because of the rumble strips. I have confirmed this with a copy of a Police report and there was no State Police investigation, which they always do in a fatality. He believes this is something to deal with, with DOT; they are covering this fatality up. Ray would like to read the noise study report and will be in to obtain it stating that this is not over yet until those rumble strips are gone!

Peter Keen approached the Board addressed the rumble strips finding it interesting the amount of road debris from tires which is happening quite often near St. Katharine's Church. He further stated that when you are told things about safety and security; I'm telling you that they don't exist; you can have levels of risk management but safety does not exist. Wolfboro does not have a rumble strip and finds it to be insulting. He read in the newspaper that 42% of the homes in either Belknap County or Alton were in the secondary market, which would indicate to him that 42% of the people that reside in Alton can't vote, they can pay taxes but they can't vote. He also stated he would like to see the bandstand painted white again.

Rick Perreault approached the Board regarding the rumble strip issue. It is his belief that somebody made a study, maybe in Arizona that would keep people from falling asleep going down the road. We are living this; it is not benefiting the people living in Alton. The challenge is when we have outside people from non-government agencies directing to the people things come in that never go away, that's why we are asking that this regional planning thing go

away. That's the kind of thing that this rumble strip issue is. Again, he urged the Board to keep away from the LRPC. He stated we have a good Town with good Administration, good Boards, pay attention to leases, he knows a lot about boats, if the boat and trailer is good you can throw the motor away and get a new one later; it seems that that boat would be a good deal.

Public Input II closed.

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

Derek Pappaceno; Alton Youth League

Phil Wittmann made a motion to approve the discretionary appointment for Derek Pappaceno and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Non-Public Session:

Cydney Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) and Reuben Wentworth seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative by roll call with all in favor of the motion.

Roll call vote:

Reuben Wentworth, yes
Philip V. Wittmann, yes
John Markland, yes
Virgil MacDonald, yes
Cydney Johnson, yes

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary