

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes  
October 10, 2023  
*(Approved - November 14, 2023)*

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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, Excused  
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle removed #7 under New Business Water Department - Utility Truck Purchase. N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

- The Public Participation Policy applies to all Selectmen meetings. A copy of it is on the back of each agenda, posted in this meeting room, and on our website.
- **NOTICE** The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Thursday, October 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 staff will be attending the N.H.C.T.C.A.'S 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Clerk Conference

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Water Bandstand - Expenditures

R. Heath, Town Administrator, stated that there is a memo from the Water Bandstand Committee in the packets. They were looking for \$500.00 for maintenance. When the request came in the Escrow Account for the Water Bandstand is down to \$223.28. The Board are the agents to expend from the Capital Reserve. If there are any expenditures, they need to go before the Board first. The request was if the Town would pay for some of the maintenance items. P. LaRochelle stated that he just came from a Water Bandstand meeting. The account hasn't been replenished in a few years. One of the options that were discussed is a warrant article for \$2,000.00 up to \$5,000.00. After talking to the Finance Officer he discussed with the rest of the Committee whether or not it would be good to put this under the Department of Public Works. Put a line item Water Bandstand Capital Reserve under the direction of DPW to be able to do the repairs. This way the Committee would not have to go to the Board of Selectmen every time to apply for monies to spend or utilize. Right now there is about \$11,000.00 in the escrow account but the escrow account is for specifically for entertainment and the water ski show. It is not used as the Capital Reserve. It was brought up to talk to the Public Works Director to see if this could be a line item to go for budget under DPW. B. Mitchell asked if this would just be a line under Public Works but the Committee would do the work. P. LaRochelle stated that is correct. He asked the Finance Officer if we would be able to put it under the umbrella of DPW as a Capital Reserve. B. Mitchell stated that it would be a line item not a Capital Reserve. P. LaRochelle stated that it should be a Capital Reserve specifically for the Water Bandstand. Take the line item name away and keep it Capital Reserve. R. Heath stated that if it is a Capital Reserve you have to have the Board agents to expend. P. LaRochelle stated that it should be a line item then specifically for the Water Bandstand. R. Heath stated that DPW will be at the next meeting with their budget. It would be a good venue to talk about this.

2. Electronic Ballot Counting Devices - Discussion

Jen Collins, Tax Collector/Town Clerk and Robin Lane-Douglas, Town Moderator, approached the table. R. Lane-Douglas stated that the two of them have done a lot of research. They zeroed in on Voting Works. She reads history on Voting Works. She and J. Collins attended a workshop in Concord for all the voting machines. Voting Works offered the most. She liked the absentee

scanner linked to the ballot counting device. They invited Alton Public officials, the public, as well as, other Moderators, and other towns that had not attended in Concord for a demonstration here in Town Hall. The cost for this machine is \$7,000.00 and the absentee scanner is \$1,000.00 and can be purchased at a later date. This machine sets up in little as 10 minutes. B. Mitchell asked how many of these are needed. R. Lane-Douglas stated that the Town would need one. B. Mitchell asked if they order one how long will it take to get it. R. Lane-Douglas stated that it would take 90 days. B. Mitchell asked if we have money to purchase this. Heath stated that it would be covered under surplus. It should come out of the Elections line. It will over expend a line, but will be covered by the surplus. J. Collins stated that she has the contract but just needs to be reviewed.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$8,000.00 for Voting Works machine for elections contingent on Town Counsel review and allow the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Conservation Commission - Mount Bet Project

R. Wilder, Conservation Commission, and D. Hyde, South East Land Trust, approached the table. R. Wilder stated that the Conservation Commission became aware of

4. Review of Local Municipal Septic Oversight

5. DPW - NH Electric Coop Pole Licenses

6. DPW - Eversource Right of Way Easement for 2 New Pole Locations

Old Business

1. DPW - Winter Maintenance Deicing Materials Purchase

Selectmen Reports

Town Administrator Report

Approval of Minutes

September 12, 2023 - Public Session

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023 Public Session and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for October 10, 2023 as presented and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Land Use Items

Timber Tax

Collins; Map 8 Lot 18; Youngtown Road; \$118.39

2. Water Bandstand Committee

Aimee Janes, 1 Year Term, Expires March 2024

3. Police Department

Spellman, Cameron, Patrol Officer, \$30.50/ hr. Effective 10/29/2023

Donahue, Kyle, Patrol Officer, \$34.42/ hr, Effective 10/29/2023

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)

D. Richardson approached the table.

Non-Public Session

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy L. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stacy L. Bailey  
Recording Secretary