

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes  
October 18, 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  
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle added Old Business #2 HUB 66 and R. Shea would like to add New Business #4 Selectmen's Prerogatives and Old Business #3 Progress on Notify People on Short Term Rentals. B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and R. Shea 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 outside this meeting room, and on our website.

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Water Bandstand - Member Request

P. LaRochelle stated that this is on behalf of the Chairperson N. Merrill. She is requesting to have two more newer young people to come to the Water Bandstand Committee. They would help to assist with painting, cleaning, etc.

It is the consensus of the Board to allow this and approve any appointment forms that come before them.

2. Fire Department - Recognition

D. Pendergast, Interim Fire Chief approached the table. She stated that it is her honor to take part in the following presentation.

*She read: The mission of the Alton Fire and Rescue is to provide high quality Fire, Rescue, medical, and environmental hazard mitigation to the citizens and visitors to the Town of Alton. This mission will be accomplished through staffing, training, and public education. To that end, several members of our Fire Department put that mission to practice. On October 9 4:09 am, our duty crew on Ambulance 1, responded to a 52-year-old male experiencing severe chest pain. Shortly after their arrival on scene, the man went into cardiac and respiratory arrest. They announced a working code and immediately began life saving measures by securing the airway, chest compressions, and attaching the cardiac monitor. They administered a defibrillating shock and after reassessing, a pulse had returned. As they were preparing the man for transport, he went into cardiac arrest two more times. They were able to bring back pulse and respirations both times through teamwork, impeccable skills, and practicing compassionate care. One off duty member and one police officer responded as well and were an integral part of the teamwork needed to save this life. The hospital staff also praised the crew's skills and abilities and as of this evening the update from the hospital is that the gentleman is out of ICU and had stint surgery and appears to be doing well and should be discharged. For*

*their actions early that morning, I would like to commend the team for their efforts resulting in the saving of a life. The following members are hereby recognized and awarded this evening:*

*Captain Patrick O'Brien  
Lieutenant Ryan McQuade  
Fire Fighter/Paramedic Brandon Wood  
Fire Fighter Intern Aaron Tice  
Law Enforcement Officer Jamie Fellows*

Chairman P. LaRochelle presented awards to the men.

### **3. Fire Department - Ambulance Billing**

D. Pendergast remained at the table. She stated that in the past when there is uncollected revenues with Comstar billing account, the past practice is that when they reach 18 months or more they need to be removed.

R. Shea made a motion to remove the money from the archived accounts and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **4. Selectmen's Prerogative**

R. Shea stated that he was approached by a neighbor and asked if he could get a speed trap set. He was thinking that he cannot call and have a speed trap set up because he is on the Select Board. He figured he would inquire if there was a Selectman manual. He is looking for suggestions or information.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. DPW - 319 Grant Application**

S. Kinmond approached the table. This was applied for last year and was missed by just a few points. They would like to apply again this year. It is a highly competitive grant. The cost has gone up. The maximum amount for the grant is around \$100,000.00. The accurate amount to apply is \$13,900.00.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve \$11,900.00 out of the Environmental Capital Reserve and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### **2. HUB 66**

R. Heath stated that on the table is more information from HUB 66. This program deals with Broadband on the islands and hard to reach areas. As stated at their previous presentation there will be no cost to the Town. The Town will back this initiative as long as there is no cost to the Town.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept the Broadband matching grant initiative with the stipulation that it is not to be funded by the Town what so ever throughout the whole process and allow the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### **3. Progress on Short Term Rentals**

R. Shea stated that the Town has done a good job advertising the Short Term Rentals Requirements. He remains concerned the not everyone knows about it. He thinks something like a post card should be sent out. P. LaRochelle stated that would not be too cost effective. It has been advertised through out Town.

R. Shea made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to send out a notice to inform the Town about the Short Term Rental Requirements and B. Mitchell seconded with 1 Affirmative and 4 Negative (NB, AM, BM, PL).

### **Selectmen Reports**

R. Shea stated that he missed the last HHW meeting and has still not heard from the Budget Committee about setting up a meeting.

N. Buonopane stated that he was to convey from the Planning Board that they do not like the table and do not want hard woods floors. They would like carpet.

#### Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that he is looking for clarification on the current Personnel Policy. The current Health Insurance buyout policy that was revisited for next year on the amounts of the buyouts. The existing policy is for someone to opt out of health insurance. Some employees may have opted on dental and or eye care but no health insurance.

It is the consensus of the Board that it is opt out of health, dental, or eye care.

R. Heath stated that the other thing is that the Recycling Building is nearly complete. There was discussion to tie in the existing building to the new section. He went over the list of things needed to be done to do that. The quote came in at \$37,840.00. S. Kinmond was requesting 10% contingency for things like rot on the trim. The funds would come from the Solid Waste Building Improvement Capital Reserve.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve \$37,840.00 with a 10% contingency out of the Solid Waste Building Improvement Capital Reserve for the cost of redoing the existing building, awarding it to Matthew Ryan Builders and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Approval of Minutes

##### September 26, 2023 - Public Session

P. LaRochelle stated that R. Shea was listed as Excused, but he was there.

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 Public Session as amended and A. Morse seconded with 3 affirmatives and 2 abstentions (NB, PL).

##### September 26, 2023 - Non-Public Session

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 Non-Public Session releasing all and A. Morse seconded with 3 affirmatives and 2 abstentions (NB, PL); Motion fails.

#### Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for October 24, 2023 as presented and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

##### 1. Public Works

Peetz, Matthew, Light Equipment Operator I/Asst. Mechanic, \$24.68/hr, Effective 10/23/2023

##### 2. Fire Department

Baker, Landon, Deputy Forest Fire Warden  
Wood, Brandon, Deputy Forest Fire Warden  
Norford, Samuel, Deputy Forest Fire Warden

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

##### Donna Richardson - Town Departments Disputes

N. Bunopane made a motion to allow the appointment and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

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

B. Holt approached the table. He asked if the private road plowing was readdressed. R. Heath stated that it was and it was discontinued. He thought that residents were not charged for use of the ambulance if they had insurance. P. LaRochelle stated that they were not residents that were discussed. He stated that the Budget committee is a waste of time. He asked if the

people can vote to remove the Budget Committee. He also stated he did not hear what the balance of the Solid Waste CRF. R. Heath stated that he did not have the balance in front of him.

L. Carr approached the table. He stated that there is nothing on the website about Short Term Rentals. He wanted to talk about the Septic Review that was discussed at the last workshop. He thinks removing it is a bad move. He would like to hear about Clean Solutions. He would like to know how it will be enforced. He stated that the State does not require the Clean Water Solutions.

D. Richardson approached the table. She stated that she thinks putting something about Short Term Rentals in the tax bills is a good idea. She thanked the Board for approving her appointment for the next meeting.

#### Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:00 pm to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters) and e (pending claims or litigation) A. Morse 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.

5-minute recess

At 7:05 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  
S. Kinmond, PWD

7:45 PWD S. Kinmond left the meeting room.

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:11 pm to exit nonpublic session. A. Morse 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.

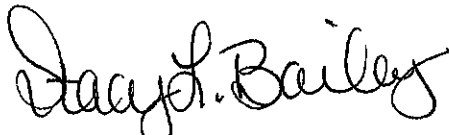
P. LaRochelle moved to 'not divulge' item two of the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

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

#### Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:11 pm to adjourn. B. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey  
Recording Secretary