

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
Public Session I
December 1, 2014
6:00 PM
1 Monument Square
Alton, NH 03809
Approved: December 15, 2014

R. Loring Carr convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following members and staff were present:

R. Loring Carr, Chairman
Marc DeCoff, Vice Chairman
Cydney Johnson, Selectman
Lou LaCourse, Selectman
David Hussey, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Approval of the Agenda

E. Russell Bailey requested adding to the agenda item #6 under new business in reference to the COPS EMPG Grant

David Hussey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments: School Board, Steve Miller; Water System

Steve Miller approached the Board as a member of the Alton Central School, School Board and as a citizen and taxpayer of the Town of Alton. Mr. Miller stated that there is a very significant issue in town that needs to be addressed by the Board of Selectmen. One of the charges as members of the School Board is a need to protect the children; there is no water flow in any of the surrounding hydrants; not School, Main, Barnes, Pine or Church Streets; this issue needs to be addressed. This is of no fault to the Fire Department who have been totally cooperative. In 2009 there was 500 gallons per minute of flow, there is plenty of pressure once they are opened up it dribbles. Currently the flow does not register on any meter which is used by a consultant for the Water Department. The construction is being done at the school and we are at the point of installing the fire suppression system. We have talked with the commissioners and the superintendent regarding a plan to this issue; they don't have an answer or a plan "B". The school is at risk as well as every surrounding home. Cydney Johnson inquired as to who was spoken to about plan "B", it was Commissioner Conboy. R. Loring Carr inquired if all of the Water Commissioners had been spoken to and asked if the whole School Board had met with them. Personally

Mr. Miller had not met with them but possibly the construction crew or architect had been talking with them. R. Loring Carr stated that the Commissioners are an elected body and the Board of Selectmen really has no jurisdiction/authority over them. Mr. Miller offered a solution that they need to check for a bad valve or a leak beginning at the reservoir working their way to the school; there is either a leak there, probably not or possibly a valve not working or corroded which seems to be a pretty easy fix. If this isn't done we would need to go for a Warrant Article ASAP for a holding tank for 27,000 gallons with a pump and pump house. We met with the Fire Marshall and he indicated that this could impact the insurance rates for the town. The fire hydrants are leased; demanding that the town should require that they work and be serviced and the town should put the pressure on to get the issue fixed. Mr. Miller requested that the Board help the school department fix this problem and get this done. The fire suppression system cannot go in until this situation is fixed, for a manageable amount of money and asked that the Board demand that the hydrants work. The Water Department was spoken to last week. Cydney Johnson asked when the five (5) hydrants were tested; Mr. Miller could not provide an exact date. Again, R. Loring Carr asked has the School Board had sat down with all the Water Commissioners; in answer just Mr. Miller had with Chairman Carr asking why hadn't the School Board as a body met with the Commissioners. Mr. Miller stated that he has permission to speak on behalf of the School Board. R. Loring Carr has no issue with the Board of Selectmen, all five (5) as a body meeting with the Water Commissioners, all three (3) as a body to discuss this issue. It was noted that the Board did meet with the Commissioners and talked about this; there was going to be a loop/ring made so that there was no dead end so that the water pressure would be better; they were on top of this. Mr. Miller asked, can the Board of Selectmen demand that the hydrants that are being rented work today? Cydney Johnson stated that there is not a single member of the Board that doesn't share your frustration.

Cydney Johnson made a motion that the Selectmen draft a letter to the Water Commissioners asking them to work more diligently with the school to rectify the situation, not only for the school but for the residents of the town and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Mr. Miller questioned E. Russell Bailey the deadline for posting a Warrant Article for a holding tank. It would need to go before a Budget Committee hearing; the date would be around the 16th or 17th of January.

Announcements: Light Up Night will be held on December 6, 2014 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM with festivities to be held at Ginny Douglas Park, Town Hall and the Gilman Museum. The Historical Society will have an open house at the J. Jones Freight Building and their Library Headquarters. There will also be a Hay Ride sponsored by the Alton Home & Lumber Center.

BOARD OF HEALTH

R. Loring Carr made a motion to recess as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Board of Health and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

There was a tabled waiver request for 13 Hummingbird Lane, Map 41 Lot 46 with concerns of the placement of the septic on a common lot area that several abutters could use in the future for their septic fields. After reconsideration and discussion with the Attorney, it is not in the purview of waivers it is a personal issue with the neighbors and the other person as it is private land of the association.

R. Loring Carr recommends the waiver with an okay to move the tank for the new addition and nothing about the septic field above.

David Hussey made a motion to move the tank and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Health and to Re-Convene as the Board of Selectmen and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen's Committee Report

Old Home Week Committee: R. Loring Carr reported that the Old Home Week Committee had two (2) resignations and two (2) individuals have volunteered to fill the positions. R. Loring Carr nominates Leslie Rentel and Nelson Kennedy to be appointed as members of the Old Home Week Committee and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion. The committee has met with and has quite a few ideas.

Town Administrator's Report and Updates

None

Public Input I

Steve Miller was called upon as requested and read an email for the record from Brian Carter from Carter Sprinkler Company to Andre Kloetz who is the chief foreman at the construction site dated November 25, 2014, 12:23 PM.

“Andre, We had an appointment today to do a hydrant flow test on Main Street. When we arrived the Water Department did not want to flow water from the hydrant. I understand they said they detected a 20gpm leak in the system. To me a 20 mpg leak doesn't sound overly significant when a hydrant should be able to flow over a thousand gallons. Regardless, it would appear our investigation has gone as far as it can. We've spent a lot of time flowing (and not flowing) hydrants. Until/unless things change there is no documented adequate water supply in the area of the school.”

David Hussey requested that a copy of the email be sent with the letter that will be sent as previously discussed.

Jeffrey Clay, Mallard Drive, Alton approached the Board with his concerns regarding his displeasure with the Board and to hold them accountable for what he perceives as illegal actions and a failure of the Board to do their job, to represent the people in a manner that the people deserve to be represented, and to follow the law; which the Board has failed. The Board has established deception to the Right to Know laws and have violated the trust of the people under Chairman Carr's leadership. At this time Mr. Clay requested that Chairman Carr step down for his failures of the Board in the past twelve (12) months and failure to comply with the Right to Know laws.

The main purpose of Mr. Clay's reason for being here tonight is to talk about too many workshops where Mr. Bailey is taking notes, there is no recorder and no procedures or protocol for the meetings. In the personnel policy it states that there will be two (2) meetings a month, on the first and third Monday at 6:00 PM. There are more and more workshops being held which takes away the rights of the public. Quoting excerpts and votes from various workshops stating that this maybe complies with the spirit of the intent of the law and why these items are not decided on at the two (2) public sessions. The Board it circumventing the law with no agendas, no tapes etc. and read a portion of the preamble of the Right to Know law. Mr. Clay stated that Mr. Bailey has a huge responsibility to make the Board understand the Right to Know laws then sited the different reasons for entering into non public sessions at meetings.

Mr. Clay encouraged each Board member to read the Personnel Manual and RSA91A regarding meetings. Again, he asked that R. Loring Carr step aside with hopes that Lou LaCourse would step up and make a motion to replace R. Loring Carr as the Chairman of the Board. Apologizing to David Hussey, as his reappointment was done incorrectly without the majority vote and all done in Non Public Session, unlawfully. Mr. Clay is going to hold the Board accountable and take the Board to court over Right to Know violations with the fault and money being on the Board. Furthermore Mr. Clay noted that when approving the upcoming Selectmen's minutes, it would be a violation of our rights; a deception and when approving them you are doing something that shouldn't be done.

Lastly, Mr. Clay wanted to discuss something that occurred at the Workshop on November 25th; which he was attending as a citizen/resident and entered into a conversation with Selectman Cydney Johnson who then accused him of being a bad neighbor. R. Loring Carr called for Jeffrey Clay to be done as personal issues, family issues are not to be discussed in this forum as it has nothing to do with the Selectmen. Mr. Clay disagreed with Chairman Carr who ruled that Mr. Clay was finished and would be removed if he continued and asked Mr. Clay for the third time to step down and not bring up personal issues at this time.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to recess at 6:50 PM and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

At this time Mr. Jeffrey Clay was removed by a Police Officer.

R. Loring Carr reconvened the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

November 17, 2014

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014, Public Session I as presented and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014, Non Public Session as presented releasing items #2, 3, 4 & 5 and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014, Public Session II as presented and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

November 18, 2014

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014, Public Workshop Session I as presented and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014, Non Public Workshop Session as presented releasing none and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014, Public Workshop Session II as presented and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

November 24, 2014

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2014, Public Workshop Session I as presented and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2014, Non Public Workshop Session as presented releasing none and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of November 24, 2014, Public Workshop Session II as presented and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

Project Status Updates

Highway Reconstruction; has all been completed for this year.

Sidewalk Project; the sidewalks are completed, it was discovered that at the entrance to the museum the concrete walkway is broken up and the concrete where the columns are located, is shifting. Also, the museum is not handicap accessible. Cost estimates will need to be obtained to redo the entranceway to make the museum handicap accessible. The funds would come from the Gilman Museum Trust Fund so it would not be from tax dollars but from the Museum Maintenance Fund.

Roberts Cove Beach; we are still waiting on the permits for this project which will be a Spring project.

2015 Budget & Draft Warrant Articles

E. Russell Bailey and Lou LaCourse need to meet with the Budget committee to go over the Warrant Articles on Wednesday. At this time each warrant article was individually discussed, voted and approved beginning with Article 8. It was noted for the press that the Warrant Article numbers may change.

- Article 8: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$2,500.00 for the Old Home Week Committee changing “forms of entertainment” to activities and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 9: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$35,000.00 for the sidewalks in the bay and Cydney Johnson seconded with a vote of 4 approved 1 opposed, Lou LaCourse.
- Article 10: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$25,000.00 for the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 11: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$20,000.00 for the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 12: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$30,000.00 for the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 13: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$30,000.00 for the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Article 14: David Hussey motioned to approve \$30,000.00 for the Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the Transfer Station and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 15: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$23,500.00 for the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 17: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$10,000.00 for the Cemetery Building Capital Reserve Fund and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 18: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$25,000.00 for the Senior Center Pearson Road Capital Reserve Fund and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 19: Operating Budget which is not finalized
- Article 20: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve withdrawing \$150,000.00 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as written and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 21: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$45,000.00 for the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 22: David Hussey motioned to approve \$95,000.00 for the Alton Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 23: This was left as a reminder but we really don't know on this one; Hold for more information until a decision is made.
- Article 24: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$95,000.00 for the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 26: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$20,000.00 for the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 27: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$750,000.00 for the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion. A further discussion on debt service will transpire at the end of the Articles on a bond with 2% and 2.5% with hard numbers over and above 750K.
- Article 28: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$30,000.00 for the Library Building Improvement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 29: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$8,456.00 for Community Action Program and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 30: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$12,000.00 for Central VNA & Hospice and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 31: David Hussey motioned to approve \$2,369.00 for American Red Cross and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 32: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$10,000.00 for Alton Community Services and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Article 33: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$246.00 for Medication Bridge Prescription Program and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 34: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$1,530.00 for New Beginnings and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 35: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$15,750.00 for Genesis and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 36: David Hussey motioned to approve \$2,000.00 for Caregivers Transportation and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 37: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$500.00 for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 38: Marc DeCoff motioned to approve \$2,400.00 for Appalachian Mountain Teen Project and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.
- Article 39: Cydney Johnson motioned to approve \$2,500.00 for Child & Family Services and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Returning for further discussion:

- Article 27: in reference to the \$750,000.00; if it is only that amount then we will be falling behind with funds. A possibility would be placing a Bond for two (2) million dollars; for 10 years at 2.5% the payment would be \$253.00 at the peak year then drops to \$205.00. It seems that we will need to continue with the 750K as well as the 2 million with two (2) separate articles and let the voters decide. The cost of asphalt from 2008 to today has roughly increased 20% to 23%, even with the price of oil dropping. We are losing approximately 4% per year. There are three (3) options: stay the same, have two warrant articles or have the 750K warrant article and a bond.

The Board's position is to keep the 750K Warrant Article and also have another Article for a bond issue. E. Russell Bailey will draft an Article to show the bond issue to have it ready to present the idea and the amount to the Budget Committee. A Public Hearing will need to be held with a separate statute and deadline for bonds which needs to be followed specifically as it reads.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve using Russ' wording to be brought to the Budget Committee and approve Russ to research to find out what the rate is and bring it back to the Board. The Board's consensus is to authorize E. Russell Bailey to present the bond article to the Budget Committee.

Noting: that there won't be a fixed rate until you actually sell the bond which will be in May/June of next year. Until it goes out for sale, we won't know the rate; they will look at our credit rating, our fund balance which is very good, there is no other debt other than the Water Department which is self funded from Enterprise Fund, the

school has theirs but it is not drastic either. For this size town and the tax base, we are not debt heavy at all; the numbers look good for getting a good rate.

Old Home Day; B & M Park

A handout was provided to the Board. Marty Cornelissen approached E. Russell Bailey regarding using the B & M Park, Loon Cove Station and Freight Building. Russ highly recommends supporting. The Historical Society is planning a Civil War Remembrance Day with a Lincoln impersonator on August 9, 2015 during Old Home Week. There will be an encampment and a Civil War Band. This will promote the Main Street area during Old Home Week. Any damages as a result of campfires and/or tents would be completely repaired by them.

David Hussey made a motion to approve and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Loring Carr brought up the possibility of bringing in students from the school to help out that have to do Community Service hours. The Freight Building will need to be fixed. E. Russell Bailey will contact the school in reference to defining community projects and what assistance might be allowed/performed as there may be certain restrictions or safety issues that need to be adhered to and what is available. Also, Jonathan Downing was contacted regarding the Barbershoppers who may come for the next meeting.

Schedule Public Hearing; Road Weight Limits

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the Public Hearing for the weight limit restrictions first at the December 15, 2014 Board meeting at 6:00 PM. Russ brought forth that at previous meeting there were three (3) other restrictions and the stub on Old Wolfeboro Road to Route 28 should be considered; we really don't want to promote truck traffic through that short little section. Cydney Johnson supported this and David Hussey seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed, Marc DeCoff.

EMPG Grant Police Department

This grant was already tentatively approved where the police will be directly linked to the school with information going to the laptops in their vehicles. There is certain language for this approval which needs to accompany the application. The total cost is \$4,680.00, the grant itself would be funding \$2,340.00; the town would be funding the other \$2,340.00 through dollar match. The Chief has the money in their budget. The school has already approved this grant on their end for hooking and linking into the system. It needs to be approved, accepting the grant agreement with the amount and the matching amount and add an authorization for who will sign the grant.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to accept the EMPG Grant Agreement with the terms as presented for the school emergency notification system for the total project amount

of \$4,680.00 with the 50% matching amount to the town of \$2,340.00; complying with public meeting requirements and authorizing E. Russell Bailey to sign the paperwork and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

New Business:

None

Public Input II

None

Non-Public Session:

R. Loring Carr made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II (a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims/litigation and Marc DeCoff seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary