

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
December 12, 2023
(Approved - December 26, 2023)

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

Cub Scouts Pack 53 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 Introduction of the new Building Inspector under Announcement. B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and N. Buonopane 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.
- Introduction of the new Building Inspector Norma Ditri.

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. School Street Light Pole

R. Heath stated that he was contacted by New Hampshire Electric Coop. There was a service order for the street light that is on Town property. It is street side parking across from Alton Central School. It is a brand new street light. Upon doing the work request it was realized that it was not being billed to anyone. There was question as to whether it belonged to the school or the Town. They asked if the Town wanted to take it over as part of our street light bill. It would be \$25.11 a month. There is one to the right of it and it is on our street light account. He is asking the Board what they would like to do. Would they like to include it with the other street lights. The two light poles are pretty close together. We could eliminate one. He suggests to eliminate the old one. The Board discussed all of the possibilities. P. LaRochelle stated that if we want to keep the cost the same then eliminate the one to the right. B. Mitchell stated that he would like them to shut it off for a little while and see how it looks before it is removed. It is the consensus of the Board to have it shut down for a little while and brought back to the Board.

2. Fire Department - Out of State Training Request

R. Heath stated that the next thing is a request from the Fire Department. There is a memo from the Fire Captain. In accordance with policy, any employees that want to attend and out of state training need to get prior approval because of the expenses involved with it. They are requesting to send four personnel to this training at a FEMA center in Alabama. The flights, lodging, and meals are funded by FEMA. The Town would be required to cover the testing fee and coverage hours. The training is for Hazardous Material Incidents. It is a relevant training. The question is are we going to send four people all at once. Two of them are full time, one is an on call, and the other one is intern. P. LaRochelle asked if it is necessary to send four. He asked why can we send one or two people and have them come back and help facilitate what was learned in the class. He is concerned with having two full timers. He would go with one of the full timers and possibly the intern or the on call. R. Heath stated that he will be meeting with the Fire Chief and he can speak to her about it. By policy the Board only needs to allow two to attend. The coverage of hours is going to be the main expense.

B. Mitchell made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to have the final say and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Map 27/42 Depot Street - Right of Way Request

R. Heath stated that this is the property that is directly behind the Police Department. The applicants that reside there are looking to put a second residence in the old barn. They have already attended the Zoning Board and got an approval to separate that property so that a new residence can be created out of that historic barn while using the main residence as a separate building. That property is currently serviced by a right of way across Town property. The reason it has not been to the Board for approval is because we were trying to do some due diligence and trying to find the written right of way easement. This precludes any type of recording like that. There is no written easement with conditions or stipulations. The recommendation through legal is to allow them to move forward with the project with the condition be set that legal drafts a new easement that both properties will be required to sign and record. That will be drafted with the conditions set by the Zoning Board and also Legal advice for maintenance. This will further outline how things move forward for the two properties.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept this as written a condition that legal counsel drafts an easement and that the Town is not responsible for any maintenance or plowing for that section of Depot Street and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. Police Department - Fleet Lease Payment - Request

T. MacDougall, Police Chief, approached the table. He stated that he is here tonight requesting to make a lease payment from the Police Department Operating Budget. He highlighted areas that were looked at. He feels that the Police Detail Revolving Fund cannot sustain on-going lease payments. He is asking the Board if he can utilize the Police FY23 Budget. R. Shea asked if he was confident that the surplus will be there. T. MacDougall stated that it will be close. B. Mitchell asked if it would be worth it to start a Capital Reserve for the cruisers. R. Heath stated that we did have one and he would research if it still exists. P. LaRochelle asked if the motorcycles are part of the lease. T. MacDougall stated that they are two separate leases.

N. Buonopane made a motion to authorize the payment of up to \$41,578.80 from the 2023 Police Operating Budget to put towards the 2023 lease payments and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Solid Waste - Furnace Replacement - Approval

B. Mitchell stated that he doesn't think there needs to be a big discussion about this. We have all read it.

B. Mitchell made a motion to allow the furnace replacement and the garage doors at the Solid Waste Center and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

R. Shea stated that HHW is rolling along. There are no collections in the winter. The Budget Committee met and approved the Default Budget and the Warrant Articles.

N. Buonopane had nothing to report.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

B. Mitchell had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that the Zoning Board met and they had one application withdrawn on a special exception, one special exception was continued, one variance was continued, one special exception for a cupola over 35 feet was denied, and variance was approved. He would like to elaborate on the taxes. This is available on the website for the Town and it shows what the municipal, county, local education, and state education portions are. People do not understand is that the Town can only control is a small portion of the municipal which is \$.53. That is what we have gone up. The rest is a \$.45 increase for the county, \$.34 increase in the local education, and \$.49 increase in state education. This is a total of \$1.81. The actual tax rate is \$13.18. This is not a 30% increase as indicated on social media. It is a 16% increase.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that he doesn't need to elaborate much further on the tax rate other than the fact that another factor is because some of the funding last year from the State which is ARPA, Bridge Aid, Excess payments. This year these payments are not available. It causes a drop in revenue.

R. Heath stated that he wanted to explain that the renovations were started as a need to repair in Town Hall and were funded by interest on a Trust account specifically for Town Hall. No taxation was used to pay for it. All of the money came from different funds that were allocated for maintenance for this building and not raised through additional taxation.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is to get the Board's consensus on their preference for flooring in the meeting room. He stated that the request of the Planning Board is to keep carpet. He stated that the current carpet is glued down. He would like to strip the original floor but there have been some repairs made in certain sections. There is also a lot of glue. He will look into it. P. LaRochelle asked if he could.

Approval of Minutes

November 14, 2023 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023 - Public Session and removing "Excused" from N. Buonopane and adding it to A. Morse and B. Mitchell seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (AM).

November 14, 2023 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023 - Non Public Session releasing none and B. Mitchell seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (AM).

November 28, 2023 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2023 - Public Session and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

November 28, 2023 - Non-Public Session

R. Shea made a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2023 - Non Public Session and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for December 12, 2023 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Land Use Items

2023 NH DRA Equalization Assessment Data Certification Form

Administrative Abatements

Alves Family Trust; Map 35 Lot 59; 210 East Side Drive; \$750
 Alton Bay Campmeeting Association; Map 34 Lot 33-99; 76 Rand Hill Road; \$899

2. Alton Water Works

Abatements

Starck, Robert	Map 38 Lot 32	22 Keewaydin Dr	\$410.00
Town of Alton Hydrants	Account 1119 Service 745	Charged Annual Fee twice	\$10,000.00
Laurion, Philip	Map 28 Lot 52-2	55 Frank C. Gilman Highway	Check to Philip Laurion \$86.16

3. Building Department

Ditri, Norma, Building/Code Official, \$75,000.00/ yr, effective 12/12/2023

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

S. Perkins - Road Name Change Readdress Request

N. Buonopane made a motion to deny the Request for 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*)

None

Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

B. Mitchell made a motion at 6:57 pm to adjourn and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy L. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary