

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Session I  
December 21, 2015  
6:10 PM  
1 Monument Square  
Alton, NH 03809

**Approved: January 4, 2016**

Cydney Johnson convened the meeting at 6:10 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:

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman  
Lou LaCourse, Vice Chairman  
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman  
Virgil MacDonald, Selectman  
Marc DeCoff, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

### **Approval of the Agenda**

E. Russell Bailey recommended that two (2) items be added to the agenda; under Appointments, a second appointment with representatives from the NH Forest Society in reference to the purchase of property at Mt. Major and under New Business #5, 2015 Tax Deeding.

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

### **Appointments:**

#### TDS Proposed Cable Franchise Agreement

Attorney Katherine Miller representative from Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella acting on behalf of the Town in reference to the negotiations for the proposed TDS Cable Franchise Agreement along with Scott Brooks and Ronald Troyer representatives from TDS were present to address the proposed agreement.

Scott Brooks and Ronald Troyer gave an overview of the intentions of TDS in regards to the proposed Cable Franchise agreement. Approximately 95% of the residents will have access to enroll in the services and the bundle package that will be made available. The long term goal is to have a 100% build out in the fiber network. Handouts were provided to the Board by the TDS representatives. The goal is to have a Public Hearing scheduled for the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Cydney Johnson stated that the plan is to move forward.

Attorney Kate Miller stated that TDS through Union Telephone is requesting the ability to do beta testing. They need permission of the Board of Selectmen because their facilities are in a public right of way. This needs to be done before the agreement gets signed. A packet of materials was made available to the Board.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to allow the TDS beta testing running no more than five (5) customers and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### NH Forest Society

Russ Wilder of the Alton Conservation Commission and Tom Howe of the NH Forest Society presented an agreement for the public access for the final property that has been cleared and acquired on Mt. Major on the trailhead. An Easement needs to be signed by the Board of Selectmen and by Earl Bagley, Chairman of the Alton Conservation Commission. The language is exactly the same as the previous acquisitions for the Easements on Mt. Major. The parcel begins on the main trail just beyond the parking lot. This is a conveyance to the Town, vested in the Alton Conservation Commission of a public access, right of this 72 acre tract. Conveying a guaranteed right of public pedestrian access to use this parcel, Map 17 Lot 3. It is strictly for outdoor recreation and educational purposes. There are some restrictions in the agreement as told by Tom Howe that the Forest Society may implement. The overall objective is to manage the public recreational use of the property.

Lou LaCourse questioned if there were any current improvements planned for the property?

Tom Howe responded in the near future there is serious trail erosion on the Main Trail that the tread is about 4 feet below grade and it is quite evident; perhaps that improvement would be as soon as this summer. An example might be permanent toilet facilities which could possibly impose a user fee. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with DOT to take on some limited activities and responsibilities associated with the parking area. The Forest Society will be plowing the parking area and planning to install portable toilets in the parking lot in the spring.

Virgil MacDonald inquired about widening the parking lot. That is not a decision of the Forest Society as it does not belong to them but they will be working with the state.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve signing the Public Access Easement and Right of Way for Map 17 Lot 3 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

The original was provided to the Board for signing. The deed has not been approved by the state yet, it will be held in escrow until LCHIP approves. This will not be legal until this is approved and recorded. The deed was signed by the Board members.

### **Announcements:**

- A Public Hearing for the TDS Franchise Agreement will be held on January 4, 2016.
- Town offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning at Noon on December 24<sup>th</sup> and all day December 25<sup>th</sup>. Also the offices are closed on Friday, January 1, 2015 for New Year's Day.
- The Presidential Primary has been scheduled for February 9, 2016 at Prospect Mountain High School.

## **Selectmen's Committee Report**

Phil Wittmann reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission met on December 3, 2015 and discussed Old Home Week events such as the same contract for the Barbershoppers next summer, continuing a \$500.00 scholarship for a local student and there was talk about some fencing at Jones Field which has been put on hold. Nancy Downing has been doing some surveying to see if the Park can be expanded without going into wetlands. Also discussed was the winter carnival and the sponsoring of the bed race and photo scavenger hunt and four (4) bands have been hired for the summer concert series.

Lou LaCourse reported that the Budget Committee's next meeting is scheduled in January and they still have about one half of the School Warrant Articles and some of the Town Budget items to discuss.

At this time Chairwoman Cydney Johnson excused herself from the meeting with Vice Chairman Lou LaCourse leading the Board.

## **Town Administrator's Report and Updates**

None

### **Public Input I**

None

## **Approval of Selectmen's Minutes**

### **November 9, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, November 9, 2015 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session, November 9, 2015 opening #2, 3, 4 and 5 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, November 9, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **November 12, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, November 12, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session, November 12, 2015 opening #1 and 5 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, November 12, 2015 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **November 16, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, November 16, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Note: At this time Cydney Johnson returned to the meeting.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session, November 16, 2015 opening # 4, 5, 6 and 7 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, November 16, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **November 19, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, November 19, 2015 and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 0 opposed and 1 abstention, Virgil MacDonald.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session, November 19, 2015 opening B, C and D and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 0 opposed and 1 abstention, Virgil MacDonald.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, November 19, 2015 and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 0 opposed and 1 abstention, Virgil MacDonald.

### **November 30, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, November 30, 2015 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session, November 30, 2015 opening #3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, November 30, 2015 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **December 2, 2015**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, December 2, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session, December 2, 2015 opening #5, 6, 7a, b, c & d & #8 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, December 2, 2015 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Note: At this time the meeting was turned back over to Chairwoman Cydney Johnson.

An additional announcement was made that a new Town Planner Nicola Strong has been hired and she will begin on January 18<sup>th</sup> she is from New Boston where she is currently the planner.

### **Old Business:**

#### 2016 Budget/Warrant Articles

An updated version of the Warrant Articles was provided to the Board with a need to have an official vote on all the money articles. Article 1 is for vacancies on Boards and Commissions and Articles 2 through 6 are Planning Articles. Each of the Articles were read and voted on by the Board as follows:

**ARTICLE #7:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of providing public service through police special details. All revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The Town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. [Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 7 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Article #8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** for the purpose of funding Old Home Week events such as the Barbershoppers, band concerts, magic shows and other forms of activities. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 8 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Article #9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** for the purpose of funding the repair and upgrade of the sidewalks in Alton Bay. This would include the sidewalks along the water and paved sidewalks along Route 11. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve Article 9 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund as previously established for the upgrade and maintenance of existing sidewalks. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 10 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be placed into the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This would be used for upgrading the HVAC, the handicap lift and other needed repairs to the town hall. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 11 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00)** to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 12 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve Article 13 and marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be added to the Building and Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the Transfer Station, as previously established, which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 14 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** to be added to the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, as previously

established as recommended by the Milfoil Committee. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 15 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** for the purpose of upgrading the Alton Bay restrooms (east and west) and the Alton Bay Community Center restrooms to provide for handicap accessibility. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve Article 16 and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** for an engineering consultant to develop a plan to upgrade and expand the Jones Field recreation facility. [Appropriation not recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 17 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** for the purpose of repairing the lake wall on the west side of Alton Bay covering the area from the boat docks to the swim area. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 18 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Cemetery Building Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established as recommended by the Cemetery Trustees. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 19 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #20:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Dollars (\$0.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Dollars (\$), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. [Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (0) and Budget Committee (0).]

This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

This Article is not ready to be voted on by the Board until the Budget Committee approves the budget.

**ARTICLE #21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$160,000.00 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as previously established under RSA 31:95c for the purpose of funding the ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies and equipment, training, and vehicle fuel/maintenance. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 21 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be added to the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 22 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00)** to be added to the Alton Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. This capital reserve was established to repair/replace the fire vehicles and equipment. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 23 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve Article 24 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #25:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five year lease agreement for **Four Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$440,000.00)** for the purpose of leasing a front end loader and grader for the highway department and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eighty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$88,000.00)** for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains a non-appropriation escape clause. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve Article 25 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.



**ARTICLE #26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$162,966.00. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Lou LaCourse made a motion to approve Article 26 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)** to be added to the Library Building Improvement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established as recommended by the Library Trustees. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 27 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$8,900.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance and Women, Infants & Children food assistance program (WIC). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 28 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #29:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 29 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #30:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Forty Four Cents (\$2,121.44)** for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provides disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (4-1) and the Budget Committee ()] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 30 and Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed, Lou LaCourse.

**ARTICLE #31:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities and housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 31 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #32:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars (\$227.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not-for-profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 32 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #33:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,530.00)** for the purpose of supporting New Beginnings which provides 24 hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operates a shelter and provides counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 33 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #34:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$15,750.00)** for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 34 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #35:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Caregivers of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity, Inc. which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 35 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #36:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 36 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #37:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00)** for the purpose of supporting Appalachian Mountain Teen Project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 37 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #38:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting Child & Family Services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 38 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**ARTICLE #39:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting L.I.F.E. Ministries which is a not-for-profit charity that provides food and staples to Alton residents. **This is a petition article.** [Appropriation not recommended by the Selectmen (4-1) and by the Budget Committee (0)] (A majority vote is required)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve Article 39 and Virgil MacDonald seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed; Cydney Johnson.

**ARTICLE #40:** To see if the Town will vote to delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen. This article is recommended by the Cemetery Trustees (3-0) and Board of Selectmen (4-1) (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 40 and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed; Phil Wittmann.

**ARTICLE #41:** To see if the Town will vote to have all of the non-profit warrant articles listed together in one warrant article instead of individually as separate warrant articles which is how it is currently done. This article is not recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) (A majority vote is required)

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to approve Article 41 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **New Business:**

#### Land Use Items as Recommended by the Tax Assessor

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Veteran Credit Approvals for Map 6 Lot 1-49 for \$500.00; Map 8 Lot 3-4 for \$500.00; Map 34 Lot 14 for \$500.00; Map 36 Lot 34 for \$500.00; Map 57 Lot 9 for \$500.00; Map 18 Lot 29-33 for \$500.00 and Map 62 Lot 31-5 for \$500.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 100% Disabled Veteran Approvals for Map 5 Lot 12-3 for \$1,400.00; Map 2 Lot 12-1 for \$1,400.00 and Map 14 Lot 20-1 for \$1,400.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Veteran Credit Denials for Map 10 Lot 22-8; Map 25 Lot 22 and Map 71 Lot 5 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Elderly Exemption Denials for Map 54 Lot 29 and Map 62 Lot 31-5 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Solar Exemption for Map 9 Lot 60-4 for \$6,275.00 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Administrative Abatements for Map 34 Lot 33-189 for \$98.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Land Use Change Tax for Map 6 Lot 42-2 for \$5,200.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Abatements Tax for Map 9 Lot 16-1 for \$247.00; Map 28 Lot 2 for \$217.00; Map 65 Lot 25 for \$120.00 and Map 18 Lot 29-54 for \$144.00 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Timber Forester Service Contract

This is an annual renewal of the Timber Forester Service Contract with no change in rate.

It was noted that Marc DeCoff and Phil Wittmann's names were spelled incorrectly. They will be corrected.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the Timber Forester Service Contract for the hourly rate of \$35.00 per hour and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Town Report; Cover and Dedication

Town Report covers and dedication recommendations were provided to the Board for a decision to be made. The Board reviewed each of the covers and made a decision on the cover which will be a Back Bay Winter picture.

As far as the dedication is concerned the families need to be consulted first before we will dedicate the report to them. At that time we will request permission and possibly a photo from the families.

## Speed Limit Change Request; Alton Mountain Road

This is a request for increasing the speed limit on Alton Mountain Road. This is an unusual request and the Police are recommending that it remains the same as it is now.

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to leave the speed limit at 30 MPH and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Tax Deeding

This item has been delayed long enough and it was noted that by law we cannot touch anything that is in Bankruptcy which are Map 15 Lot 15 and properties on Main Street until the Federal Bankruptcy Court makes their ruling on these properties.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve tax deeding Map 80 Lot 4.

At this time E. Russell Bailey recommended that a final letter be sent to each of the property owners notarized from the Board of Selectmen, notifying them that the property is going to be tax deeded and to also set a deadline for them to respond.

Virgil MacDonald made a motion to grant permission to send the letters and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson clarified that this was for approval for tax deeding for Map 80 Lot 4 as well as sending a letter to the property owner with all in favor of the motion.

Letters will be sent to all tax deeded property owners.

At this time a discussion transpired regarding the deeding of campers/mobile homes and whether to take the property or not to take the property and where the fairness of that lies. After the discussion Virgil MacDonald made a motion to tax deed Map 33 Lot 77-38; there was no second.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve tax deeding Map 71 Lot 63 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve tax deeding Map 71 Lot 62 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Lou LaCourse made a motion that on the remaining mobile homes; we have further discussion. E. Russell Bailey stated that he will have Attorney James Sessler discuss this matter further, for reconsideration at a board meeting in January. The following will be put on hold for further discussion with the Attorney: Map 14 Lot 22-17, Map 14 Lot 22-19 and Map 9 Lot 14-123 and Map along with Map 33 Lot 77-38.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve tax deeding Map 66 Lot 4 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve tax deeding Map 73 Lot 21 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

E. Russell Bailey again clarified that a letter will be sent to the tax deeded property owners, that were approved today, giving them final notice that the property will be taken, giving them 30 days to respond.

## **Public Input II**

Barbara Howard approached the Board with several questions:

- If the Clay case had been settled? E. Russell Bailey responded “no”.
- What is the fund balance is on Warrant Article #10, Sidewalk Capital Reserve? E. Russell Bailey will need to verify but thought it was 20K. He will get back to Ms. Howard on the amount.
- The upgrade on the restrooms for ADA accessibility (Ms. Howard thought that this had already been done)? E. Russell Bailey responded that the doorways were done but the stalls, toilets and sinks need to be addressed which is what the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended this
- What is the fund balance in the Capital Reserve for Warrant Article #22, Alton Fire Station? E. Russell Bailey will need to get back to Ms. Howard on the amount.

Ms. Howard also mentioned that possibly on the manufactured homes that it was the choice of the owners not to pay their taxes due to them knowing that no action will be taken or if it was due to a loss of income. She suggested that they come into the Welfare Office to see if there was any relief that could be taken or possibly selling the home to the Park in order to pay the taxes.

Raymond Howard approached the Board noting that a lot of the non profits don't really do anything for the Town especially due to the Affordable Care Act as basically anyone who makes less than 16K can get full medical coverage, therefore there is not much of a need for all these outside agencies to receive this funding. There are many other avenues for the people to go to. Mr. Howard suggested that the Board should delve a bit deeper into these outside agencies or possibly set up a committee to study them.

David Allen from the Baysider requested clarification on the vote of: to not recommend. E. Russell Bailey stated that it would be the Board's position of not recommending to fund the article.

## **Non-Public Session:**

Cydney Johnson 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.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary