

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
February 13, 2024
(Approved – February 27, 2024)

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:

The following staff members were present:

Paul LaRochelle, Chairman
Brock Mitchell, Vice- Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman
Nicholas Buonopane, Selectman
Richard Shea, Selectmen
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

R. Shea added Deliberative Outcome to #7 New Business. and 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 outside this meeting room, and on our website.
- Alton Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office will be closed on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. For the Town/School Election, which will be held in the gymnasium of Prospect Mountain High School from 7 am - 7pm. The office will re-open on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 12:00 pm.

P. LaRochelle stated that there is a few minutes before the Public Hearing is to start so he would like to say something:

I would like to thank Robin Douglas for her services as Town Moderator.

At the Deliberative Session, I was resigning as Selectman. After taking a few days to think about my Selectman position. I Have decided to reconsider my resignation and stay on as your Selectman and other Boards.

I let my emotions over rule my judgements. I just want to say a Selectman's job is not an easy one, as we have to consider all aspects of Town business, Tax Payers, and Town Employees. All are equally important to me.

I try to be fair and just to all matters of the Town. I may not always make a decision that is popular with all Tax Payers, and Employees, but I feel that it is always fair and honest.

I urge everyone to get involved with your Town. Go to meetings, run for positions that are available.

With that being said, let's move on to Town business.

Public Hearing 6:05pm

Acceptance of One-Time Highway Block Grant Funds and One-Time Bridge Aid Funds

P. LaRochelle opened the Public Hearing to hear opinions about accepting One-Time Highway Block Grant Funds and One-Time Bridge Aid Funds.

R. Heath stated that these grant funds are a one-time payment. These funds are not the usual Highway Block Grant money.

P. LaRochelle opened it for public comment.

There was no public comment.

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Alton Water Works - Decommissioning of 2011 Ford F350 and Crane

C. Mitchell approached the table. She stated that they were looking to purchase a new truck in the past and this would have been an agenda item with that. Since that time, they have taken the utility body off of the truck. They are looking to get whatever they can out of the cab and chassis. The crane has been sitting in the garage for about 12-15 years. They are looking for permission to put the truck and crane on Municibid. It would be a minimum bid of \$1,500 bid on the truck and \$600 bid on the crane.

N. Buonopane made a motion to grant the Water Department to put the 2011 Ford Chassis and plow and the crane on Municibid and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Milfoil Committee - 2024-2026 DASH - Milfoil Bid Recommendation

K. Troendle and D. Gould approached the table. D. Gould stated that the milfoil treatment expires every three years. He stated that the DASH bid is up this year. The Milfoil Committee received bids from some companies. They have decided to go with the company that they use right now. There was one that was a little cheaper but it is a one person operation. Until they get more employees they are not comfortable going with them. The State is going to reimburse at a certain percentage.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept Aqualogics contract for the three year contract and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. NHDES - Herbicide - Diver/DASH Grant

D. Gould stated that the total grant awarded was \$45,800. The amount awarded is all based on how much work needs to be done. If there is no treatment than there grant amount would be 0%.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept the Diver/DASH grant with the Town Administrator able to sign and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. 2023 Town Report Cover

R. Heath stated that there are four covers in their packets. He asked the Board which cover they would like on this year's Town Report.

It is the consensus of the Board to go with the 4th cover.

5. Special Event Application - That Thing

R. Heath stated that he brought this application to the Board because it is a new event and they have a request to wave the rental fee. He also reached out to the Parks & Rec Director for her opinion on this event. Her and her department are in support of this event. There is an event later in the day at the bandstand. This event seems to coincide perfectly with that event. The event is for mental health and support. R. Heath highlighted some of the features of the event.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Special Event Application for That Thing and waive the rental fee and R. Shea seconded for discussion. He asked if they are setting any kind of president by doing this. P. LaRochelle stated that she is already involved with the Town and Parks & Rec. The motion was called with all in favor of the motion.

6. Heidke Room Renovation

R. Heath stated that the renovations are down to the first floor now. One of the concerns is the weight of all of the file cabinets in the Heidke Room. It is also encroaching in on the use of that conference room. They came up with an idea of looking at the historical photographs of the room where it used to be the library. The idea is to build floor to ceiling bookshelves. It would be similar to medical office filings. He outlined the work that he would like done. The work that will be done is estimated at \$15,000. That includes all of the materials. R. Shea asked if this would come from the appropriations for Town Hall updates. R. Heath stated that it would.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the \$15,000 renovations for the Heidke Room and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

7. Deliberative Outcome

R. Shea stated that he was under the impression that there was a post Deliberative meeting. They did not have one. He did learn a lot from the Deliberative. He would like to see more in terms of background information with the justifications. He realized that to the average voter they wouldn't be understood or clear. He took time and watched the video and compared with what they had in writing and would like to work it so they are not down to the last minute. Next year he would like things scheduled so they have more time to reflect on things. N. Buonopane stated that he had his sons there and they heard the names the audience were calling the Board. He stated that it is inconceivable. P. LaRochelle stated that there wasn't much respect. R. Heath responded to R. Shea idea of having more time. He said that there is a very short window of that calendar and they are also dealing with the Budget Committee, sending the Warrant Articles to Legal, and DRA.

Old Business

1. DPW - 2024 Paving Project Bid Extension

S. Kinmond approached the table. He stated that they had an outstanding year with their current contractor. They helped considerably with the damages that we incurred in Town. He would like to request an extension of the 2023 contract. They will hold the pricing.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the 2024 Paving Extension based on the DPW Director recommendation and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. DPW - Waiver Request - Propriety Services

S. Kinmond remained at the table. This is the second year they will be able to do rubber chip seal. There are no companies willing to come this far north to do this treatment. It is a specialty type item. There is a tight schedule to do this. He asks to waive the purchasing policy of putting it out to bid because there is only one company that comes this far north.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to waive the purchase policy for the public bidding for the rubber asphalt chip seal treatment for the 7 roads that were listed: Alton Mountain Road, Sedlari Road, Dudley Road, Hidden Springs, Gilman Corner Road, Woodlands Road, and Timber Ridge Road and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to authorize the contract with Allstate Construction Incorp if Sutherland, MA in the amount of \$461,441.10 with payment coming from the Road Construction Warrant Article contingent upon 2024 Warrant Article approval and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. DPW - Surplus Sale of Vehicles & Equipment

S. Kinmond remained at the table. He stated that this memo is just an informational memo to let the Board know what price the vehicles were sold at. It is from a previous request to put them out for bid. The only item that did not sell is the sheeps foot.

4. Planning Department - Town Consulting Engineering Bid Award

R. Heath stated that this is the bid that was put out by the Planner for Town Consulting Engineering. The Planning Board met and decided to continue working with two engineers. One is Mike McNiel of KV Partners and Dana Huff of Tighe and Bond.

N. Buonopane made a motion to accept Tighe and Bond and KV Partners for 2024 and authorize the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

R. Shea stated that there is nothing going on with HHW. They will start again in May. The Budget Committee had the Deliberative. They are looking for anyone willing to serve as members.

N. Buonopane had nothing to report.

A.Morse had nothing to report.

B.Mitchell had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle had nothing to report.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that on the table is the 7.6 Holiday Leave policy. There is one portion that had clarity issues that had been discussed with Departments. There is a strike out on the 24 hours. That was intended to be a 24 hour period on the date of the holiday. It was being interpreted as a 24 hour shift. It only listed per diem staff and no part time staff.

R. Heath reads the updated policy into the record:
It is one small paragraph in the 7.6 Holiday Leave Policy -

Per Diem and Part-Time Town Personnel that work on a designated Town holiday will be paid time and a half for actual hours worked on the day of the holiday.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to accept the changes to the Per Diem and Part-Time personnel holiday leave policy and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Heath stated that the second item is from the consortium group for the cable tv agreements. For the last year they have been in negotiations with Breezeline. They are asking whether or not we want a retail facility in the Lakes Region. They asked the question: Does the Selectmen agree that the language requiring Breezeline to open a retail store in the Lakes Region is critical, desired, or not necessary. The other communities that have voted believe it is not critical.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to that the Board feels that it is critical for a retail store in the Lakes Region and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes

January 9, 2024 - Public Session

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Public Minutes of January 9, 2024 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

January 9, 2024 - Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes of January 9, 2024 releasing #1 and 2 and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

January 18, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Public Minutes of January 18, 2024 and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

January 18, 2024 - Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes of January 18, 2024 releasing #1 and 2 and N. Buonopane seconded with four in favor of the motion and one abstention (BM).

Consent Agenda Approval

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for February 13, 2024 as presented and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Milfoil Committee

Appointment, Tom Diveny, 3-year term

2. Alton Water Works

Ingham	Map 29 Lot 35	11 Hutchins Circle	\$84.89
--------	---------------	--------------------	---------

3. Department of Public Works

Lateral Transfer, Amelia Sweezey, Water to DPW - Highway, effective 2/18/2024

4. Fire Department

Fire Chief, James Reinert, \$97,500.00/ yr, effective 3/4/2024
Aaron Tice, Intern/EMT to Intern/AEMT, \$17.60/hr to \$19.10/hr, effective 1/31/2024
Riley Gavett, FF II/EMT to EMT/FF III, \$20.50/hr to \$21.90/hr, effective 1/24/2024

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

Joan Blackwood - Swap Shop

R. Shea made a motion to accept the appointment and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

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

L. Carr approached the table. He is interested in the 0-5 vote to not support the Ladder Truck. He doesn't understand the Board was not entirely in support. P. LaRochelle stated that it was a decision of the Board to put it out to the public for vote. R. Heath stated that it was put to legal for guidance. L. Carr didn't see on the video where the Board discussed it.

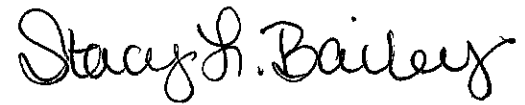
Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

R. Shea made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm 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