

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
April 9, 2024
(Approved - May 7, 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:

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Paul LaRochelle, Chairman
N. Buonopane, Vice-Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman
Richard Shea, Selectman, Excused
Drew Carter, Selectmen
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Board of Health

P. LaRochelle made a motion to Recess as the Board of Selectmen and to convene as Board of Health and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Update

R. Heath stated that he is having to Board convene as the Board of Health in order to give them updates. On the table there is a copy of the current health regulations. There haven't been any applications that needed to come in front of the Board. We have welcomed a new Code Enforcement Officer, Norma Ditri. D. Carter asked when the regulations were last adopted. R. Heath stated that the last time was 2017.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to adjourn as Board of Health, and to Re-Convene as Board of Selectmen and A, Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda for April 9, 2024 and A. Morse 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.
- The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. The staff will be attending the Tax Collector's Spring Workshop

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Lake Winnepesaukee Association Grant Presentation

P. Tarpey, President of the Lake Winnepesaukee Association approached the table. She is here to talk about a project that they will be beginning. It involves Alton. They have been doing the Watershed plans for Lake Winnepesaukee for 10 years. They have completed six plans so far. There are four areas of the Lake remaining. She explains what the plans remaining will include. She is going to be soliciting for more funds for the first plans that were done, which were 15 years ago and they're very obsolete now. They weren't done to the level of detail the current plans have been done.

2. Paramedic Intercept Services Agreement with Frisbie Hospital/HCA Update

J. Reinart, Fire Chief approached the table. He is looking to update or enter it into a paramedic intercept agreement with Frisbee hospital. They're looking to have the ability to charge for that intercept other programs around us to have an intercept. They are looking to charge a fee upwards of \$500.00. So if we were to contact Concord fire for whatever reason, if we were on that side to a hospital, their intercept fee is about 500. This fee is only pertaining to Medicaid, Medicare patients transports. So if the medic gets on and it's a commercial insurance or self pay. The issue is that through the federal government, only one entity can bill for Medicaid, Medicare, Transport, you have commercial insurance weaken as the town of Alton can bill for the BLS or the basic life support that we do. And then the hospital and or the medic service can bill for their ALS Advanced Life support. Frisbee, then, would send us an invoice monthly depending on how many they were \$175 per. He is asking permission because the Board are the agents to expand out of the ambulance revolving account. So before we entered in any agreement and getting that permission, it wasn't anything that we had budgeted for this year or the under the default budget. But basically it would be a wash because we'd be getting the money from Medicaid, Medicaid or Medicare and then that portion of it. J. Reinart went on to explain how the invoices would be billed out.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to enter into a contract with paramedic intercept services agreement with Frisbee Hospital for HCA and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Request

J. Reinert remained at the table. He is looking for permission to apply for a federal grant through FEMA. It's otherwise known as safer staffing for adequate fire and emergency response program. It is approximately \$330 million that the federal government puts out there yearly. It is highly competitive. There are no upfront or many matching dollars required. It's the performance period is basically 36 months, so it covers those wages and associated benefits.

N. Buonopane made a motion to allow the Fire Chief to fill out an application through FEMA and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. Breezeline Town Hall Agreement

J. Monaco, IT Director approached the table. 00:19:55 J. Monaco

He stated that there is a contract from Breeze line. He has been in contact with our account manager at Breeze Line who informed him that we are not currently under contract with Breeze Line and that we are overpaying for our Internet. He stated that if we enter into a three-year contract with Breeze Line that would bring the cost down to \$85.98 a month from \$150.00 a month. It will save approximately \$800.00 a year.

D. Carter made a motion to approve the three-year contract and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

P. LaRochelle would like to entertain a motion to bring up Old Business #1 for Stormwater Assessment Management Grant to bring that up next so they don't wait all night.

N. Buonopane made a motion to move Old Business #1 to now and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Storm Water Asset Management Grant Report

Emily Downward from Tighe and Bond, Sarah from NHDES approached the table. S. Kinmond gave an overview of the process. Sarah presented a PowerPoint presentation. It highlighted all of the different phases for the Storm Water System.

5. Default Budget Discussion

Addressed Below

6. Solid Waste Department - Recycling Revolving Account Request

S. Kinmond approached the table. He stated that S. Simonds has gone through and done an assessment of the of the containers that he has. They're aged, they're 20 plus years old on. One of them is clearly scrap. He'll end up just busting that up and sending it to scrap. There's a second one up there that potentially would be close to scrap, but may be able to be utilized for a little bit longer in there. And the reason why we're looking to increase the number of containers is that we're going to be looking at increasing some of our recycling as well and I mentioned in here in regards to our Styrofoam recycling program that we're going to go ahead and work with the Rotary Club.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director to purchase three High Cube 40-foot storage containers for Solid Waste Transfer Station for housing recyclables for the for the purchase price of from actually of \$13,485 with the cost coming from the Recycling Revolving Amount and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Water Works - Emergency Request

C. Mitchell approached the table. She stated that the Water Department had an emergency situation with the communication line, the hard line between the pump stations. Basically, they talk to each other all day long. When the tank needs to get filled, it tells the well to turn on when it's at its capacity, it shuts off. So for the past probably 6 months. Whenever there is some sort of situation with the power lines and the power going out, we lose communication. That is because the line that comes from the tank to the pump stations is an old TDs telephone line. It has been upgraded to fiber. All pump stations now are going to SCADA systems and it's supervisory control and data acquisition. We have none of that. This would be the first step basically going from that telephone line to cell phone. We're going to go to AT&T because Verizon is very spotty in that area. They are looking into EI Electrical Installations, LLC. They're the only ones in the area. They own our program, so they're the ones to go to and they have provided us with a quote of \$45,500.

N. Buonopane made a motion to waive the three bid process and appropriate the sum of \$45,500 coming from Water Main capital Reserve to update and repair the lines and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Storm Water Asset Management Grant Report

Addressed Above

2. Water Works - Emergency Request

Addressed Above

3. Stockbridge Corner/ Valley Road Intersection Update

R. Heath stated that at the last meeting there was discussion about the stop sign. There have been zero accidents since it was installed. There has been a total of six accidents at that intersection in the last five years. So, he feels that the decision that was made worked.

5. Default Budget Discussion

R. Heath stated that there are some documents in their binders pertaining to the Default Budget. He has been working over the last several days with the Finance Manager on a spreadsheet that is on the table tonight. It includes every employee's payroll. They wanted to see what adjustments by Department would look like. There was a 10% wage increase that was not budgeted for but was budgeted in the proposed 2024 Operating Budget. Because it is the Default Budget they are going to focus on wage increases. He wanted to make clear for the public that may be watching or watching in the future that when they went to a Default it normally covers the wage increase, but did not cover the 10%. They are going to keep an eye on things. He is pleased to add that three months into the year on a Default Budget, they are ahead of the game. He went Department by Department and highlighted the lines that have been cut so far.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter had nothing to report.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that the ZBA meeting that was scheduled was cancelled due to the storm.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath that during the reorganization of the Board, the Conservation Commission cannot have someone with a conflicting appointment. The only one who doesn't is A. Morse.

R. Heath stated that T. Dewkoski came to him and asked to get permission to burn at Jones Field. There is quite a bit of debris from the storm. He talked to the Chief and it was not a problem. The Fire Department would be overseeing it.

R. Heath stated that the last thing is the intersection of Cherry Valley Road and Route 11. Since West Alton Marina was renovated, there have been several residents that have reached out. There have been six accidents there. NHDOT recommended transverse rumble strips. R. Heath didn't think that would be a good idea. The Board does not need to make a decision tonight. He will get more information to bring back to the Board.

Approval of Minutes

None

Consent Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for April 9, 2024 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. **Fire Department**

Leahy, Joshua, New Hire, Per Diem Firefighter/EMT, \$19.45/ hr

2. **Assessing Consent Items**

Timber Tax

Hillsgrove; Map 4 Lot 29; Dudley Road; \$1,202.76
Chase; Map 1 Lot 9; Muchado Hill Road; \$410.87

Military Service Credit

Crowe; Map 5 Lot 5; 134 Stockbridge Corner Road; \$750
Kenny; map 9 lot 14-125; 16 Merrymeeting Lane; \$2,150

Land Use Change Tax

NH Lakeview House LLC; Map 12 Lot 67-4; Powder Mill Road; \$9,000

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

Joy Wallace - Alton Bay Request

It is the consensus of the Board to not allow the appointment and have the Town Administrator write her a letter.

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

None

Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

N. Buonopane made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary