

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
May 13, 2025
(Approved - June 10, 2025)

Chairman N. Buonopane convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

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

Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda for May 13, 2025 as presented and P. LaRochelle 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 Alton Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, as the staff will be attending the NHCTCA's Town Clerk Educational workshop. The office will resume normal business hours on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 am.

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. 2025 Tax Warrant Period 1

R. Heath stated that what is in front of the Board is the Tax Warrant that was prepared. It is for their review and signatures. D. Carter asked if the Town has any tax-exempt properties. R. Heath stated that there are a series of different exemptions, but the Town does not have very many of them. He explained the process of applying for tax exemptions. He stated that the form would need approval to move forward with it. D. Carter asked how the numbers compare to previous numbers for tax due. R. Heath stated that he does know that the Town's value has gone up. Discussion ensued as to the difference between the main column numbers and the numbers in the right hand column. R. Heath stated that the pre-paid is what the tax payers have paid in advance so far. It wasn't what the Town prepaid it was what the tax payers have prepaid.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the 2025 Tax Warrant Period 1 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. DPW - 102 Stockbridge Corner Road - Culvert Water Flooding Issue

S. Garland, Public Works Director, approached the table. R. Heath stated that this was an email that the Selectmen received. This was an issue that was inspected by S. Garland. There was a response given to the tax payer. It wasn't the resolution that the tax payer was looking for so he reached out to the Board. This is a relatively new home that was built well after the road was established. S. Garland stated that on March 27 he did go out to the residence. The culvert is a 15" corrugated metal pipe. When he was there water was pooling on the front lawn on the opposite side of the driveway. The resident asked if the Highway Department could run the culvert to the back of his property. S. Garland advised him that is not something they would do. If it is something that the resident would like to do he could do that himself but there would need to be a maintenance agreement in place first. It would alleviate most of his problem. P. LaRochelle asked if the pooling on the opposite side of the driveway is a result of the water table. S. Garland believes that it is. When he was there water was bubbling up from his artesian well. He did put a small pile of dirt to stop the water. N. Buonopane asked if any of the damage is caused by the Town. S. Garland stated that it is not. B. Buonopane asked if that culvert is going to be replaced soon. S. Garland stated that it is fairly healthy.

It is the consensus of the Board to notify the landowner that the Board understands the issue but that they are going with the recommendation of the Public Works Director and if he would like to remedy the situation on his own property he can do so with a properly executed maintenance agreement.

3. DPW - Culvert Pipe Slip Lining - Waiver to Purchasing Policy Request

S. Garland remained at the table. R. Heath stated that there are two requests here. One is that the DPW Director has solicited some quotes for different types of slip lining and the Purchasing Policy talks about going out to bid for anything over \$30,000.00. These quotes are over \$30,000.00. These are specialty methods that are offered. S. Garland stated that Hermit Road was on last year's schedule to be paved but given the condition of the pipes they held off on paving. There are two 36 inch culverts. They are corrugated steel. The bottom of them are rotted out. These pipes are located over 40 feet in the ground. Using a laser measuring device, they are about 90 feet long. There are two of them there. There are no easy alternatives. He reached out to a couple of companies. The first one was the company that did out catch basins. The method they use is a pull in place. It is a cured fiberglass. They drag a sock through the pipe using cables and pulleys and then they inflate it. They then drag an ultraviolet light through it and it hardens it. The problem is that they do not have the ability to do a pipe that size. The second company that he looked at was Freeman and Son. Their method is a little bit different but the outcome is the same. They are replacing the inside of the culvert. They take a liner and lay out as much as they can and force that pipe into the old one. They then pump in a flowable grout to fill in all of the space to make it solid. There is a little unknown in the flowing of the grout. The grout requires DES review. The whole thing required engineer approval. He reached out to C. Balcius at Stoney Ridge.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve \$70,840.00 forgoing the bid process to be able to repair the culvert on Hermit Road with the agent to expel the Public Works Director with funds coming out of Road Reconstruction and P. LaRoche seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Solid Waste - Roll Off Truck Lease/Purchase

S. Garland remained at the table. R. Heath stated that the Roll Off Truck was a topic of discussion last year with the budget. Our contract is almost up with Waste Management and we have a substantial amount of money in trucking. More so that what it cost up for an annual lease on a brand new roll off truck and a driver. The reason this is being brought forward is because we are running out of time and he wants the public and the Board to remember is that these trucking fees are in the Default Budget. They will not be allocating money to purchase a truck or to pay a lease that is coming from somewhere else that is delegated for something else. He wants the taxpayers to know that they are not purchasing a brand new truck on a Default Budget. D. Carter stated that there was quite a bit of analysis done on this. R. Heath stated that there was one more quote for the lease. It is the best one from Franklin Savings. N. Buonopane asked if the intention for the truck was to stay at Solid Waste or for DPW overall. S. Garland stated that it would stay at Solid Waste. He expects the truck to put on about 30,000 miles a year. N. Buonopane asked if it would be housed in a building. S. Garland stated that there is no place it will fit. D. Shea asked if they know what the percentage rate would be. S. Garland stated that it would be 4.75% through Franklin Savings. N. Buonopane asked if this was approved tonight how long would it take to get the truck and do we have a driver. S. Garland stated that they do have a driver and he knows that they can get through the rest of the season with him.

P. LaRoche made a motion to approve the Public Works Director to enter into a purchase/lease agreement for a 2025 Mack Granite Galbreath U5-OR-174 body total cost \$286,515.00 with a 5 year warranty with Town Administrator being the agent to expend and sign the contract and entering into the agreement option for December of 2026 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Employee Insurance Update

L. Parker, Finance Manager and C. Long, Deputy Finance, approached the table. L. Parker stated that she provided the Board with the NH Secretary of State orders for NH Interlocal Trust. She stated that she spoke to several different brokers to get the best deal. There was one in particular named Bill Bald out of Melcher and Prescott in Laconia. He worked the hardest and got us the best deal. Harvard Pilgrim came back with a 19.6% increase just for 6 months and in January it would increase more. He was able to reach out to Anthem for 18 months and lock us in zero for the first 6 months and 3% for the next year. It would basically be the same coverage we have right now. Things like the prescription tiers would change. The employee deductible would be credited if you have paid any of it already. January 1st we can start looking at dental and stuff to see if they can offer something better than we have now. Right now we are going to keep what we have.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the new insurance for the employees through Anthem utilizing Melcher and Prescott as the broker with the Town Administrator being the agent to sign the contract and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter had nothing to report.

R. Shea stated that Milfoil will be starting shortly. HHW is coming along with our new approach using the Lakes Region Planning Group. The Swap Shop is going quite well thanks to a lot of volunteer efforts and the work of the DPW Department and the ladies that are on the Board of Directors there extend an invitation to the Board of Selectmen to attend the open house this Friday and Saturday between 9-12.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that ZBA had met on May 1st.

N. Buonopane stated that the Planning Board had some approvals.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that there is a memo from the Fire Chief on the table. He was inquiring that with the purchase of the new digital sign the old Smokey Bear fire danger sign is no longer needed. It is in disrepair. An individual from Town inquired if he removed the sign could he repurpose it in his back yard. The Fire Chief would like to know if the Board is okay with that.

It is the consensus of the Board to allow this.

R. Heath stated that he needed to get a head count from the Board for the Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the American Legion. Discussion ensued as to who would be attending.

R. Heath stated that he put a photo on the table with a rendering of the proposed "Welcome to Alton" sign. They now have over \$3,000.00 in the bank. They have a pledge of another \$2,000.00. The total cost is estimated at \$8,000.00.

Approval of Minutes

April 22, 2025 - Public Session

P. LaRochelle stated that he did not lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2025 Public Session and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

April 22, 2025 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2025 releasing none and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 13, 2025 as presented and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Assessing Consent Items

Timber Tax

Hillsgrove; Map 2 Lot 13; L/O Dudley Road; \$1,167.25
Sample; Map 9 Lot 53-2; 17 Sample Terrace; \$1968.09

2. Grounds and Maintenance

Curtis Richard, Ground & Maintenance Laborer, \$21.00/hr, effective June 9, 2025

3. Special Event Application

American Legion Post 72, Memorial Day Parade, May 26, 2025

4. Notice of limitations/Road Waiver of Liability

Right-of-Way Access, Map 21 Lot 34, Elizabeth P. Gorai

5. Solid Waste Department

Kaleb Reagan, Solid Waste Attendant, \$19.50/hr, effective May 22, 2025
Douglas Koby, Solid Waste Attendant, \$19.50/hr, effective May 22, 2025

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

None

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

K. Sullivan approached the table. She stated that there were great questions tonight. She appreciated them all. She asked if there was a driver for the Roll Off truck was already employed with the Town. She also gave kudos to the Finance Department for their work on the insurance.

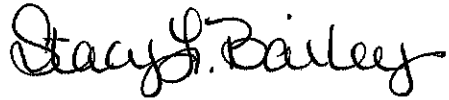
Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

A. Morse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm and N. Buonopane 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