

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
May 7, 2024
(Approved - May 28, 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
N. Buonopane, Vice-Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman
Richard Shea, Selectman, Excused
Drew Carter, Selectmen
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

R. Shea would like to add under New Business #4 - Emails to the Board of Selectmen.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and D. Carter 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, May 15, 2024. The staff will be attending the Town Clerk Spring Workshop
- We, Alton, New Hampshire Selectboard together with our residents in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 5 -11, 2024 as NATIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK in the Town of Alton, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerks and all Municipal Clerks, for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Police Department - Lease Purchase Proposal

T. MacDougall, Police Chief approached the table. He is here tonight to seek the Board's approval for a 4 year lease purchase for a 2023 Chevy Tahoe. The State bid price from McMulkin Chevrolet is \$42,656. They offered \$16,500 for the Dodge Charger as a trade in for a net cost of \$26,156. They would utilize GM Financial. They gave the best rate and the annual payment would be paid out of the Police Detail Revolving Fund for \$7,315.37. The total payment after 4 years would be \$29,261.48. In addition to that they are also seeking to expend \$18,798 from the Police Detail Revolving Fund to New England Vehicle Outfitters for the purchase and installation of all the emergency equipment for the Tahoe. A majority of the equipment would not transfer over from the charger.

T. MacDougall stated that they just made their last lease payment last year. He explained what withdrawals that have been made over the last several years. They no longer make the Dodge Charger. They are all EV. He started looking into other economical options. None of the funds would come out of the Operating Budget. Several options were discussed for different funding options. Buying two vehicles were discussed with different options. The different length of the leases was discussed.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to authorize the Police Chief to enter into a lease purchase with GM Financial for a 2023 Chevy Tahoe Pursuit and a 2024 Chevy Tahoe Pursuit with a net cost for the two of \$64,812 of which payments would be \$16,826. Afterward to authorize him to expend \$37,596 on the equipment to outfit the vehicles out of the Police Detail Revolving Fund for a total of \$72,507 contingent upon the Chief negotiating the purchase of the two Police vehicles and outfitting both of them as opposed to only one and authorizing the Chief to negotiate a five year lease versus a four year lease with a trade in of \$16,500 on one current vehicle and \$14,000 on a second vehicle and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission

R. Heath stated that this was a discussion with the Conservation Commission Chairman, G. Young. They would like to purchase a piece of land that is adjacent to the Morse Preserve. The purchase of this property would be through a Drinking water and Ground Water Bureau grant.

D. Carter made a motion to support the pursuit of the purchase of this land through the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund grant and R. Shea seconded with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (AM)..

3. Water Bandstand Request - Patti Collins

R. Heath stated that this was a request that was received. It is to hold a 4 hour birthday party. P. LaRochelle stated that as someone on the Water Bandstand Committee for four hours with 8 people there are no facilities. We have aloud a wedding in the past that was done in 20-30 minutes. He thinks that this request is not the greatest place not to mention that the date is when it will be powerwashed, painted and cleaned.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to not grant the request on June 1 and to use any other facility except the Water Bandstand for a birthday party and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. Emails to the Board of Selectmen

R. Shea stated that during his research of the Swap Shop he spoke to residents that asked if he received the emails they sent. He was not sure if there was someplace he should be looking. Upon inquiring, he realized that there is not a reasonable current policy. What he would like to do is make it automatic policy that any email that is addressed to the Board gets forwarded to the entire Board's individual email addressed. If you see something that you don't want you can delete. R. Heath stated that sending emails to individual addresses makes everything subject to the Right To Know at that time. He stated that the Board has a Read file. R. Shea stated that the other thing he would like to do is be emailed every time something is received for the Board. He feels that the residents if they so choose have their communication read out loud during the Public Input. Discussion ensued about several ways this can be handled. R. Heath would like to reach out to legal and get their thoughts on it. D. Carter stated that would be good and have it brought back at the next meeting.

Old Business

1. DPW - Roadside Mowing Contract Extension

S. Kinmond approached the table. He stated that he put together a memo about the current roadside mowing contract. These items are well below the threshold relative to the bid policy. He stated that the vendor would increase by \$1.50 an hour.

N. Buonopane made a motion to extend the contract too Talco Enterprises of Nottingham, NH for \$14,400 for 2024 for roadside mowing and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter had nothing to report.

R. Shea had nothing to report.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that the ZBA met on May 2 and they have a new chairman.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the first thing is the Warrant that needs to be signed. It will be ready on May 15. He would like them to stop by at their convenience. The Town Clerk will closed on the 15th so it will be in the Selectmen's Office.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is a contract with Whitney Consulting. They assisted with our Revals. We are currently in a situation where our Assessor is going to be out for an extended period of time. How long is unknown. They have reached out to Whitney Consulting and they have been gracious to increase their services to cover any gaps.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the contract for Whitney Consulting and authorize the Town Administrator to sign on the behalf of the Board and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes

April 9, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024 Public Session and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

April 23, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024 Public Session and D. Carter seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (AM).

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 7, 2024 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Assessing Consent Items

Veteran's Credit

Perry Family Trust Map 41 Lot 14 \$750

Timber Tax

Kania Map 9 Lot 32 New Durham Road \$38.21

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)

None

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:30 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters) A. Morse seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

P. LaRochelle moved at 9:03 pm to exit nonpublic session. R. Shea seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

P. LaRochelle moved to 'not divulge' item two of the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Public actions.

P. LaRochelle moved to hire Seth Garland as the new DPW Director with a starting salary of \$95,000.00 and benefits outlined in the conditional offer, to include a take home vehicle for DPWD business or an agreed upon vehicle stipend. N. Buonopane seconded. Motion carried.

P. LaRochelle moved not to honor the 2024 proposal of a \$2.50 per hour increase for three full-time and one permanent part-time fire personnel given the default budget, however, to support the same proposal in the 2025 budget proposal should it be presented during the budget process. A. Morse seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

N. Buonopane moved at 9:07 pm to adjourn. A. Morse seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary