

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
August 22, 2023
(Approved - September 26, 2023)

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

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle would like to add an item to the agenda under New Business #3 Replacement for existing Public Works Vehicle 2008 Dodge Caravan.

R. Shea 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 in this meeting room, and on our website.
- **NOTICE** The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Thursday, September 21ST, 2023 for the NH Tax Collectors' Association 84TH Annual Educational Conference

Public Hearing - Short Term Rental Process - 6:05 pm

P. LaRochelle open the Public Hearing at 6:05 pm.

J. Call, Town Planner and P. Avila, Code Enforcement Officer approached the table.

J. Call stated that there were some changes that were made since the last meeting. She stated that there is one change on the application on the first page. It removes the Emergency Contact. On page two, she reached out to the Fire Department and got answers regarding what type of fire extinguisher and what type of inspections that normally come with being in possession of a fire extinguisher. On page three, #16 states that the permit is valid for 12 months and it should be 24 months. #18, 19, and 20 has language that was recommended by Town Counsel. Everything else is the same except "I" was clarified. P. LaRochelle stated that it looks good.

S. Blomwerth approached the table. He stated that the house at 7 Acorn was sold this spring and has become an AirBnB. Friday night there were a bunch of people there and the noise went until 4 am. Saturday there were 12 cars. There were 37 people in the house. That house can't be zoned for that many people. What can be done.

V. Bober approached the table. He asked if the \$150.00 fee is enough. On the application, "D" they talk about single family dwelling. He has a neighbor next to him that has a bunch of cottages. Do each one of them have an inspection fee that goes with it. How many unregistered guests are allowed on the property. There should be some sort of limit on that. How late can unregistered guest remain on the property. It all ties into the septic system. R. Heath stated that if there are more than 50 people, they would need a Special Events permit.

P. LaRochelle closes the Public Hearing at 6:42 pm.

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

None

Appointments

David & Jean Clemm - Route 11D Drainage

D. and J. Clemm approached the table. The property is getting water runoff from Route 11 and Route 11D. They bought the property after the previous house was torn down. They built on top off the existing foundation. The problem is that water is still

coming off of the roadway. They have put in a French drain, rock drainage. The Highway Department put a strip of wood to stop some of the water coming off the roadway. This year the water was coming down just like a fire hose. It destroyed a lot of the property. They spent about \$6,000.00 to repair was has been done. They are currently paying about \$20,000.00 in property taxes. They recently met with some engineers and they gave them things that can be done. D. Clemm gave a list of ideas for the repairs. J. Clemm stated that the water that comes down is filthy. It's not pure clean water. It's ugly water. There has to be a better way to take care of the lake. They are overwhelmed by the cost. It seems to be "that's okay it's your property". It is not their water. It's water from 4 lanes of asphalt on Route 11. They have been taking care of the Town water by putting in the French drains. It is not enough. It is not their water.

Dustin Fortier - Stop Sign Removal Request

D. Fortier approached the table. He has done some homework in reference to the stop sign that was put in. He looked into the installation. He is asking if there was a traffic study done by engineers to determine the need for the stop sign. He spoke to Michael O'Donnell, Chief of the Traffic Engineering for the NH DOT. He gave him guidelines for installing stop signs. He explained highlighted passages on the guidelines. He has some sound bites for the Board to listen to. He spoke to a couple of neighbors and some of them mentioned just the Yield sign would have been enough. He is really hoping something can be done to get the stop sign out of there.

T. Fortier approached the table. This has been a nightmare. Her children are getting up at 3:30 am. The suggestion about no through trucks would have been better. The stop sign is ridiculous. Everyone she has talked to thinks it's ridiculous. We would like it to go.

F. Piorkowski approached the table. He said they are using the stop sign as a drag strip. He thinks that it is helping.

New Business

1. Up to 4% Merit Increase for 2024 Budget

R. Heath stated that this proposal is to give the Department Heads guidance moving forward. The Merit increase each year is usually between 3-4%. With the recent 10% increase there will not be any COLA given for 2024. This proposal is for merit only. He is asking to give up to 4% merit for 2024. He explained the process of awarding merit to employees.

It is the consensus of the Board to allow up to a 4% Merit for employees in 2024.

2. 2024 Budget Proposal Schedule

With the Budget season ramping up Ryan would like to set a date for the Budget to be presented to the Board. He would like to get a consensus of the Board. He asked if they would like the budgets in a regular meeting or a separate meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to have separate meetings. They looked at the calendar and chose September 19 for the workshop session.

3. Replacement for existing Public Works Vehicle 2008 Dodge Caravan

S. Kinmond, Public Works Director, and C. Mitchell, Water Superintendant, approached the table. This is something that needed to be addressed. The van that the Town has for the custodian has been condemned by the Town Mechanic. It is not worthy of repair. The custodian indicated that she was going to be looking to get rid of her vehicle. She put together a price of \$2,500.00. He is recommending the purchase to replace the current van.

B. Mitchell made a motion to accept the proposal from the Public Works Director to purchase the 2008 Grand Caravan for the sum of \$2,500.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Sidewalk Project Closeout

S. Kinmond and C. Mitchell remained at the table. He stated that the work has been completed on the sidewalks down in the bay. The expansion joints have been filled. They have been sealed as well. He presented a list of expenses that were accrued. It came in under budget.

N. Buonopane made a motion to authorize \$99,402.81 to come from the Sidewalk CRF with a balnce of \$102,000.00 in it right now and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Winter Maintenance

S. Kinmond and C. Mitchell remained at the table. He stated that the two private roads that were plowed under the agreement that was set up would be billed. If there were any that have not paid by July 1 the Board would send another letter to give them until September 1. If still not paid, then maintenance would stop. Two have not paid, one from each road. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward.

Selectmen Reports

R. Shea stated that Household Hazardous Waste efforts continue and there is one in Wolfeboro this coming weekend.

N. Buonopane stated that Old Home Week was awesome. Everyone who participated did a great job. All the members on the committee did an amazing job.

A. Morse stated that they had their first CIP meeting last week. There is another scheduled for the 20th.

B. Mitchell stated that the Conservation Commission was cancelled.

P. LaRochelle stated that there was no meeting for the ZBA. The Old Home Week was a success.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath that the first thing is the acceptance of the ARPA Funds. The ARPA Funds that are being talked about is \$20,000.00. That is our portion. The County Delegation had an excess of funds and made a decision at a meeting to disperse that equally between the Towns within the County.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is an update on the Parks & Recreation programs. The Director will be at the next meeting.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is a letter from the Interim Fire Chief. She put together a written overview of the first week of exposure. He did speak to the consulting company and a draft report is on it's way.

R. Heath stated that there is a memo from Planning that the Town's Engineering Consultant Contract is expired. They are going out for RFP. In the interim there is a contract extension from Tighe and Bond.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve an extension of the contract with Tighe and Bond through January of 2024 and the Town Administrator can sign on behalf of the Board and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Heath stated that the last thing is to ask the Board on their thoughts on advertising the new voting location.

It is the consensus of the Board to move forward.

Approval of Minutes

July 25, 2023 - Public Session

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 25, 2023 Public Session and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

July 25, 2023 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of July 25, 2023 Non-Public Session releasing #1 and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

August 2, 2023 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 Non-Public Session releasing All and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

August 8, 2023 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 Public Session and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

August 8, 2023 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 Non-Public Session releasing none and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented for August 22, 2023 and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Water Department

Covell, Judy	Map 33 Lot 48 20 Courtyard Circle	Billing Error Acct: 996/426	Credit \$100.00 To Account
Dodge, Jean	Map 34 Lot 33 77 Mt. Major Highway	Billing Error Acct: 196/183	Credit \$621.00 To Account
Natale, Barbara	Map 31 Lot 36-1 16 Pearson Road	Billing Error Acct: 783/819	Credit \$183.52 To Account
Lance, Kenneth	Map 29 Lot 30 4 Hutchins Circle	Billing Error Acct: 1340/388	Credit \$480.00 To Account
Woodard, David	Map 34 Lot 13 45 Rand Hill Road	Billing Error Acct: 222/235	Credit \$627.10 To Account
Rines, Ricky	23 Mooney Street	Billing Error Acct: 782/108	Credit \$360.00 To Account

2. Land Use Items - Approval

Administrative Abatement

Smith; Map 19 Lot 8-2-20; 1439 Wolfeboro Highway #20; \$68.47

Timber Yield Tax

Prospect Forest Enterprises, LLC; Map 6-27; Stockbridge Corner Road; \$511.36
NEFFCO; Map 6 Lot 44; Henry Wilson Highway; \$3,127.23

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

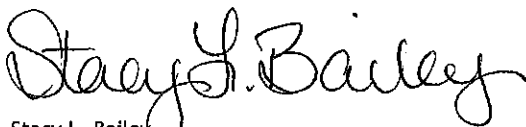
Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

B. Mitchell moved at 8:02 pm to adjourn and N. Buonopane seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary