

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
August 8, 2023
(Approved - August 22, 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

R. Shea would like to add an item to the agenda under New Business #3 to discuss handling of proposals that have a major impact on the Town.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and R. Shea 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.

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. NH Electric Coop - Right of Easement for Pole Licenses

S. Kinmond approached the table. He stated that this is the first pole license that has come to him. He has been working with the design technician at New Hampshire Electric Coop. They have been trying to make a full circuit on Trask Side Road. This would result in less power outages. B. Mitchell asked if this would benefit the residents on the road. S. Kinmond stated that it would.

B. Mitchell made a motion to authorize an easement for pole licenses for the pole locations proposed in the memo on Trask Side Road and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Pearson Road Community Center - Roof Replacement

S. Kinmond remained at the table. He stated that this is an item that he worked with K. Troendle initially. There have been a number of leaks. There were funds set aside in the Capital Reserve for this purpose. The prices came back at a little bit more than was initially set aside. He recommends taking those funds out of the Operating Budget for the Pearson Road Community Center. He would like to get it done before winter. P. LaRochelle asked if New England Roofing had done work for the Town before. S. Kinmond stated that he has not seen anything that indicates they have. S. Kinmond stated that all the proposals are basically the same. New England Roofing stated that they could begin in 30 days if not sooner. N. Buonopane asked when the other could start. B. Mitchell stated that he is more apt to give it to someone from Alton. N. Buonopane stated that he would like to see someone in Town get it. N. Buonopane asked if the only reason S. Kinmond went with New England is because they were the lowest bid. S. Kinmond stated that he has a habit of going with the lowest bid provided there isn't any big discrepancies. He stated that he also only has so much money to do the job. R. Shea asked if there were any guidelines in awarding bids to local contractors. R. Heath stated that there is a Purchasing Policy that covers that. The Board has the right to reject any bids and accept any bids.

N. Buonopane made a motion to award the bid to Paragon Roofing as opposed to New England Roofing for the replacement of the roof at Pearson Community Center in the amount of \$32,570.00 and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Handling of Proposals

R. Shea stated that he was not comfortable even though he voted for with the move that was made to adjust salaries at the last meeting. He can't think as quick as he used to and realized after he voted and the meeting was over that he had questions that he failed to asked. He is wondering if the Board might want to consider some kind of policy to have additional data prior to the meeting or do it in a two meeting step so they have time to reflect and talk to constituents. P. LaRochelle stated that he mentioned that himself at the same time because it was not on the agenda. R. Heath stated that it was on the agenda. R. Shea stated that it was but not in great detail. It would have been nice to have 10% Increase on the agenda. B. Mitchell stated that the reason there was no number is because the Board could change it on the floor. R. Heath stated that one thing that the Board always has the option to exercise the ability to table an item. He is trying to keep things moving and is not trying to get things by them.

Old Business

1. Water Bandstand Committee - Water Ski Show Request

P. LaRochelle stated that this is the Annual Water Ski Show put on by the Water Bandstand Committee. To provide adequate parking they need to reserve some spots.

N. Buonopane made a motion to accept the Water Bandstand Committee request and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to add that the two signs that are on the Water Bandstand are not readable. It needs two new signs.

Selectmen Reports

R. Shea stated that the Budget Committee has not yet met. The HHW operations are going well.

N. Buonopane stated the ZAC Committee meeting was cancelled due to not having a quorum. There is a Planning Board meeting coming up and everybody is gearing up for Old Home Week.

A. Morse stated that the CIP meeting was cancelled.

B. Mitchell has nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that the ZBA had one special exception that was approved this past week.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that he is bringing back up the Old Home Week Parade. He needs to firm up plans for those that can be there. The one change is that he was approached by the committee to be the Grand Marshal this year to celebrate his years of service to the Police Department. The plans were discussed.

R. Heath stated that the Public Hearing is scheduled for August 22, 2023.

R. Heath stated that the County Delegation decided with the remaining ARPA money they are going to disburse it evenly between Towns. We are receiving \$20,000.00. Any donation over \$10,000.00 requires a public hearing in order to accept it. A public hearing is scheduled for September 12, 2023. It will be used to booster benefits for the hiring and retention of employees.

R. Heath stated that he would like to publically announce and recognize Jack Housel, Highway Foreman on his 10-year anniversary with the Town and Aaron Lowell, Light Equipment Operator on his 10-year anniversary with the Town.

R. Heath stated that there is a memo in front of them. P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to know what positions were vacant. There are ten with one being a recent one since the last meeting.

R. Heath stated that another thing is that he was approached by a survey company in Town that is doing a survey on the lot on the corner of Spring Street and Rand Hill Road. During the research it was discovered that in 1850 the Town rebuilt Rand Hill Road and never discontinued the old road. The old road on the survey map runs right through his front lawn. The owner cannot get a septic design because of it. R. Heath contacted Legal Counsel. In order to rectify the situation there needs to be a Warrant Article written. It would be a housekeeping issue.

R. Heath stated that there is an email from the Assessor on the table. The current 2022 rate is \$3.91 and the anticipated rate for 2023 is going to be \$3.56 being a reduction of \$.35.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is that the previous elevator approval was for Accessibility Controls. That company merged with Nationwide Lifts. The price is the same. It is a new company.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve \$88,459.00 to go to Nationwide Lifts to install the new elevator and rescind the prior contract to Accessibility Controls and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes

None

Consent Agenda Approval

None

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

David & Jean Clemm - Route 11D Drainage

R. Shea made a motion to approve the appointment for no more than 10 minutes and N. Buonopane seconded with 3 yes and 2 nays (AM, BM)

Dustin Fortier - Stop Sign Removal Request

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the appointment for no more than 10 minutes and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

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

None

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 6:53 pm to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters). B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

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

At 6:53 pm Chairman LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

- P. LaRochelle, Chairman
- B Mitchell, Vice-chairman
- R. Shea, Selectmen
- A. Morse, Selectmen
- N. Buonopane III, Selectmen
- R. Heath, Town Administrator

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:23 pm to exit nonpublic session. A. Morse seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes B. Mitchell - yes R. Shea - yes
N. Buonopane III - 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 affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Public actions.

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:24 pm to adjourn. B. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN