

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
September 24, 2024
(Approved - October 8, 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
Drew Carter, Selectmen
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda for September 24, 2024 as presented 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.

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

None

Old Business

1. Police Department - NH Office of Highway Safety Grant Approval

T. MacDougall, Police Chief, approached the table. He stated this is the grant for fiscal year 2025. They have been doing it every year since approximately 2008. They were awarded \$10,200.00, which has been the standard award for the last couple of years. He is looking for the authorization to enter into the contract. These provide funds for various items such as speed, DWI, distracted driving, etc. He would like the Board to also authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract.

R. Shea made a motion to accept the grant from the NH Office of Highway Safety in the amount of \$10,200.00 and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Shea stated that he would like to take this time to thank L. Parker, Finance Manager, for the efforts that she made in putting on a seminar earlier this week on Budgeting. He found it very helpful.

Public Hearing 6:05pm

Acceptance of One-Time FEMA Funds

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

R. Heath stated that the Town has received several FEMA payments in regard to two different declared natural disasters. One was in December of 2022 and the July floods of 2023. There were several roads that sustained damage in both floods. They have been working for the last year inputting data for the repair costs. They then received a series of four different payments in regard to the two declared emergencies. Tonight, he is asking the Board and the public to accept the funds in the amount of \$531,303.74.

There were no questions from the public.

D. Carter asked if the costs that these funds are reimbursing have already been expended. R. Heath stated that they have.

N. Buonopane made a motion to accept the FEMA funds in the amount of \$531,303.74 and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

R. Heath stated that there is correspondence in their packets between the Police Department and himself discussing the date and time for Trick or Treating on Halloween. The date will be October 31, 2024 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the hours and date, and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Joint Loss Management Committee - Safety Manual Approval

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, approached the table. This manual needs to be on file with the Town and needs to be adopted every two years. The last manual expired in August. They reviewed it as a Joint Loss Committee. There was no need for revisions or major changes other than adoption of new dates.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the draft dated 9/11/2024 for the Joint Loss Management Committee Safety Manual and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. 2024 Department Head Budget Proposals

Parks & Recreation 4520

K. Troendle, Parks & Recreation Director, approached the table. She highlighted the changes in her budget.

It is the consensus of the Board to look this budget over and vote on it at the next meeting.

Fire Department 4220

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, approached the table. He highlighted the changes in his budget.

It is the consensus of the Board to look this budget over and vote on it at the next meeting.

Ambulance 5-9000

J. Reinert, remained at the table. He highlighted the changes in his budget.

It is the consensus of the Board to look this budget over and vote on it at the next meeting.

Police Department 4210

T. MacDougall, Police Chief approached the table again. He highlighted the changes in his budget.

It is the consensus of the Board to look this budget over and vote on it at the next meeting.

Assessing 4193

R. Heath presented the Assessing Budget. He highlighted the changes in the budget.

It is the consensus of the Board to look this budget over and vote on it at the next meeting.

Audio/Visual 4199

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve Audio/Visual 4199 Budget in the amount of \$2,000.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Budget Committee 4131

D. Carter made a motion to approve Budget Committee 4131 Budget in the amount of \$3,201.00 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Conservation Commission 4162

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve Conservation Commission 4162 Budget in the amount of \$23,247.00 and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Emergency Management 4290

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve Emergency Management 4290 Budget in the amount of \$11,003.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Interest Short-Term 4723

D. Carter made a motion to approve Interest Short-Term 4723 Budget in the amount of \$1.00 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Legal 4153

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve Legal 4153 Budget in the amount of \$145,418.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Patriotic Purposes 4583

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve Patriotic Purposes 4583 Budget in the amount of \$21,190.00 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Street Lights 4316

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve Street Lights 4316 Budget in the amount of \$33,500.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter gave an update on the Budget Committee meeting on Monday night.

R. Shea stated that the Milfoil Committee is done meeting for the year. There was an excellent turnout for the HHW collection day on Saturday.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane gave an update on the Planning Board meeting last week and stated that ZAC is a great committee.

P. LaRochelle stated that there is a ZBA meeting next Thursday, and the Water Bandstand Committee will be meeting next Wednesday. He stated that at the last meeting it was mentioned that the Swap Shop will have a 6-month trial period. That period will not start until after the DPW completes the work they need to do and there is a complete list of volunteers with schedules.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that there will be a voter training on October 29 at 9:00 am and there will need to be Selectmen in attendance just like there was on Election Day.

R. Heath stated that there has been an increase of commercial businesses that have needed to use the public boat launch. This increase is due to the fact that NH Fish and Game no longer allow commercial traffic at Downing's Landing. He stated that if a commercial business needs to use the launch they will need to do it when it is not busy and will need to have a copy of their insurance on file with Town Hall.

T. MacDougall, Police Chief, approached the table again. He stated that the New Durham Police Chief has resigned. The New Durham Police Department has no police officers. New Durham has been working with him to pay Detail Rate for coverage in New Durham. There is one officer in the department who is out until at least November. The New Durham Town Administrator contacted him because the Governing Board there wanted to execute an extended agreement with Alton to continue assistance with the coverage. The agreements usually are between a Police Chief to Police Chief reference in the Statute. He contacted Town Counsel and if he is no longer there and no other police officer it falls to the Board of Selectmen. He feels comfortable executing the agreement with them. We have covered some shifts but can not cover them all. They are trying to get the situation resolved. R. Heath stated just for clarification that no tax payer money is being spent on this.

Approval of Minutes

August 27, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2024 Public Session and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

August 27, 2024 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2024 Non-Public Session releasing #1 and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

September 9, 2024 - Public Session

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

Consent Agenda Approval

None

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)

J. Blackwood approached the table. She stated that she talked to the Public Works Director today. He said that he had some free time this fall. He needs some directive from the Board. She wanted the Board to know who she is and who they are dealing with. She was here Monday watering plants a little after 7. A gentleman came down the stairs and he fell or stumbled to avoid the branch on the lilac bush. She went home and got some loppers and removed the branch.

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:24 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, d (sale of lease of real property) and L (legal advice). 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.

At 7:24 pm Chairman LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

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

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:58 pm to exit the nonpublic session. 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.

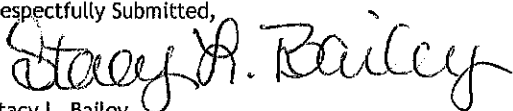
P. LaRochelle moved to 'not divulge' item two of the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:58 pm to adjourn. D. Carter seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary