

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Session I  
January 18, 2016  
6:00 PM  
1 Monument Square  
Alton, NH 03809

**Approved: February 1, 2016**

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Cydney Johnson convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following members and staff were present:

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman  
Lou LaCourse, Vice Chairman  
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman  
Virgil MacDonald, Selectman  
Marc DeCoff, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. E. Russell Bailey requested adding #2 under Old Business; TDS Franchise Agreement continuance which will be for two (2) weeks from tonight and #3 under New Business the word permit should be changed to services contract.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **Appointments:**

None

### **Announcements:**

- The Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> at PMHS Auditorium at 7:00 PM.
- The Presidential Primary is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at PMHS voting from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed for that day.
- We have hired our new Town Administrator her name is Elizabeth Dionne she is from Center Barnstead and is currently working for the Town of Milton. She will be starting the week of February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Selectmen's Committee Report**

Marc DeCoff reported that the Old Home Week Committee met last week however they didn't have a quorum. There a few new people on the committee that will need to be sworn in and will need appointment forms. E. Russell Bailey requested that Marc obtain the information and get it to him.

## **Town Administrator's Report and Updates**

### Fire Department Issues

#### Fire Truck

The memos were received on Friday with some issues of concern in regards to the Fire Department. These are not new issues and decisions need to be made. The first item is the Fire Truck.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to try to sell the Fire Truck or sell it for scrap and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Equipment for the New Fire Truck

Lou LaCourse noted that he would like to see what we have opposed to what we need or what we want. A discussion transpired on the requested items which are all for the new truck. There is money in the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund which was voted in by the people of the town. While the new truck is in for repair it would probably save the Town money by doing any work while it is there for the repairs. It was suggested that Fire Chief Ryan Ridley be brought in to discuss the items.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the LED Backup Lights, the LED Light Emitting Diode, the Chevron Markings, the Lettering, the On Spot Tire Chains and the Scull Saver and Cydney Johnson seconded. The vote was 4 approved, 1 opposed, Lou LaCourse.

E. Russell Bailey will have Fire Chief Ryan Ridley get more information for the Board as to why the items are necessary or not necessary.

### DOT Resurfacing Project

E. Russell Bailey reminded the Board that there will be a meeting next week with DOT regarding the resurfacing project which will run from Barnes Ave to just past Keewaydin. DOT will review and evaluate the crosswalks and Accessible Ramps. The meeting will be with Ken Roberts, E. Russell Bailey and NH DOT with the possibility of walking the project. The project will be put out to bid by DOT sometime in February; it will include any work that is necessary to bring the crosswalks and ramps into compliance for handicap accessibility. The only crosswalk that remains up in the air is the crosswalk at Levey Park. A request was put in with the State for a crosswalk there however DOT wants a streetlight and ADA curb cuts at the location. This will be mentioned at the meeting.

## **Public Input I**

None

## **Approval of Selectmen's Minutes**

### **January 4, 2016**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, January 4, 2016 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session I, January 4, 2016 opening #1 and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session II, January 4, 2016 opening #2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, January 4, 2016 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **January 6, 2016**

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, January 6, 2016 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session I, January 6, 2016 opening #1 & 2 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, January 6, 2016 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Workshop Session II, January 6, 2016 opening #1, 2, 3 and 4 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session III, January 6, 2016 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## **Old Business:**

### **2016 Budget/Warrant Articles**

The Warrant Articles need to be posted by statute by next week. E. Russell Bailey requested that the Board sign the signature sheet for the Warrant Articles so that they may be posted at the Town Hall, on the Town Website, at the Gilman Library, at the Post Office and at PMHS. He also needs the supplemental signature sheet signed as requested by DRA.

Marc DeCoff mentioned that Article #20 hadn't been voted on yet because we were waiting on the numbers from the Budget Committee. Phil Wittmann questioned voting on the Water Department Article which would be a decision of the Board whether to put a recommendation on the Article.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to recommend Article #20; which was read into the record as follows:

*Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million Nine Hundred Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven Dollars (\$6,900,267.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Six Million Eight Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$6,865,318.00)**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. [Appropriation recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0) and Budget Committee (5-2).]*

*This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)*

The motion on the table held; Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

It was noted that the school budget went down approximately three (3) percent.

At this time E. Russell Bailey requested, if the Board was agreeable to move the next item forward for the TDS Agreement Continuance before continuing with the Warrant Articles as there was a TDS Representative in the audience instead of keeping him waiting. It was the consensus of the Board to move to the TDS item.

### TDS Agreement Continuance

Kate Miller has spoken to both the TDS attorneys and the MetroCast attorneys and is recommending that the signing of the TDS Agreement be continued for another two (2) weeks.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to extend the signing period for an additional two (2) weeks for the TDS Franchise Agreement and Marc DeCoff seconded.

Ron Troyer approached the Board stating that there was a conference call with their senior leadership and we (TDS) have agreed to participate and work well with the Towns. From our prospective, this is clearly an attempt to delay the competition as long as possible. In the spirit of cooperation we will give it two (2) more weeks but we can't allow it to drag on longer than that. Not knowing what two (2) weeks does as it costs us money everyday waiting, but we are willing to wait.

The motion on the table held with all in favor.

The Board returned to the Warrant Articles.

The Deliberative Session is coming up; the normal is to assign the Articles to the Selectmen prior to the meeting. E. Russell Bailey explained the process to the Board. Cydney Johnson stated that there is usually a meeting set up to go over the particulars of the process. A meeting was suggested to be set up for next week; Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 PM it will be posted as a Workshop to go over the assignments of the warrant articles. All information will be put together and provided to the Board.

### **New Business:**

#### Land Use Items as recommended by the Tax Assessor

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Timber Warrant for Map 3 Lot 5 & 5-1, for \$1,095.77 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2016 Elderly Exemption Denials for Map 5 Lot 67 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2015 Abatement for Map 6 Lot 1-44 for \$40.00 and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Payment in Lieu of Taxes; Alton Housing for the Elderly

The Alton Housing for the Elderly, Payment in Lieu of Taxes is done annually. This agreement was set up and allowed under a statute which allows them to pay just the town portion of taxes.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes for the Alton Housing for the Elderly, Inc. and Lou LaCourse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Alton Landfill; Hydrogeological and Groundwater Management Services Contract

This is an annual agreement for the Engineers that oversee the Landfill contamination issues. The proposed agreement is to take care of the basic requirements of DES in the amount of \$10,500.00. This is the same Engineer that we have been using for years.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the Hydrogeological and Groundwater Compliance Service Contract with ATC in the amount of \$10,500.00 authorizing E. Russell Bailey to sign and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Road Name Change

By statute the naming of roads in Town falls under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen. This request was initiated by the folks at 911. Back in 1999 the small turning sections of the Traffic Circle were changed from State Circle A to Village Place and State Circle B to Wayside Place. The State shows the name to be Alton Circle Lane and they are requesting that the name of the turn lanes be changed to Alton Circle Lane. This is basically a paper correction.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to sign the memo for 911 correcting the name to Alton Circle Lane and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## Forest Society; Class VI Road Improvement

This issue has previously been addressed; the Forest Society is requesting to have improvements done to Class VI Roads at Reed Road and Ames Road. No improvements can be made unless they have approval of the Board. They would have a gate to prevent vehicles from accessing the Mountain on the Class VI portion of Reed Road. Marc DeCoff questioned if the Fire Department would have a key for access to the property through the gate. E. Russell Bailey stated that the normal procedure would be for anything on that is blocked on Town property we will have a key for emergency purposes. Based on the Board's approval, E. Russell Bailey recommends approving this conditionally upon having the Police, Fire and Highway Departments review and make their recommendations before signing off.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the road improvements conditional on Highway, Fire and Police Departments signing off on both Reed Road and Ames Road and Virgil MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## **Public Input II**

None

## **Non-Public Session:**

Cydney Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3, II (a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims/litigation and Marc DeCoff seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary