

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

June 17, 2019

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: July 1, 2019

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Chairman R. Wentworth convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and Virgil MacDonald led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Reuben Wentworth, Chairman  
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman  
Cydney Shapleigh, Selectwoman  
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman, Excused Absence  
Paul LaRochelle, Selectman  
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

**Announcements:**

- On Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM will be a ceremony in celebration of the rededication of the Water Bandstand. All are encouraged to attend with thanks given to the volunteers for their hard work and efforts over the past year; getting it ready for the first band concert in many years.
- A meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the New Durham Elementary School Auditorium, Old Bay Road, New Durham for discussion on the Merrymeeting River Watershed Plan. This is for monies that were involved last year for the Cyanobacteria Committee to design the program to allow grants for the Town of Alton and New Durham to protect our waterways.

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

None

**Appointments:**

- NH DOT; Proposed Work on Route 11 over the Merrymeeting River

Representatives from NH DOT, Michael Mozer, Sr. Bridge Engineer, Joe Adams, Project Manager and Jamie French, with the Consulting Firm of Fuss & O'Neill who are doing the design for the project were present to introduce the proposed project plans for the bridge on Route 11 over the Merrymeeting River at the mouth of Alton Bay. A Power Point presentation was presented and viewed by the Board informing them of the design process and what will be evaluated to address the poor condition of the red listed bridge placed in 2014 as priority #59. This is to gain feedback from the Town and to understand the local concerns of the project and potential traffic control options. The bridge is roughly 85 years old, built in 1934. The design process is in the very beginning stages and includes alternative analysis, public informational meeting, developing preliminary plans, right-of-way process, developing contract plans and documents and advertising. Design Considerations are bridge consideration, historic consideration, traffic maintenance (congested area), utilities (overhead and buried) and site constraints/project impacts. Bridge alternatives includes rehabilitation or replacement with both options to maintain the existing roadway alignment and profile as close as possible. The Town's input will be needed. The project schedule was discussed beginning in winter 2019/2020 through 2023 with the actual construction yet to be determined. In addition, traffic control alternatives, emergency routes, bus routes etc. were discussed. V. MacDonald asked for clarification on the referenced #59 which was explained that it is the 59<sup>th</sup> bridge on the list of red listed bridges. In addition, he suggested a baling bridge beside the existing bridge which would be an explored option. Traffic volumes were noted with June through August having the highest volumes. If the work is done through the course of a construction season DOT feels that the work can be done within one year, if the bridge is shut down then DOT feels that 28 days is reasonable, if it is rehabilitated then they might take half a bridge at a time. R. Wentworth voiced that no matter how it is done it will cause confusion and delays, there is no easy way to fix the bridge keeping traffic normal. No matter, the people will need to be patient and hopefully to come up with the best solution with plenty of time to do so. Typically, state roads opposed to local roads are used for detouring however it would be a pretty significant detour. The representatives were thanked for their time and input.

## Agenda Approval

At this time, R. Wentworth apologized for not having the agenda approved previously.

R. Wentworth requested adding Cindy Balcius, Town Wetlands Engineer to the agenda under New Business #1 to discuss Blueberry Lane.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Joseph S. Haas; 91-A Request

Mr. Haas was not present.

## New Business:

### 1. Cindy Balcius, Wetlands Engineer, Stoney Ridge Environmental - Blueberry Lane Discussion

Cindy Balcius approached the Board to discuss a situation on Alton Mountain Road. Last year she was approached by K. Roberts to look at the end of Blueberry Lane remembering that there was Town owned land; subsequent research found that the Town did own land there. There appeared to be a lot more drainage, erosion and a culvert placed in the area. Early in the spring it was viewed again noting that there was high erosion taking place with a lot of flow in the culvert dumping out through the right-of-way. The discussion began as to why there was so much more flow; it was evident that there had been recent construction with a new culvert. C. Balcius recommended that the DES Wetlands Bureau be contacted for a site walk for resolution for a right-of-way access to Hill's Pond; currently there is no access. On September 12<sup>th</sup> of 2018 C. Balcius went out to the location with NH DES Wetlands Bureau, K. Roberts and D. Batchelder from her office. We viewed the culvert that was installed, DES used their power of trespass and went on the adjacent lot owned by John Geleas. Following an access road around a corner there was a relatively new access road driveway that had been installed. There was a stream that had flowed down; you could see the old channel was empty across the road that had taken the stream and dug a ditch and drained it all the way back to the town owned land dropped it under the culvert; this is why there was all the erosion. At this point it was discussed with DES instead of going through the enforcement portion that we could easily come together with a plan with J. Geleas to do a restoration putting everything back to its original state; DES was open to this solution. Currently there is a surveyor ready to go flagging the area however, permission is necessary to access J. Geleas' land and we are being denied access. Options need to be discussed as to how to proceed.

R. Wentworth voiced an option to go back to NH DES stating that access has been denied and let NH DES take care of the issue. C. Balcius stated that there is an option to file a complaint due to the Town property which has been destroyed due to it. If a complaint is filed, DES will investigate and make J. Geleas restore the area. It is unclear as he is a recent property owner whether the issue was his or the previous owner. The way the law reads he probably would be the responsible party for the restoration. The other option would be to leave it as it is, not being able to use it. R. Wentworth asked if K. Roberts indicated why J. Geleas was denying access; C. Balcius was unsure as to the circumstances. L. Dionne might be able to shed some light on the issue stating in discussion last week J. Geleas informed the Highway Manager that he was not happy with the way the street light was handled; the original agreement with the Municipal Trail System had something in it regarding such. The light has since been installed by the Conservation Commission and they are paying the monthly bill. In addition, L. Dionne informed the Board that last fall J. Geleas met with the Town and was in full agreement with the Town helping him to restore the property to its original condition. R. Wentworth suggested that once the Highway Agent returns that they sit down for a meeting with J. Geleas before moving forward with contacting NH DES. L. Dionne will set up a meeting then get back to C. Balcius.

### 2. Request for Appointment to Old Home Week Committee - Approval

C. Shapleigh made a motion to appoint April Boles to the Old Home Week Committee for a 1-year term and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Raffle Application; Friends of the Gilman Library - Approval

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve the raffle application permit for the Friends of the Gilman Library and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. Request for Water Bandstand Usage - Approval

P. LaRochelle offered to recuse himself from any discussion on this matter. R. Wentworth did not feel that was necessary.

L. Dionne requested that if the Board approves this request that the "No Trespassing" is waived as part of the approval. C. Shapleigh asked if the Water Bandstand Committee had any problems with the request. P. LaRochelle stated "no" it was discussed.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Water Bandstand usage at their own risk and waive the no trespass order and C. Shapleigh seconded.

Further discussion: R. Wentworth asked if this would be an occurring event; it may, who is going to go out to inspect it after the event or prior to. P. LaRochelle spoke on behalf of the committee that he would go out there after any event, wedding and/or application for use; he would be more than happy to check it after each and every use; if there are any issues there would be contact from there. In addition, every time someone uses a piece of Town property people have to put down a security deposit for any damages, will this be suggested for this. L. Dionne mentioned a certificate of liability of insurance for any damages or a rental fee. C. Shapleigh asked if it would be a rental fee verses a refundable security deposit? The account for the Water Bandstand is an escrow account for donations and expenses. A donation request could be asked for to go towards future maintenance.

The motion on the table was called with all in favor of the motion.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to have a fee/donation for usage of the Water Bandstand going into the Water Bandstand escrow account and C. Shapleigh seconded.

Further Discussion: C. Shapleigh agrees with the donation but it doesn't take care of damages. No mention of insurance was made in the previous motion.

At this time, P. LaRochelle rescinded the motion *to approve the Water Bandstand usage at their own risk and waiver the no trespass order and C. Shapleigh rescinded her second.*

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Water Bandstand usage submitting a certificate of insurance and a donation fee for the upkeep and maintenance toward the Water Bandstand escrow account and waive the no trespass order and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion.

5. 2019 Merit Increase Proposal

R. Wentworth noted that several department heads were in attendance in reference to the Merit Increase proposal Police Chief Ryan Heath and Fire Chief Jim Beaudoin approached the Board to support the discussion. A memo with supporting information was provided to the Board. R. Heath previously discussed this with L. Dionne. Hearing about this now and not a few months ago was explained because it was overshadowed by the discussions on COLA being in the Default Budget; that needed to be settled first. It is very rare that we go to a Default Budget and is only the second time in 31 years. The last time we went to Default Budget we were under a step and wage program increases were still honored for employees. It was done with the understanding that it was within the confines of the Default Budget and it was up to the Department Heads to find the money and make sure that everything else was covered. It was done by the direction of the Town Administrator not by the Board. This year is different due to the new minimum/maximum chart, which was based with merit. While speaking with L. Dionne if all departments agreed on it if money could be located within the Default Budget then it could be brought to the Board for consideration to honor the merit increases based on the annual evaluations as long as we could show that the money could be covered within by using money that is not already allocated for other things. The Departments were all in agreement. The numbers were presented at the full 3% wage increase for the entire year through the entire operating budget to include all the wage lines, paid out benefits (Administration line). These were presented as a worse case scenario and are changing due to personnel changes. This also reflects a 3%

increase across the board and not everybody will be at that level. The number for the full 3% increase would be at \$136,864. There was money that had been taken out of budgets this year however reverting to the Default Budget some monies were put back in. Chief Beaudoin noted his 92K was for shift stipends for night coverage and only used one half of the year in 2018 and was switched over to full time coverage 24/7 in the building. This amount was taken out of the budget but it was put back in with the Default Budget. As a result with the numbers alone that could be identified clearly there is an excess of \$149,779 bringing us well over the maximum amount of money that would be necessary to cover the merit increases at the maximum level. A department head meeting was called to discuss the situation making sure that the departments were aware that they need to cover their bottom line budgets. One of the biggest issues is employee moral with changing the payroll structure to minimum/maximum for the good of the employees based on a pay study that was done some were adjusted, some were held, some increased and some lost money. The fear is after being into this structure for two (2) years and we don't honor it and continue we are not protecting the integrity of the merit based structure. The employees worked hard all year long received their evaluation with recommendations made at that time before going into a Default Budget for the merit based increases; this was to keep everything consistent and competitive moving forward. Entering into this year's budget season R. Heath does not feel that we will be able to make this up and a compromise will need to be made with the Budget Committee so there may be no way to ever make up from lost ground. By honoring this, this year and keeping this up it will put us in a better position to be able to compromise this year with the Budget Committee with percentages and increases that they will be looking for moving forward. J. Beaudoin reiterated that moral is key to his department for keeping people around, they are not here for benefits; their fulltime job is always somewhere else with most of his employees being part-time. V. MacDonald questioned if the amount of money presented could cover all the departments; the response was "yes, we would cover even the smaller departments that are less fortunate and got hit harder, we would be able to cover them under the bottom line budget. C. Shapleigh commented that the employees are every businesses best asset, without good employees you don't have a good business. You can have a fantastic business and employees can ruin it. I think we have very good employees and have gone through times in this Town when we haven't. Wage freezes generally happen in periods of recession and slowing economies. While there has been talk of recession the past 3 to 4 years it hasn't happened. Even during the last recession, which was the worst recession since the great depression we managed to appreciate and respect our employees. In the private sector you don't see a tremendous amount of wage freezes and thinks it is important to delineate a Default Budget and wage freeze or lack of increase. A Default Budget simply says the voters say no to this amount, it doesn't mean they say no to paying our employees what they deserve to be paid what they have earned and what they are valued for. I give a lot of credit to the people that took the time to find money because a lot of times in Default Budget people don't realize that there are things included in it that they don't think are included. It is a tight budget because of other situations but with the items listed here if we can honor our promise to the employees who keep to their commitment and their promise to us to do a good job which is what the merit system is all about I say kudos for figuring a way to do it. I think it is important that we respect our employees enough to show them that we appreciate the work that they do every single day. L. Dionne thanked all the employees for all of their hard work coming up with this recommendation for everyone, it was a group effort. Understanding under a Default Budget things have to change for the year and offered options to the Board if they consider this proposal. There are different percentages that could be offered rather than the full 3%, the effective date could be changed or it simply could be taken under advisement. Suggested that this could be discussed at another time at another meeting. V. MacDonald stated that we depend on the department heads not to go over budget whether it is Default or regular budget not to outspend their budgets. We have already sealed the budget for no unnecessary spending. If the departments found the money in their budgets and it is extra money in their budgets and is extra money that was put back in by the Default Budget then he feels that the Board should use it to honor their raises that they should have gotten. P. LaRochelle stated that obviously hard work was done going through each department, looking to where money could be saved and still use the 3% increase, it is important that the Board thank the employees for everything they do and how hard they work and agrees with everything that C. Shapleigh stated. It is his opinion that this does not need to go any further. J. Dever, Code Officer approached the Board stating that he is out and around the Town a lot dealing with a lot of different people from a lot of different places, the routine comment is that this is a great Town to work with, to come into Town Hall to deal with the employees and other departments, people are amazed and coming from other places where it is not the case. Our employees go out of their way to accommodate and be helpful to everyone. R. Wentworth stated he will be the odd man out, the people voted on the Default Budget, not knowing why but people can speculate. Noting that the \$39,900 commented on (Fleet Lease) that was found and the \$5,520 (Motorcycle Lease) should not even be in there because it comes out of the Revolving Fund so if you leave that in there and use it, the tax rate will be set on spending that money which is not fair because it is not being used for its purpose. He understands the Fire Department stipend. We got through the 2% COLA and knows that there are disgruntled feeling with the Default Budget and does not blame the Budget Committee, the people/voters of the Town are the ones who approved the

Default Budget. This is what you get; they knew that the merit pay raises would be out. Most departments do a good job and feels that we have to stay within the Default Budget. During previous years and recession, employees got their pay raises and COLA every year when the private sector did not. He feels that our employees have it good with benefits and doesn't feel this will hurt anyone going without merit pay for one year. On the high end of department heads it doesn't make much difference, roughly \$40 per week on the lower end employees, sees it might hurt them. R. Wentworth disagrees with any increase whether it is 3%, 1% etc. Believing that in the people's mind the majority of people think that it means we are not going to get a new fleet of cruisers, hold off on buying a fire truck etc. she does not believe that the majority of the people feel that we are going to penalize the employees. In addition, she doesn't think it is fair to make a blanket statement that the private sector didn't get raises during the recession, we cannot possibly know what every private sector job did. Working in the private sector, raises were held to a lower standard we still got raises because your employees are your most valuable asset and without them you lose a lot. It is a Default Budget we are staying within the confines of the budget and thinks that we are well within the rights to do this and thinks it is the right thing to do. If there are departments that we feel don't deserve it then perhaps every single review should be looked at and blessed by the Town Administrator for a 1% to 3%. Having been on the Board since 2011, can tell you that she has seen 0% merit increases and 1% merit increases because we had employees come in and say they would have rather gotten nothing than a 1% because it was an insult; so it has happened and this is what we depend on our department heads to do is to give fair reviews and recommend fair merit increase recommendations. R. Wentworth stated that most folks realize that we did get a new dump truck this year and most folks that he speaks with know that things stay status quo, there are no raises. They know the capital improvement articles got approved and disagrees with C. Shapleigh on that aspect. In his time over the last two (2) years he has not seen a 1% increase and if it were that low then that person should be on probation. He is not saying nobody deserves it and knows the value of employees and how to treat them. He knows the will of the people and they are the ones that decide our budget, we recommend, they decide and feels that we need to live within it. He is here to represent the people of this community and will hold firm on his decision. C. Shapleigh stated status quo means same as last year. L. Dionne mentioned she created the Default Budget according to the standard rules and regulations from DRA the departments did nothing wrong. Sometimes there are certain things from a previous year; this is where the base starts which is the problem of going to a default budget. If we don't use the monies it will help offset the tax rate. R. Heath noted that when this new merit structure went into effect some employees lost money; out of the employee manual, the merit checks were taken away completely because each year the employees got a 2% merit check just before Christmas. Based upon this new structure so not only going to Default Budget we are not staying with the consistency of the new structure program the employees have lost their 2% check all within two (2) years. R. Wentworth voiced that a lot of the different departments got some hefty adjustments and offered that if he (R. Heath) picks up \$2,000 more in deductible on health insurance then he would go along with the 3% or family plan or a single plan pick up another 25%. The taxpayers are the ones that pay that. Last year when the insurance went up we didn't go up on your deductibles and didn't ask the employees to pick up any of that increase. R. Wentworth would like to see just a straight % increase opposed to both COLA and merit like the school does. C. Shapleigh suggested making a compromise. L. Dionne suggested setting up a Workshop to discuss in depth. P. LaRochelle agrees with a Workshop and stated that he doesn't really understand the moral issue with the 3% increase and himself being in the private sector having two (2) employees himself; they get their pay, they get their benefits but they are very happy to get their work, to stay busy, have a job and their moral stays good as long as he keeps thing rolling. As someone that is an elected official with only six (6) meetings behind him the one thing that he is very surprised by is seeing the department heads come so often always looking for something. It seems that there is always one step more, always something more, each and every month it is never quite enough. He is thankful for everything everybody does and how it is done but as a taxpaying person who is also an elected official he stands to help the people and is here for the people but he also participates and puts back to the community by volunteering a lot and doesn't see a lot of departments in this town helping by volunteering or getting more involved in the Town. He feels it will be important to sit down and have a Workshop. R. Heath voiced and asks that he hopes that the departments will be invited to speak at the Workshop feeling that there are discrepancies with talking about volunteering such as working weekends, evening meetings etc. that is all going above and beyond. V. MacDonald does not want a Workshop he wants to vote for merit pay whether we give it or not. It is merit pay, it is covered, and it is in the Default Budget already.

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the total of \$136,864 for merit. The motion was changed.

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the merit pay based upon the evaluation and take whatever is left over putting it towards surplus and C. Shapleigh seconded for discussion.

Further Discussion: C. Shapleigh questioned and didn't know if anybody could answer; the last time a Default Budget happened did the Board wait until the end of the year to make sure there was enough money, how did that work. R. Heath responded that based on his records from his department and based on his employees that were due the money it was retro'd back to January as if nothing had happened. L. Dionne noted that merit cannot be added to the Default Budget. R. Wentworth noted that J. Dever had 13K additional in his budget for part-time help. J. Dever was not planning to hire someone and didn't even consider that money as even being in his budget. C. Shapleigh stated that all of the Selectmen are elected to represent the people; there are two (2) sides to representing the people and wants to make sure that we don't overlook both sides. We need to make sure we are fiscally responsible and to be sure that this Town runs in a safe and compliant manner. The Board has a huge responsibility, it is not only to the people and taxes, as I am a taxpayer too and doesn't want to just throw money around and wants to know that the roads are going to be plowed, the ambulance is going to show up and the person that is going to rob a bank is going to be caught and I can get my building permit. It is not black and white there has to be room for gray and if staying within the Default Budget making sure that we are representing all the people of the Town makes sense.

At this time, the vote on the table was called with 2 approved, 2 opposed, R. Wentworth and P. LaRochelle. The MOTION FAILED

J. Dever requested to make a comment in reference to one of the earlier comments by P. LaRochelle regarding volunteering. R. Wentworth prefers to talk about that at another time.

#### Old Business:

##### 1. Portion of Reed Road, Class VI to Class V - Conditional Approval

R. Wentworth stated that the Town Attorney sent an email recommendation. K. Roberts was not present tonight due to a family emergency. It was his feeling that this could be acted upon tonight per the Attorney's recommendation. Walter Thomas was available for this discussion.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to conditionally approve a portion of Reed Road known as Map 16, Lot 10-1, approximately 150 feet, from a Class VI to a Class V road contingent upon the amended subdivision plan being approved and recorded in the Belknap County Registry of Deeds and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

##### 2. Mt. Major Snowmobile Club Bridge Discussion

Stemming from a previous meeting K. Roberts was supposed to get together with L. Rentel to discuss this project and make recommendations. L. Dionne was not aware if K. Roberts reviewed the plan. R. Wentworth personally would like to hold off on this until K. Roberts returns and has a chance to review. The Board agreed to table this item until K. Roberts returns. Mr. Brown will be contacted for a future meeting.

##### 3. Sale of Ambulance 2 - Approval

J. Beaudoin, Fire Chief was available to discuss the sale opposed to the scrapping of the old Ambulance 2 explained that the offer was made by David Nash for purchasing for \$1,500.00.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to accept the offer of \$1,500.00 from David Nash for the sale of Ambulance 2 and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

##### 4. Merrymeeting River Watershed Plan Improvements for Grant Funding - Approval

L. Dionne informed the Board that Mill Pond is on a hold temporarily. Documents from the engineer were provided showing the recommendations of Pine Street, Site 3-15 and Horne Road, Site 3-06 and 3-07 once NH DES approves the Merrymeeting Watershed Plan. L. Dionne is requesting that the Board make a motion to move forward with the three (3) sites for grant funding. R. Wentworth voiced surprise at the email from Renee Bourdeau, which stated that Mill Pond would not be done until the water quality improves; he does not understand it, how are we going to improve the water unless something is done! C. Shapleigh suggested asking for clarification. L. Dionne will contact Renee Bourdeau to see if she can come in to give further explanation to the Board.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the application for grant funding for Pine Street, Site 3-15 and Horne Road, Site 3-06 and 3-07 for the Merrymeeting Watershed Plan and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Selectmen Reports

P. LaRochelle reported on the Water Bandstand Day with everything being on schedule. The times will be from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The ski show will be held in the no wake zone. The Board members should be there by noontime. At 1:00 PM there will be a fly over and noon to 1:00 PM will be the antique boat show.

C. Shapleigh had nothing to report.

V. MacDonald had nothing to report.

R. Wentworth stated that a letter to the Governor will be addressed by L. Dionne under her report regarding the rumble strips. Currently he has twenty-two (22) pages of petitions signed by residents and taxpayers requesting that the rumble strips not be put back in Town. If the letter is approved he is asking the Board to approve sending the copies of the petitions along with it. Robin Lane and Shaina Laurin have been posting these all over Town and will be hand delivering them to the Governor's Office. There are more out there to be collected. It was the consensus of the Board to send them with the letter.

### Town Administrator Report by L. Dionne

L. Dionne reminded the Board that on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the New Durham Elementary School Auditorium will be the presentation of the Merrymeeting Lake and Watershed Plan. She encouraged all Board members to attend.

L. Dionne noted that the visit from the folks from Alton, Hampshire, England went very well on Friday; it was a delight meeting them, they toured the building and a lot of information was shared. A gift was presented to the Town and in turn we gave them a token gift which was a piece of granite in the shape of the state of New Hampshire bearing the Town Seal. R. Wentworth read the letter that was presented, as follows:

*Dear Selectmen and Officers*

*Greetings from Alton, Hampshire, England!*

*I was delighted to hear that our Town Clerk, Leah Coney, had made contact with your office as part of her upcoming trip to the USA and relayed to us that she was intending to go to Alton for a short visit. It has been fascinating to learn the history of your town, named after our very own market town in 1796.*

*On behalf of the people of Alton, Hampshire and in the spirit of international friendship, I would like to present this small token; a picture of the Town Hall in the Market Square, home of the Town Council and built in 1812. The image is a one-off commissioned piece which was gifted to the Town in recognition of our short listing in the UK High Street of the Year in 2018.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Graham Titterington  
Councillor Graham Titterington  
Town Mayor of Alton*

In addition, both the Police Department and Fire Department presented them with badges from their departments.

### Police Union

L. Dionne informed the Board that an objection had been filed with the PERLB in reference to the Petition for Certification; a copy was provided to the Board.

### **Radio Grant Programming; Police Department**

L. Dionne requested permission from the Board to bring Ryan Heath, Police Chief to the table to discuss a radio grant, which he would like to apply for, this is similar to the Fire Department grant that was previously presented; the Board agreed.

R. Heath noted that this is for an interoperability programming grant, it is not to buy radios it is to program them. This was not very well advertised when the grant was offered with the deadline having been extended twice. Lt. MacDougall came across the grant, brought it to his attention. We are very close to the deadline, we are putting our name in the running; no decisions or awards are being made yet. If awarded then it will come back to the Board for final approval when their fiscal year begins in October. This is the preliminary round, it is a 100% up front reimbursed grant. The radios would be sent to the local vendor 2-Way Communications for programming consistent with the grant.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve the grant for the radio programming and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **COLA and Merit Recommendation for 2020**

L. Dionne informed the Board that this is the time of year that she sends an email out to all of the departments to begin working on their 2020 budgets. According to the policy it is based on the average of the New England CPI for the last twelve (12) months which equates to 2.06%. The policy reads: *that the Selectmen may accept, reject, or amend the COLA percentage, as they deem necessary and appropriate in their sole discretion at a Board of Selectmen's meeting. If the Board chooses to reject or amend the COLA percentage, the Selectmen will ensure that this is done during the early part of the budget preparation season, or prior to.* L. Dionne is looking for a recommendation from the Board on the COLA and Merit for the 2020 budget preparations.

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this at the Workshop. L. Dionne asked for dates for such. The agreed upon date was Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

### **Tax Deeded Properties- 2019**

L. Dionne stated that RSA 41:14a requires that the Conservation Commission be notified of any parcels that are to be tax deeded and asked for recommendations. The Commission has recommendations, which are in regards to the two (2) large boggy parcels on Suncook Valley Road they would like to keep those parcels. Property #14 Baxter Place, the Commission will be doing a site walk to determine if they have any interest in that parcel. They have no interest in any of the other parcels 4 through 15. Discussion ensued regarding the parcels that the Conservation Commission would like to keep. They are trying to protect the major tributaries of Coffin Brook and protecting Coffin Brook is a priority. It was noted that the Planning Board has not reviewed this yet; L. Dionne assumes they are going to at their next meeting tomorrow evening. It was the consensus of the Board to wait until the Planning Board views and what their input would be.

### **Temporary Help for the Finance Office**

L. Dionne informed the Board that a document is provided to them from Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) who she met with today. She reached out to several different companies. This would be for temporary help in the Finance Office on an as needed basis. The interview for the position will begin this week so it is not anticipated that a temporary position will be needed for a long period of time. The interview panel consists of L. Dionne, Town Treasurer, Chair Trustees of Trust Fund, and Selectwoman C. Shapleigh; all have financial backgrounds from different perspectives. R. Wentworth asked if 2 or 3 candidates would be brought forward to the Board after the interview process. L. Dionne would bring the selection in the order of what they recommend but had not thought of physically bringing them to the whole Board. V. MacDonald questioned the rate for the temporary position. Help is needed with the month end fast approaching such as monthly and quarterly reports; the Assistant Finance Manager is not able to do. R. Wentworth stated that Paulette Wentworth stated to him that she would be available a couple of days a week. He does not know what she would want for compensation. The office does need help and we cannot drag our feet on this too long. L. Dionne has not reached out to P. Wentworth and noted that a lot has changed over the past year in that office with procedures and electronic payroll etc. R. Wentworth understands that things have changed but now you will be bringing in two (2) new people coming into the office. The person from MRI that is being recommended is very familiar with BMSI software. P. Wentworth still is very familiar with



the software and how the system operates; if we can get her for under the \$90.00 per hour and absorb savings. V. MacDonald voiced that his vote is “no” for hiring MRI. C. Shapleigh asked how many hours would it take per week for temporary fill in? It was estimated to be approximately 20 hours give or take, possibly a day or two per week. L. Dionne was not aware that P. Wentworth was interested in filling in for the position. From this agency, a temp could be here this week. It was suggested to do a conditional approval for twenty (20) hours and bring it back to the Board if need be; we may have someone hired at that point. It appeared that the Board would like for P. Wentworth to be called to see what her rate would be. L. Dionne had been looking around many were fully booked.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve MRI not to exceed twenty (20) hours and Reuben Wentworth seconded for discussion.

Further Discussion: R. Wentworth still would like for P. Wentworth to be contacted feeling that she would help the Town. If this doesn't work out then he would be in favor of hiring MRI services. P. LaRochelle voiced the same. She would be a 1099 consultant.

The vote on the table was called for the previous motion to approve MRI not to exceed twenty (20) hours.

P. LaRochelle; yes

C. Shapleigh; yes

P. LaRochelle withdrew his vote. R. Wentworth and V. MacDonald had not voted yet; they are both no. MOTION FAILS (2-2)

R. Wentworth made a motion to contact P. Wentworth to see if she would be interested in coming back for twenty (20) hours per week to help the Finance Office, see what her rate of pay would be, if it is not suitable then we go with Municipal Resources (MRI) at the \$90.00 per hour and P. LaRochelle seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 opposed, V. MacDonald.

#### Draft Rumble Strip Letter

L. Dionne provided a draft letter for review to go to the Governor's Office in reference to the rumble strips. R. Wentworth reviewed last week; there was a statement about taking legal action against DOT and asked that that be taken out, if the Board wanted it in he would agree; it was his recommendation that it be brought to the whole Board for review and approval. V. MacDonald thought that something should be put in the letter about the removal of the rumble strips around the State House and all of the state buildings. C. Shapleigh inquired if our safety and emergency people had been asked how they feel about the matter. L. Dionne noted that the Alton Police Chief had sent a letter of concern and our State Rep. and Fire Chief in New Durham had sent letters of concern and believed we were in transition with our Fire Chief at the time. This needs to be a decision made from a safety perspective not just noise. R. Wentworth asked if the Board wanted the petitions to accompany the letter.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the letter as submitted along with the petitions and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Joseph S. Haas; 91-A Request

R. Wentworth noted, at this time Mr. Haas arrived to the meeting for his scheduled appointment; he was called to address the Board. He sent emails this morning to the Town Administrator with examples of what was provided to him from other towns where he had no problem at all, Pittsfield and Haverhill. He spoke about RSA 71-b:5 III. In trying to get the abatement applications he was denied the cell phone numbers and email addresses for contacting. R. Wentworth feels that the information should be not released and stands by the decision. Mr. Haas's time was called. Mr. Haas voiced he has still not received anything on his RTK Request for the auction properties. L. Dionne noted that her Secretary had sent a RTK form and that we had not received it back as of today; J. Haas stated it must have gone into his junk email; it will be resent again tomorrow.

**Approval of Minutes**

Public Hearing, May 29, 2019

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Hearing, May 29, 2019 and R. Wentworth seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 abstention, Cydney Shapleigh.

Public Session, June 3, 2019

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session, June 3, 2019 as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Non-Public Session, June 3, 2019

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session, June 3, 2019 as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Workshop Session, June 5, 2019

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of Workshop Session, June 5, 2019 as presented and V. MacDonald seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 abstention, Cydney Shapleigh.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and C. Shapleigh seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**1. 2018 Abatement Requests – Denials**

Sedlar, David, Stevenson, Karen L Sedlar, Gary M	Map 48 Lot 41	Residential	Refund \$0
Pompret, Kathleen Sachs, Barbara Greel, Robert A	Map 72 Lot 83	Residential	Refund \$0

**2. 2018 Abatement Requests – Grants**

Fenton Family Trust	Map 21A Lot 49	Residential	Refund \$980.70
Demers, Donald R & Darlene F	Map 65 Lot 52	Residential	Refund \$153.89
West Alton Marina LLC	Map 17 Lot 29	Commercial	Refund \$519.03
Raymond & Barbara Howard Rev. Living Trust	Map 5 Lot 20	Timber Yield Tax	Refund \$391.24

**3. Excavation Tax**

Tracy Chrisenton William Lionetta	Map 19 lot 34 A	Operation #18-011-04-E	\$205.18
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**4. Elderly Exemption**

Polly Boucher	Map 2A Lot 28	\$40,000
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## 5. 2019 Intent to Excavate

Scott & Penny Williams	Map 8 Lot 3-2	Frank C. Gilman Highway	Tax Year 2020
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Highway Department; Approval - John Vatalaro, End of Probation Increase, \$17.19 per hour to \$17.44 per hour.

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

Bob Holt addressed the Board commenting on New Business #4, Merit Increases Request stating it is a tough issue for the Board to handle and he has been on both sides as an Ex-public employee and Ex-Select Board member. He feels that the Town has a good group of employees, they have been treated very well over the years and have a good benefit package. Attending the Deliberative Session this year, a motion on the floor was made to increase the budget which was over 100K, it passed, basically the reason it passed is because most of the attendees are town employees. The people had no voice in the decision that was made except for when they went to vote. He voted against the budget and to stick with the Default Budget. He still feels that the Default Budget had problems and has issue with the accuracy of it. Further investigation will be ongoing and will be discussed again at the next Budget Committee meeting. He further questioned the sale of the Ambulance; R. Wentworth explained (\$750 for scrapping, \$500 for bid price and now \$1,500 for selling.

Joseph Haas approached the Board to comment on a previous discussion on COLA and spoke of the various ways a town officer could get paid such as quality coin then trade it in to get more metal coin for a higher yield.

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

- Peter Ejarque; Purchase of Town Owned Property
- Tracy True; Request Vendor/Agricultural Permit

R. Wentworth has no issue with the first request however he is still trying to figure out why this is coming to the Board of Selectmen opposed to the Planning Board. L. Dionne stated that anyone has a right to file the form; she is recommending that it be denied due to the owner not completing all of the Planning Board requirements.

C. Shapleigh made a motion to approve the appointment for Peter Ejarque and deny the appointment request for Tracy True and P. LaRochelle seconded.

Further Discussion: R. Wentworth would like to know how was that place of business was allowed to open last year if they hadn't met all of the conditions. V. MacDonald stated that she had full approval from the Planning Board last year. V. MacDonald will find out at the Planning Board meeting what the situation is and report back to the Board.

The motion on the table was called, with all in favor of the motion.

### **Non-Public Session:**

None

### **Adjournment**

C. Shapleigh made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary K. Jarvis*

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recording Secretary

