

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes
July 1, 2019
6:00 PM

1 Monument Square
Alton, NH 03809

Approved: July 15, 2019

Chairman R. Wentworth convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and P. Wittmann 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 Excused Absence
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
Paul LaRochelle, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

R. Wentworth requested adding #4 to Old Business, July 17th Workshop and #3 to New Business, 2020 Budgets.

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

Announcements:

- The Fireworks Display will be in the bay on July 3, 2019 beginning at 9:20 pm with a rain date of July 5, 2019 at 9:20 pm.
- Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2019 in observance of Independence Day.

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

None

Appointments:

Peter Ejarque; Purchase of Town Owned Property

Peter Ejarque approached the Board to discuss purchasing a Town owned parcel of vacant land on Coffin Brook Road, Map 43 Lot 5. This is property that was previously a Town Dump. At this time, P. Ejarque is unsure of his intentions for the property. Concerns were voiced regarding selling this parcel having been an old town dumpsite with the possibility of unknown ground contamination at the location. P. Ejarque stated he owns property (50 acres) across the street from the location; his long-term goal is doing a Community Farm on his property and potentially putting solar panels to power the farm on the parcel in question. He cannot do this with his current property which has conservation easements and the Forest Society governs his land, it would not be allowed. It was noted that before selling it, it would have to be put out for anybody to purchase during a public auction. Before any consideration testing would need to be done. L. Dionne stated that this particular property was not tax deeded therefore it would have to be placed as a Warrant Article in order to sell the property. R. Wentworth asked if he would be interested in leasing the property, he would consider it as an option. Alternatively, deed restrictions that it could never be sold, built on or a well drilled was voiced. This would all be for the protection of the community. It is the belief but not sure that there are test wells on that property; L. Dionne was not aware of any. The Board leaned to putting it out for a Warrant Article however the property would need to be tested first and the Town Attorney would need to be consulted before making any decisions. The dump operated for approximately 20 years and was considered a burning dump for anything and everything.

This will go to the Town Attorney for review.

Old Business:

1. Mt. Major Snowmobile Club Bridge Discussion

Larry Brown and Ken Roberts addressed the Board discussing the bridge replacement on Alton Mountain for the Mt. Major Snowmobile Club. A letter from the HL Turner Group and a revised plan per K. Roberts' recommendation was provided to the Board. A guardrail was added to the plan for pedestrians and vehicle traffic. K. Roberts reviewed; the rating is 26,880 lbs. If by chance any other building that might be done in the area they could come back in and sure it up in the future. The bridge could be posted on both ends with either 6 ton or 10 ton limits. Any future logging would require additional support to be temporarily installed in the center to protect the bridge line.

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the HL Turner specs for the bridge for the snowmobile club and P. Wittmann seconded.

Further discussion: K. Roberts asked that the Board to allow L. Dionne, Town Administrator to sign on the Wetlands Permit after it is applied for by the Snowmobile Club because it is Town property.

The previous motion and second were withdrawn.

V. MacDonald made an amended motion to approve the bridge for the Snowmobile Club on the Class VI road (Alton Mountain) and allow L. Dionne, Town Administrator to sign the Wetlands Permit and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the amended motion.

2. Fred Quimby, Chairman, Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee - Mill Pond Discussion

Fred Quimby approached the Board; providing a data sheet and Map to the Board. R. Wentworth noted that the State is actually taking over Mill Pond, they will manage and discuss it to see how they will combat the Cyanobacteria, which would be the reason it was taken off the list of areas to be done in Alton. The data sheet and map are primarily for the Mill Pond sub-watershed area and are dated back to September 26, 2018 when it was discovered that Mill Pond had a really bad problem with Cyanobacteria and with phosphorus which is feeding the Cyanobacteria. It was determined that the water was running from Mill Pond into the Merrymeeting River. The phosphorus levels in Mill Pond were moving into Wentworth Pond. The map was discussed in detail referring to the culverts that were numbered and are running into Mill Pond. Total phosphorous levels that are less than 8 are characteristic of the most pristine waterways in the State; both Winnepesaukee and Merrymeeting Lake are considered such. All waterways back to the fish hatchery are considered eutrophic. Most of the tests have high levels of phosphorous. The State culverts were sampled along Route 11 with really high levels. Other test samples were taken for turbidity (suspended solids), conductivity (electrical ions), etc. Beginning at River Run Deli samples were done at deep sites in Wentworth Pond 100' depth. The phosphorous in the sediment can continue to be a problem and will continue to feed the Cyanobacteria and cause the bigger problems we are seeing today. No data was available on Mill Pond due to the State performing the testing. The deepest point in Mill Pond is 7 feet. F. Quimby will report as soon as he has the reports from the State. If the water in Mill Pond stratifies and becomes anoxic and if the sediment contains a high amount of iron that's holding the phosphorous on the bottom of the pond it can be treated with something as simple as Alum which is aluminum that gets exchanged for the iron when you put alum down and aluminum permanently binds the phosphorous so it will be held on the bottom and won't be continuously released. To know this for sure a sediment analysis needs to be done to measure amounts of phosphorous bound to iron and phosphorous bound to aluminum. Mill Pond is a big problem and part of that problem are the State culverts on Route 11. Until the flow is more evenly diffused and prevented from, flowing into Mill Pond there will continue to be a problem. The Watershed Planners will be consulted to see about the effects catch basins might have on the issue. Surface phosphorous samples will be taken from River Run Deli every 100 or 200 yards all the way down to Mill Pond with a lot of inputs along the way to see if there are any spikes. All reports from the State will be in October.

3. Tax Deeded Property - Conservation Commission and Planning Board Recommendations

There are two (2) large parcels that the Conservation Commission would like to keep which are Map 5 Lot 73 (50.85 acres) and Map 5 Lot 74 (39.65 acres) on Coffin Brook Road. According to Gene Young, Conservation Commission Chairman, there is no longer an interest in the Baxter Lane property; originally, it was thought that it would be a good location for canoe and kayak access to the river; it is not at all suitable. This will be the very best

way to protect the brook from pollution by conserving the land around it; one has quite a bit of frontage on Coffin Brook and abuts a property on Green Oaks that is conserved and the second parcel completely encloses the tributary to Coffin Brook. This is a golden opportunity! The Board agreed.

P. Wentworth made a motion to have L. Dionne proceed with the tax deeding to exclude Property 16; Map 5 Lot 73 and Lot 17; Map 5 Lot 74 for the tax deed sale and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. July 17th Workshop

P. Wittmann informed R. Wentworth that he would not be able to attend the scheduled Workshop for July 17th and would like to reschedule, if the Board agreed. C. Shapleigh was not in attendance therefore it will be canceled until the next meeting to come up with another date.

New Business:

1. Highway Department; Pothole Repair Line Item

For informational purposes the Board was informed by the Highway Manager that his line item 1-4312-140 for pothole repairs was over expended; it currently has a negative balance of -\$759.70, the department will continue to repair roads to the best of their ability.

2. 2020 Propane and Heating Oil Budgetary Proposals

L. Dionne provided a staff report to the Board for budgetary purposes regarding oil and propane for 2020 season. This is the time of year to lock into pricing. Pricing has decreased with our current vendors from the previous year and are lower than the others received. L. Dionne is recommending to approve CN Brown for oil and Eastern for propane.

V. MacDonald made a motion to award the contracts to CN Brown for oil; \$2.405 and Eastern for propane; \$1.279 and P. LaRoche seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. 2020 Budgets

R. Wentworth met with the Budget Committee last week; they are trying to set up their dates for budget discussions. L. Dionne noted she had just sent an email out to the departments today asking them to begin reviewing their budgets for submission; she will be meeting with them mid to end of August. Usually in September, the Board will begin their workshops to receive the budgets then in October/November they will go to the Budget Committee; this is flexible. R. Wentworth asked the Board how they would like to see the budgets worked on, do you want it beginning at a "0" based budgeting? L. Dionne informed the departments to keep in mind the taxpayers and look at their needs opposed to their wants. V. MacDonald suggested a 5% to 8% decrease, P. Wittmann needed more time to think about it and P. LaRoche voiced it wouldn't happen. R. Wentworth noted he had the pleasure of reading two (2) letters recently. He understands some of the issues but not all and feels that there are some time management concerns. Specific concerns were raised some agreed with others not; everything cannot be blamed on the Default Budget. Roughly last year's surplus was about 230K/250K. Crossing people with other departments is fine however, paying overtime is not understood. There were no pay increases this year but next year there will have to be and it may be necessary to cut other areas of the budget. R. Wentworth would like to see getting away from COLA and Merit increases and plan to go to a 3% pay increase each year for the employees similar to the school; the town going back to what they previously had with the step program, feeling it worked well opposed to the merit. R. Wentworth would like to see the budgets in no later than September 1st with a few being late such as insurance, retirement, etc. then get the smaller departments out of the way such as legal, patriotic etc. then forwarded to the Budget Committee. V. MacDonald voiced concerns about the 200K difference in the Default Budget opposed to the Budget and shouldn't be blaming anything on the Default Budget and feels that the Grounds /Maintenance Department should be helping the Cemetery Department. P. LaRoche does not understand the overtime issue and would like to see the crossover of departments; moving forward this needs to be discussed further. Some departments have no vacations in the winter months maybe other departments should have no vacations in the summer. Things need to change.

The Board was polled and agreed upon a zero "0" based budget with a 5% CAP, submitted by September 1st.

Selectmen Reports

R. Wentworth met with the Budget Committee and the Cyanobacteria last week as he previously mentioned. The particulars of the State taking over Mill Pond were discussed again.

V. MacDonald reported on the Water Department and read a letter that he received from a water customer praising the new Water Superintendent, Courtney Mitchell. The Jones Field pump has been replaced (ran into a major issue while installing), School Street and Church Street (still has issues with dirty water), Domenic Viscarella passed his Distribution I test today, Gate Valve at Busy Corner (now working), Levey Park (frozen main has been repaired), 73 Bay Hill (no tank leak or main leak it was the line running to the house), Depot Street/Fiore’s property (2 more leaks in the line to the Legion), Revenues discussed and suggested that L. Dionne speak with C. Mitchell. He met with the Planning Board who discussed the property across from McDonalds in regards to either a Commercial/Retail business or an Italian Restaurant depending on the septic.

P. Wittmann met with the Old Home Week Committee who has since distributed the booklet of events. He met with the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed soccer program, spring/summer programs, lawn games (big success), ladder ball, can jam, badminton, bocce, horseshoes, spike ball, paint night, archery camp summer camp registrations ukulele group, yard sale (big success), Quinipee Trail signage and an update on the Water Bandstand celebration. In addition, he met with ZAC, Paul Monziona was elected as Chairman and they are reviewing the Bylaws for any suggestions and looked at various proposed zoning amendments.

P. LaRochelle reported on the Water Bandstand Celebration feeling that it was a successful celebration. On behalf of the Water Bandstand Committee, he voiced a “big thank you” to the various departments (Fire, Police, Parks and Recreation) for their participation in coordinating the events, setup etc.; kudos to all! In addition the Water Bandstand Committee met and is requesting to use the Water Bandstand on July 24th and August 16th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for band concerts (no rain dates); there are no conflicts. The performing band is Rollins Band and their preference is that the money from the July date be donated to a charity of the Water Bandstand’s choice; recommended \$250 donation to Alton Community Services Food Pantry and the August date money \$400 to be paid to the band itself and a town dock space will need to be reserved for each date. L. Dionne voiced and recommended the need for current insurance coverage and waiving the rules for the Water Bandstand.

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow the Water Bandstand Committee to hold the concerts on July 24th and August 16th, 2019 releasing the money from the Escrow Account, \$250 to be paid to the Alton Community Services Food Pantry and \$400 to the Rollins Band and the rules be waived allowing them to use the Water Bandstand at their own risk, insurance forwarded, dock to be used and R. Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

In addition, reimbursements from the Escrow Account were brought forth not knowing exactly what is in the account but believes it is over 4K. The list is as follows:

• Main Attractions	\$1000
• Jonathan Downing	\$50
• Stitch Factory	\$692 (hats & T-shirts)
• Paul LaRochelle	\$276.36 (T-shirts & Flags)
• Alton Home and Lumber	\$111.86 (paint & supplies)
Total	\$2,130.22

Due to the lack of a full Board and with both P. LaRochelle and R. Wentworth being involved they will both be abstaining therefore only the following will be voted on tonight.

• Main Attractions	\$1000
• Jonathan Downing	\$50
• Stitch Factory	\$692 (hats & T-shirts)
Total	\$1,742.00

L. Dionne informed P. LaRochelle that invoices will need to be turned into the Finance Office for processing checks.

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the release of \$1,742.00 out of the Water Bandstand Escrow Account and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Town Administrator Report by L. Dionne

L. Dionne publically thanked P. LaRochelle who was the guest speaker at the Lakes Region Municipal Manager's Group meeting last Friday; he spoke in detail about the ice runway.

Fireworks costs were presented to the Board for the 2020 budget. We currently use Atlas Fireworks for the two (2) displays in July (4th) and August (Old Home Week). They do an excellent job, have competitive pricing, no complaints. The request is to keep Atlas as our current vendor for next year's displays utilizing Section 9.3.15 of the employee manual to waive the rules in order that 9.3.4 be used to approve continuing use of the contracted service. P. LaRochelle questioned the difference in costs between the two (2) displays; explained, less time, less shots, etc. The prices for 2020 have increased due to tariffs, which originally increases were estimated to be at 25% but came in at about 5%. R. Wentworth feels this should go out to bid for two (2) weeks. L. Dionne offered another option to the Board that they could decrease the length of time for the July 4th display. V. MacDonald voiced concerns regarding the last time it went out to bid with not very good results. The consensus was to go out to bid with background checks.

- P. LaRochelle, yes
- P. Wittmann, yes
- V. MacDonald, no
- R. Wentworth, yes

Approval of Minutes

Workshop Session, June 13, 2019

P. Wittmann made a motion to approve the minutes of Workshop Session, June 13, 2019 as presented and P. LaRochelle seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 abstention, V. MacDonald.

Non-Public Workshop Session, June 13, 2019

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Workshop Session, June 13, 2019 as presented and P. Wittmann seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 abstention, V. MacDonald.

Public Session, June 17, 2019

P. LaRochelle questioned P. Wentworth on page 8, Temporary Help for the Finance Office; it was correct.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session, June 17, 2019 as presented and V. MacDonald seconded. The vote was 3 approved, 1 abstention, P. Wittmann.

Approval of Consent Agenda

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and P. Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. 2019 Administrative Abatement Requests - Grants

Armand L. Circharo, Jr. Monique J. Ricker	Map 50 Lot 5-1	Residential	Refund \$1191
Mark & Leslie Hewett	Map 8 Lot 49-82	Trailer - campground	Refund \$82

Richard Huber	Map 19 Lot 8-2-32	Trailer - campground	Refunt \$100
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1. 2019 Alton Water Works Abatements as Credits to Customer Account

Doherty, William	Map 15 Lot 68 215 Main Street	Billing Errors Acct: 974/655	Credit \$198.00 TO ACCOUNT
Spolar, Kimbli	Map 18 Lot 27 133 Mt. Major Hwy	Prior Owners' Interest Acct: 1279/49	Credit \$3.24 TO ACCOUNT
Deoreo, Linda & Thomas (4 Seasons)	Map 38 Lot 21-1 317 Mt. Major Hwy	Disconnected Did not Delete from billing	Credit \$101.11 TO ACCOUNT

Highway Department, John Vatararo, Truck Driver, 2% COLA increase effective 5/26/2019, \$17.44 to \$17.78

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

Paul Greaney from 125 East Side Drive approached the Board to discuss a serious speeding issue in the East Side Drive area between Main Street and Dan Kelley Drive. The Police have been in the area and have been offered his parking area to sit there and work the radar. It appears to be getting worse. Signage was discussed with the speed limit set a 30mph. Realizing that the road is not a Town road; it is a State road he is turning to the Board for help regarding this issue. R. Wentworth explained that on Class V Highways in NH speed limits are set at 30mph and would take an act of Legislature to change. It is possible that the Board could discuss and possibly get the State to put up signage for congested area, reduced speed, etc. The Board will look into this. The State has to do an Engineered Speed Study to reduce the speed limit. Speed is a concern all over Town. V. MacDonald suggested to park unmanned cruisers at the bathhouse and on Main Street to slow people down. L. Dionne voiced that the Police Department is currently utilizing grant monies for speed details. In addition, using the radar trailer would be helpful.

Officer T. Glidden informed the Board about an issue with the computer in the radar trailer.

It was the consensus of the Board to park an unmanned cruiser and radar trailer at various locations as previously discussed.

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

None

Non-Public Session:

R. Wentworth made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (b) at 7:42 PM and V. MacDonald seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative by roll call with all in favor of the motion.

- P. LaRochelle, yes
- P. Wittmann, yes
- V. MacDonald, yes
- R. Wentworth, yes

R. Wentworth moved at 7:58pm to exit nonpublic session. V. MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote:

- V. MacDonald - yes
 - P. Wittmann - yes
 - P. Larochelle - yes
 - R. Wentworth - yes
- Roll call vote carried unanimously.

R. Wentworth moved to "not divulge" items #1 and #3 of these minutes because it would render the proposed action ineffective. V. MacDonald seconded.

Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes

P. Wittmann - yes

P. Larochelle - yes

R. Wentworth - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

P. Larochelle requested additional information regarding the Fish & Game renovation project at Downing's Landing in the Bay scheduled to begin in August. Information such as the cofferdam, how far will it extend, will it be to the beach, and to bring a print. Discussion ensued regarding underground utilities in the area.

E. Dionne answered that the representative from Fish & Game would be at the August 5, 2019 meeting to answer questions and she would ask for the requested information.

Adjournment

R. Wentworth moved at 8:54pm to adjourn. P. Larochelle seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary

