

**TOWN OF ALTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Regular Meeting
June 15, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Steve McMahon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Also in attendance were:

Peter Bolster, Vice-Chair
David Hussey, Selectman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
R. Loring Carr, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
Members of the Public

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT OF SILENCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Russ Bailey asked for changes to the agenda to include adding to Old Business (#4) for the Highway Department tree bids on Muchado Road, add New Business (#5) in reference to a Farmer's Market, and New Business (#6) for a raffle in reference to the American Legion.

Motion:

Patricia Fuller made a motion to accept the agenda as amended; motion was seconded by Peter Bolster. Motion to accept the agenda as amended passed by unanimous vote.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fireworks Display will be held on July 3 at 9:30 p.m.

V. SELECTMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pat Fuller attended the Fire Department monthly meeting on June 2, 2009; nothing new or unusual. The Coalition is on the agenda. Attended ZBA regular meeting and was given a slot on the agenda, during which she read the statement concerning the recent conflict of interest and what they expect from employees and members of boards and committees. Also explained how enforcement of the ZBA's and Planning Board's stipulations on variances and decisions are enforced in town. She felt that a lot of their

questions and concerns were answered. They had no questions about the Board's letter, which has since been made public.

Peter Bolster has attended the last two meetings of the Conservation Commission. At their last meeting he shared conflict of interest letter and answered questions and made Board's position clear to them. The Downtown Revitalization (B & M Park Committee) has the plaques covered in plastic in anticipation of starting the work on the pressed concrete plaza, which they are hoping to have done by the 4th of July, along with some of the decks around the flagpole. Symbol of B&M will be pressed into the concrete; there will also be several planters. Additional veteran's plaques are going to be available. Condition of the plaques was brought up; they are spotting due to the use of Butcher's wax to preserve them. A solution is being worked on. Milfoil Committee met; Jonathan Dowling has been elected chairman. Location of milfoil is being mapped; they are looking for input from townspeople to let them know of suspected milfoil areas. Their meeting on 6/17/2009 has been changed to another date, to be announced. A DES representative will be at that meeting.

Loring Carr had nothing to report; the Budget Committee is meeting on this Thursday (June 18, 2009).

David Hussey had nothing to report; the Planning Board is meeting tomorrow (June 16, 2009).

Steve McMahon had nothing to report; Household Hazardous Waste meets Thursday morning of the following week (June 25, 2009)

Mr. Bailey added that the first Household Hazardous Collection for our town transfer station would take place on July 11, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Steve McMahon mentioned that it is illegal to drop prescription drugs into toilets and flush them because they end up in the aquifer.

VI. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Workshop for the highway reconstruction will be at 5:00 p.m. on June 29, 2009.

VII. PUBLIC INPUT I

Steve Parker voiced his concern about the rental of a roller and an excavator and hammer to be used by the town. He questioned whether it would be more cost effective to simply hire the equipment with an operator. David Hussey and Pat Fuller both addressed his concerns; there is an employee of the town who is able to operate the equipment, and it is to be used for several different jobs. Mr. Parker accepted their comments and stated that he felt that the Board had made the right decision.

John Matarozzo of M & M Logging would like the processing of Intent to Cut Notices to speed up. He feels that the process is slow; Kathy and Tom have to look at them, then

they are mailed to the town forester, who looks at it and signs the form, which is then mailed back to the town. Mr. Bailey addressed the timing issue, which is actually more like 5 – 7 days, depending on the situation. Per Pat Fuller, 30 days are allowed. Mr. Matarozzo stated that he would just like to see it speed up more; the Board will look at it and see if there is any way to do so.

David Conrad thanked the committee for work on B & M Railroad Park and the fact that it is handicapped accessible. His father is in a wheelchair, and they are able to enjoy the park due to its accessibility by wheelchair.

Chairman McMahon asked for further input from the public; hearing none, he closed the first session of public input.

VIII. APPROVAL OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Motion:

Steve McMahon made a motion to accept the public and non-public minutes of June 1, 2009, as submitted. David Hussey seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Pat Fuller questioned whether they should have the County Commissioner's minutes; Russ Bailey said it was a handout they gave and he would make sure it was attached.

Motion:

Pat Fuller made a motion to accept the Workshop Session minutes of June 8, 2009, as submitted. David Hussey seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Quarry Road Tree

Motion:

David Hussey made a motion to remove the tree; motion was seconded by Peter Bolster. Motion was clarified to remove the big pine tree on the corner.

Discussion ensued as to whether this had already been decided. It was determined that Ken did not want to go forward without approval of the Board. It was discussed that not only is the tree unhealthy, it also blocks the view looking up Gilman Corners Road.

Loring Carr stated that he has not had a chance to look at it.

Vote on the motion to remove the big pine tree on the corner carried with Loring Carr abstaining and all other members voting for removal.

2. GASB 34 Agreement – Mr. Bailey discussed how this had been discussed in the past. Funds had been encumbered last year; Paulette Wentworth has met with them and is recommending that they use them to finish establishment of asset management. Parts of GASB 34 have been implemented; it is positive especially for future bonding.

Motion:

Pat Fuller made a motion to adopt this agreement and authorize the Town Administrator to sign it; motion was seconded by Peter Bolster.

There was discussion of the fact that money has been set aside already and they are to the last step, which would put them in compliance with GASB 34. Loring Carr questioned whether the motion included a cap on the \$4,000 encumbrance; it does.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the motion to adopt the agreement and authorize the Town Administrator to sign it.

3. Coalition Funding – the Board discussed Coalition Funding. Pat Fuller mentioned that the last contribution to the coalition had been made in 2002. Funding of \$0 to \$1,000 could be made available; she was thinking more in the neighborhood of \$500. They do keep us informed and fight on our behalf to keep us from being a donor town. They have saved us money in the past and will continue to do so. Discussion continued as to the risk of becoming a donor town.

Motion:

Pat Fuller made a motion to send the coalition \$500 for 2009. Motion was seconded by Peter Bolster.

Peter Bolster asked what budget line the funds would come from. Mr. Bailey answered that it would be the contingency fund contract services or general services under general government. Peter Bolster asked that this be added to the motion. Loring Carr stated that this would be paying for lobbyists. Other Board members felt that it is good to have the eyes and ears out there; Pat Fuller mentioned that there are 34 members. Loring Carr Questioned why this was not brought before the people as a warrant article; Pat Fuller stated that it has never been a warrant article or a line item. Loring Carr feels that the people should be able to vote on this; Pat Fuller said it could be added to the budget for the fall and made a line item. Steve McMahon feels that it would not be hard to get passed, seeing as they are fighting on our behalf.

The motion to send the coalition \$500 for 2009 passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 against (R. L. Carr).

4. Tree Bid for the Highway – 7 bids received with a high of \$5,800 and a low of \$1,950. Mr. Roberts is recommending acceptance of the \$1,950 from Top Notch Tree Removal.

Motion:

David Hussey made a motion to accept the bid of \$1,950 from Top Notch Tree Removal; motion was seconded by Peter Bolster and passed by unanimous vote.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Old Home Days – Local business and Alton Business Association want to set up on the sidewalk on a Saturday; this was done last year. Sidewalks would not be blocked and it would be coordinated with Kelly to make sure there is no conflict with their programs. This would be done on August 8th.

Motion:

Pat Fuller made a motion to allow the small businesses and non-profit organizations to set up their tents between Church Street and Mooney Street from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as requested. Peter Bolster seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

2. American Legion is looking for a raffle permit to provide assistance to scholarship funds, food bank, Thanksgiving dinner, etc. Raffle to run from July 3, 2009 to May 2, 2010.

Motion:

Loring Carr made a motion to grant the raffle permit for the American Legion to extend from July 3, 2009 to May 2, 2010; motion seconded by Steve McMahon and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

3. LRPA Annual Agreement – Lakes Region Public Access annual agreement so that footage of various board meetings is made available on television.

Motion:

Pat Fuller made a motion to accept this agreement and authorize the Town Administrator to sign. David Hussey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Vote on Land Use Items as Recommended by the Town Assessor – Steve McMahon noted that there are 8 items on the list for Timber Tax and 5 items for administrative abatement. Mr. Bailey stated that 4 of the Intent to Cuts have been processed and approved by the Town Assessor, based on the new procedure.

Motion:

Pat Fuller recommended that the Board accept the Land Use Items as recommended by the Town Assessor and sign them accordingly. Motion was seconded by David Hussey; motion passed unanimously.

Loring Carr questioned the tornado damage as some seem to be outside of the location of the tornado. He asked if there is an aerial view of the tornado damage. Mr. Bailey will ask the assessor to hold the items in question until a map showing tornado damage areas can be provided. Approval will stand pending pursuit of map.

5. Car Wash Request – School – Class of 2010 is requesting permission to hold a car wash on Old Home Day, August 8, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mr. Bailey stated that it is contingent on the school producing the paperwork to show that this is a sponsored event, and that they are covering them with insurance.

Motion:

Pat Fuller made a motion to grant the request by the Class of 2012 subject to them producing required forms from the school and using biodegradable soap. Loring Carr seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

6. Farmer's Market – Mr. Bailey stated that this would be a second Farmer's Market; the same people had come to them last year toward the end of the summer. They would come in with a truck, a tent, and some tables; setup would be in the morning and taken down at night. It would be in the same location and follow the same rules as the other Farmer's Market already approved.

Motion:

Loring Carr made a motion to approve the Maple Glen Farm Farmer's Market down in the bay for this season; motion was seconded by Peter Bolster.

Question of location was asked – it will be located near Pop's, along with the other one already there. Also questioned was whether someone would be watching. Mr. Bailey said he would meet with both of them to make sure there would be good order. Mr. McMahon said they would have to keep the area neat and pick up after themselves. They can be there any day and time, at their own discretion.

Motion to approve Maple Glen Farm Farmer's Market in the bay for this season passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

XI. PUBLIC INPUT II

Greg Fuller thanked Bob Longabaugh for his repair of the camera equipment.

Mr. Fuller went on the talk about the public access television and questioned whether it is accessible to those who do not have cable. People who cannot get out or work at meeting

times can't see the meeting unless they have cable. He asked when the contract is up with Metrocast – the answer from the Board is that there are 5 – 7 years left on the 15-year franchise.

His second question was whether people who had cable already in their house or were willing to run cable in, could channel 25/26 be made available to them without the whole package. The question was asked whether the town was paying a fee for residents to be able to see the broadcasts; the answer was that the fee paid was for the broadcast itself, whether it went to just a few households or to many. Only Metrocast customers receive the channel right now.

Mr. Fuller went on to say that he was not willing to pay the price of basic cable at this time, and that there are people who can not afford it. It was pointed out that there is a copy of each meeting made available at the local library.

Mr. Fuller asked about the monopoly of Union Telephone; that issue is before the Public Utilities Commission at this time.

Steve McMahon asked for further input from the public. Hearing none, he closed the second session of public input.

Motion:

Steve McMahon made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (c), and (e). Motion was seconded by Pat Fuller. Steve McMahon polled each Board member for their response; all voted yes.

The Public Session of the meeting of the Board of Selectmen ended at 7:00 p.m. as the Board entered into Non-Public Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary L. Tetreau
Acting Recorder