

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes – Public Session I
July 24, 2006
Alton Town Hall

Convene:

Chairman Blackstone convened the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 p.m., those present from the Board and staff included:

Cris Blackstone, Chairman
Stephan McMahon, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Alan Sherwood, Selectman
A. Pete Shibley, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

C. Blackstone led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Moment of Silence

C. Blackstone announced the passing of Mr. Joseph Houle, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and expressed the Board's condolences to his wife and family and appreciation for his accomplishments on behalf the Town during his lifetime and asked that he and his family be remembered during the Moment of Silence. She noted the funeral service will take place Wednesday, July 26th in Alton.

Approval of the Agenda

The Chairman noted there would be amendments to the Agenda, these were as follows:

Old Business - Add Item #2 - Paving Bid Approvals
New Business – Add Item #8 – 2007 Budget
 Add Item #9 –Town Hall Office Re-Organization
 Add Item #10 – Proclamation in Reference to a Town Citizen
 Add Item #11 - Swap Shop at Landfill

S. McMahon motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Announcements

1. Regional Emergency Planning Forum – August 24th. in the Gilman Museum. R. Bailey explained communities are working on an emergency specifically related to the pandemic flu pandemic. Alton is one of the 9 Communities in this region. This meeting will be held at the Gilman Museum. More information will be provided. C. Blackstone, stated communication will be needed. P. Fuller, Liaison to the School Board verified Prospect Mountain H.S. is designated as the emergency facility. C. Blackstone noted Barnstead students attend Prospect Mountain HS but the Town of Barnstead is not one of the 9 Communities in this region as noted. R. Bailey advised members keep in contact with school officials they also send representation to the local meetings.

Appointments

Fire Chief Alan Johnson - P. Fuller stated she v. had stopped down the fire station today and saw Chief Johnson and the members of his crew that were there just to thank them for the job that they are doing and telling them they are doing an excellent job especially with the forest fires that we have had and the flooding we have had. She continued she would have v. liked to have been able to go down on a Tuesday night when they are all there, but she works on Tuesday night. P. Fuller continued she thought she could do it on TV because a lot of them watch TV and she wanted to thank the fire department for the job they do, and they do an excellent job and work very hard. Chief Johnson thanked her for her support.

The Board and Chief Johnson discussed the Firewards being dissolved and a suggestion was made that the Chief and Board should meet every other month to keep the Selectmen informed. Discussion also included a review (see attached) of the number of calls, wages, ladder engine work, fuel expense, maintenance and condition of fire vehicles, forest fire expense and fire alarms, maintaining our own fire alarm systems and communication. It was also noted FEMA will provide reimbursement for certain expenses. R. Bailey advised this should be finalized by Wednesday, for approximately \$4,000 reimbursed. Chief Johnson advised the mutual aid assistance affects run-calls. The Chief also expressed concerns about not having more full time firefighters noting volunteers work out of town, making response time an issue.

The Chief and Selectmen reviewed the NH Homeland Security grant for 40 digital radios, but it was noted chargers remain to be purchased. Chief Johnson continued the fire department is in the process of locating a rigid inflatable boat from the US Coast Guard surplus; this craft will cut the time in responding to islands. The present boat will be kept at Minge Cove, the rigid inflatable boat would be at the Town Docks (Mt. Washington Piers).

S.A.F.E.R. Grant – The Board met with Captain Edward Constantino of the Fire Department who explained the Department had applied for a “Safer Act Grant” (see Attached) which will offset the cost of meeting adequate staffing and minimize the cost to the Town, similar to the COPS grant. It will meet NFPA standards called 17-20 designed for volunteer fire departments. He advised the fire department had applied for this grant because of the increase in calls and currently their volunteer call staff is reduced. He noted firefighters will have to be hired within a time-frame established by the grant, and additional funding may be received at the end of the grant period. Discussion included sanbornize the program, commitment to a contract, the benefit to the Town budgeting and, if this was similar to funding the SRO at the school. E. Constantino noted three personnel would be necessary to meet the grant and having the full time personnel would be beneficial for the Town. E. Bailey advised more review would be necessary. A. Johnson advised grant deadline was for 30-days, the application is in process now. It was noted if the grant was not awarded, the chief would ask in his next budget for full-time employees. It was noted consideration would have to be given to Town Meeting or special Town Meeting vote.

Surplus Equipment - Captain Constantino next discussed the out-of service equipment being stored outside on the fire department property in West Alton for over two years. This includes a hovercraft that had been donated. An Auction was discussed to sell these vehicles to raise funds to purchase an off-road vehicle, it was noted that taxpayers had voted down an appropriation for an off-road vehicle at Town Meeting. Chief Johnson and Captain Constantino gave their explanations that an off-road vehicle would be an asset to the department.

Following further discussion, the Selectmen granted the surplus equipment to the Fireman's Association to be auctioned or bid, and funds raised from an auction of this surplus equipment would be applied towards the purchase of other fire equipment has been previously approved by Town Meeting.

It was agreed to bring these matters back for discussion after Public Input

Agenda Amendment

The Agenda was amended at this point to meet with participants as noted in Item #2 of

New Business as Amended -

2. The Board met with Mr. St. Cyr who spoke on behalf of his son, Bryce St. Cyr. Mr. St. Cyr noted Bryce has selected improvements to the Alton Bay Bandstand as an Eagle Scout project and would like permission to proceed as outlined in his letter dated July 16th. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission is in favor of repairs being made to the Bandstand.

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P. Fuller motioned to accept the Eagle Scout project as projected and to grant permission for Bryce St. Cyr to proceed provided he has adequate help with the roof, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor.

Selectmen's Committee Reports

P. Fuller stated v. "she would like to start out by saying that after our last Selectmen meeting I did, after the meeting, talk with Mr. Shibley and apologized to him for the tone of my voice when discussing his being the Selectmen's Rep to the Fire Department and the way I started off the conversation, and he was gracious enough to accept my apology." P. Fuller reported that the ZBA had met, there are now 4 members, 2 alternates and a vacancy still exists.

A. Sherwood advised the Household Hazardous Waste meeting will take place this coming Thursday at the Town Hall. He noted on August 19th the Wolfeboro collection facility will be accepting outdated prescription products. A. Sherwood continued he will have information for the Board with regards to the Belknap Range Conservation Area on an August agenda.

S. McMahon stated the first business meeting with the business men v. could have been better, but the group was able to form a committee to begin working on issues to bring before the Selectmen. He will sit in on these meetings if necessary. He had nothing to report on the budget committee at this time but would be attending the budget committee meeting.

P. Shibley stated he had no report at this time.

C. Blackstone reported the Planning Board has had two meetings and a site walk, many people have asked about the cell tower meeting that we canceled; a new date is yet to be determined. She clarified that the Blackpoint Association has not taken any formal stand on cell towers.

It was noted items remain from the last agenda with regards to Selectmen's nominations to the Firewards. Members and the Fire Chief discussed the benefits of having representation. Motions and second were made and removed on the floor. In conclusion, A. Sherwood motioned that the Board ask S. McMahon, with backup from P. Fuller to attend the Firewards Meeting for the rest of the year until March, they agreed; motion was seconded by P. Fuller seconded and passed with all in favor.

Town Administrator's Report

R. Bailey asked for the approval from the Board to allow him to attend the annual Finance Officers Association conference in September. P. Shibley motioned to approve the Town Administrator to attend the conference on September 11th and 12th, seconded by A. Sherwood and passed with all in favor. R. Bailey noted this would affect the Selectmen's meeting dates. Following a discussion it was agreed to schedule the Selectmen's September meetings on the 5th and 18th.

Public Input I

Ruth Messier – R. Messier expressed her concerns about the parking situation at the Swap Shop and asked about supervision and parking controls, the way it is now, someone could be injured.

She asked when telephone poles would be removed and when this was decided and if there would be a cost. R. Bailey advised this is for our alarm system, wires would be underground, the NH Electric Co-op has been working on this for some time.

She asked about decisions made concerning the grant for the Fire Department moving forward with an application for full-time personnel. She was advised the Firewards make decisions.

She asked about the location of fire equipment. She noted a previous municipal building that was torn down, and the wood saved, but the materials were never used and just deteriorated.

She asked what would happen if the Town did not meet the NFPA requirements. S. McMahon noted our fire insurance costs would increase.

She noted the Fire Department could manage without an all terrain vehicle. She was concerned about v. the Town applying for grants that seem to tie us into things at a later date and we just don't do enough research or haven't got all of the facts in front of us before we go ahead with it.

C. Blackstone noted the Fire Department will be getting back to them on penalty clauses etc.

Representative Laurie Boyce – L. Boyce Asked about re-vamping the fire alarms. R. Bailey advised four poles will be coming down this year. She advised she will review the topic of providing radio chargers with the Belknap County Delegation. She asked where the full-time firemen will be located. A. Johnson advised accommodations will be made. staffing will be from 8 – 4, as proposed.

G. Fuller stated he personally agrees with S. McMahon and A. Sherwood and not to use surplus equipment auction funds to purchase a 6-wheeler for the Fire Department. This should be a warrant article and let the Town vote on this.

He asked if the grant is approved in August and the Selectmen decide on 3 full-time firefighters, and we have until November to hire them, but if that does not happen will the funding start to decrease; then it would have to be presented in next year's budget; then how will we start them and where will the funding for salaries come from?

G. Fuller asked about the run volume, and what percent of that is ambulance calls, and that these calls should be 100% covered by now, he suggested what else could be covered by State statute. He continued he saw an Alton ambulance at an accident scene in New Durham, if we bill the insurance co., from another Town does this money come back to the ambulance fund.

A. Johnson stated as far as an ambulance responding out of Town, the patient's insurance carrier is billed. He noted the Warrant Article will be reworded to incorporate ambulance items including fuel, maintenance of electronic equipment as well as other line items that need to be addressed.

Surplus Fire Equipment

P. Fuller motioned to give the v. Fireman's Association the three pieces of equipment to sell or auction off as they see fit however they may not spend the money on the ATV, but they may spend the money on other fire equipment for the fire department, seconded by a. Sherwood and passed with all in favor. C. Blackstone expressed her thanks for the Public Input and to Chief Johnson and Captain Consentino for their flexibility in this matter.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

Selectmen's Minutes Public Session I - July 10, 2006. P. Fuller amended page 2, para. 3., line 7, where she discussed Mr. Shibley being the firemen's representative, that she did not decline, there was no second, and to strike the words "P. Fuller declined" from the record. And to have the minutes reflect the fact that she did state that she felt *Pete Shibley was doing an excellent job as the Selectmen's Rep.* And on page 3 to change the title "Mrs" to *Mr.* With regards to David Ames in the Board of Health session.

A. Sherwood noted in Welfare Guidelines on page 5 to add the number "1" after the word step on line 4.

A. Sherwood motioned to approve the minutes as amended for Public Session I, II and sealed Non Public Session for July 10, 2006 as amended, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.

Old Business

1. R. Bailey stated the ground water management permit for the landfill-monitoring program is ready to be filed. They are working with the landowner. A site visit will be scheduled by the well driller within a week. Also the annual report has been finalized and the survey results of the landfill cap should be completed by next week also and at another meeting he will report on that. He asked for Board approval granting him authorization to sign the groundwater permit application for the landfill monitoring. P. Shibley motioned to grant the Town Administrator authority to sign the permit, seconded by P. fuller and passed with all in favor.
2. Approval of Paving bids – R. Bailey reported the bids were opened last week and were based on a 'per ton price". He added Mr. Roberts recommended Pike Industries be awarded the bid for a price of \$50.48 a ton, P. Fuller moved to accept the bid, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor.

New Business

1. Road sign Request R. Bailey reported this is for two "Hidden Driveway" signs on Alton Shores Road, P. Shibley motioned that the Town install the sign, seconded by P. Fuller, the Chairman called for a vote and the motion failed with three opposed (CB) (AS) (SM) and the motion failed. A. Sherwood then motioned to approve the installation of the sign providing that the resident pays for the sign and installation, seconded by C. Blackstone. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion failed on a 3-2 vote (PF) (PS) (SM).
2. Eagle Scout Project – The Board reviewed the project request of Bryan Bishop to complete the removal of the Green Monster Fence at Jones field. It was noted the Parks & Recreation commission is in favor of this project. P. Fuller moved to approve the Eagle Scout Project for Bryan Bishop, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor.
3. Open House Agenda – R. Bailey noted the recommendation has been to conduct the Open House during the work week from 4-6, and the date would be August 10th with the idea of the Selectmen providing a cookout with hot dogs, motioned to approve this event made by C. Blackstone, seconded by P. Shibley and passed one abstention (PF)

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4. Approval of Land Use Items from Assessors Office – A. Sherwood motioned to approve the items as recommended by the Assessor and to sign them accordingly, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor.
5. Approval of Cemetery Deed for Row B. Lots 51 and 52 – P. Fuller motioned to approve the deed as presented, seconded by P. Shibley and passed with all in favor.
6. Legislature Policy – NHMA-LGC- R. Bailey explained this is information to be recommended to the legislature to their next session. Each Town gets a vote and he would attend upon approval from the Selectmen. A. Sherwood moved to authorize R. Bailey to represent the Town of Alton at the Legislative Policy Process Review on September 29th, seconded by P. Fuller and passed with all in favor. R. Bailey advised he would review with the Selectmen their position on the issues.
7. Request for Fundraiser from the Boat Museum - C. Blackstone noted this would take place on August 12th at the Bay. A. Sherwood motioned authorize the Boat Show committee to conduct a raffle at the Alton Bay Boat Show on August 12, 2006, seconded by P. Fuller and passed.
8. 2007 Budget review – R. Bailey noted with SB2, the Budget process comes early and he wants to send out guidelines to the staff and for the Board to consider a starting date for scheduling budget dates. He continued he will meet with the Budget committee Chairman. R. Bailey advised consideration will have to be given to the cost of living increase, and allowable amounts for overall growth in the community. He noted the handouts he provided from the Assessor and noted there could be a 10% increase in the tax base which included new growth and market value increase. He asked for guidelines for the next meeting. A. Sherwood suggested keeping the tax rate stable. P. Shibley suggested the same dates as the previous years. R. Bailey will contact each member and put together a tentative schedule. C. Blackstone appreciated the past schedule.
9. Town Hall Office Reorganization – R. Bailey noted that the Trustee of Trust Funds records will be kept at the Town Hall. His suggestion was to have an office provided for the Trustees in the auditorium area next to the stage which is also agreeable to the Trustees. Funds for this project would be provided by the Clough-Morrill Fund. P. Fuller motioned that the Town Administrator move forward on this project, seconded by P. Shibley and passed unanimously.
10. Proclamation for Elsa Bayer – The Chairman read the proclamation honoring the Town's oldest known citizen and the Board also asked that the Chairman make the presentation to include a floral arrangement and a box of chocolates. The proclamation will be on display at the Town Hall.

11. Swap Shop - P. Fuller stated v. first of all it was not Scott Simonds that brought these problems to her attention when she was at the facility on Sunday. One of her main concerns she had was that the swap shop has cost \$285.00 in the last month. People put mattresses, computers and TVs in the swap shop, rather than paying to dispose of these items. She noted there is a parking nightmare; sometimes people cannot leave the landfill because of the congestion in the area. She stated a little girl was almost run over while the parent was looking around and there was almost a vehicle accident.

P. Fuller continued unwanted yard sale items are also dropped off and there is no one to watch it, or police it, it is not their job and they are too busy to watch it. Employees stated to her the swap shop is a good idea, but it is in a bad location and they need someone there to supervise it, but what bothers her is that it is costing us money. R. Bailey advised he will come back to the Board with interim improvements, engineers are looking at the set up of the whole facility including parking and signage recommendations and tonnage costs. P. Fuller noted another issue is that persons are leaving food.

Public Input II

L. Boyce asked if the Board wanted to her to bring any thing back to the Legislation.

Non-Public Session

At approximately 9:20pm, Chairman Blackstone motioned to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II (a) (c) and (e), she polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood