

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Public Session I

August 19, 2013

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

**Approved: September 9, 2013**

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

R. Loring Carr, Chairman  
Cydney Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Marc DeCoff, Selectman  
Robert Daniels, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

David Hussey, Selectman was absent.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

**Announcements** by R. Loring Carr and E. Russell Bailey

Labor Day Town Offices Closed, September 2, 2013

September 14, 2013 from 8:30 AM to noon at the Transfer Station there will be a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mini collection and medicine collection.

**Board of Health**

R. Loring Carr made a motion to recess as Board of Selectmen and to convene as the Board of Health and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

- Septic Waiver Request, Map 34, Lot 20 ~ Strycharz

John Dever, Code Enforcement Officer was present.

The lot is difficult to move around due to the size of the lot. It will be a pump system.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the waiver of required 75 feet to actual 40 feet to surface water and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of Selectmen and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

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

R. Loring Carr reported the Zoning Amendment Committee (ZAC); met and had a discussion; our advisor Steve Whitman came and presented what he had so far on Workforce Housing. We went over some questions and criteria that has to be met. He will get back to us with more answers and options as to addressing the matter. We are currently meeting the standards but possibly not in the rental area. The average home for Belknap County is 249K for qualification for Workforce Housing.

R. Loring Carr reported on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW); they met while I was out of town and discussed the Paint Care Program which would charge an estimated seventy five cents per gallon and \$1.60 for a five gallon bucket for disposal, personally I am against this and questioned the Board how they would like to handle this. Marc DeCoff thought that the person bringing the paint in should pay for the disposal. This is a national concept being promoted in reference to the manufacturers being responsible for their products. There is nothing pending in NH at this time.

R. Loring Carr made a motion that the Board's stance is they are opposed to the paint surcharge and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **Town Administrator's Report and Updates by E. Russell Bailey**

#### Town Website

Our IT person has gone to class with an objective to come before the Board with an overview for upgrading the website to have an interactive ability to file an application directly through the website. Also we are looking at uploading the DVD's from the meetings to our website as only 40% of the town has the opportunity to see televised meetings. Recommendations should come forward later in the Fall.

#### MetroCast Franchise Agreement

We are still in negotiations and will need to schedule a Public Hearing in the Fall with further updates to follow.

### Freight Building Upgrade

The Habitat for Humanity folks have decided not to pursue the project. I would like to come back with a plan of action for upgrading the building with recommendations for improvements at a later date.

### Credit Cards

We have implemented part of the process for credit cards, we are currently using the one check system in the Town Clerk's Office for vehicle registrations and hopefully the credit card machine will arrive with full implementation the second week of September. There should be a more definitive date next week.

### Hawkers & Vendors

On a State and National level there is a recommendation to have criminal background checks for Hawklers & Vendors who go door to door. Currently the State runs them through the FBI. The FBI has notified each State and each town would have to adopt an ordinance for Hawklers & Vendors with a draft provided from the Sate Police. I will provide more information regarding this matter.

Marc DeCoff questioned if this would apply to political parties? It is not the intention for this.

Robert Daniels questioned if this was State law? E. Russell Bailey would need to check into this due to not being 100% sure but in September, 2010 legislation was adopted. More information will be gathered and get back to the Board with the answers.

### Pitney Bowes Machine

We have been using Pitney Bowes for the last 5-6 years for postage; we have received a rate reduction of approximately \$15.00 per month and would need the Board's approval to use their services for another year.

R. Loring Carr made a motion to continue the contract with Pitney Bowes and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **Public Input I**

Barbara Howard came forward with the following proposal: her company just bought a new photo copy machine and they have the old copier for sale for \$400.00 and wanted to offer it to any department that might benefit by it. Barbara will provide the details to E. Russell Bailey and he will check into this further. Also questioned was the Hawklers & Vendors matter if it would apply to

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and school children. E. Russell Bailey responded that it was for strictly for commercial people.

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

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, July 15, 2013 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session, July 15, 2013 releasing items 2, 3 and 4 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, July 15, 2013 and seconded by Marc DeCoff with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session I, July 17, 2013 and R. Loring Carr seconded. The vote was 3-0-1 with Cydney Johnson abstaining.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Workshop Session, July 17, 2013 releasing item 1a, b and c. R. Loring Carr requested that between b and c move that sentence and make it "d". R. Loring Carr seconded. The vote was 3-0-1 with Cydney Johnson abstaining.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Workshop Session II, July 17, 2013 and R. Loring Carr seconded. The vote was 3-0-1 with Cydney Johnson abstaining.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Workshop Session I, July 22, 2013 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Workshop Session, July 22, 2013 releasing items 2 and 3 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Workshop Session II, July, 22, 2013 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### **Old Business:**

#### Road Reconstruction Status Update

R. Loring Carr read a memo from E. Russell Bailey. It is the same schedule as planned. R. Loring Carr mentioned that when Depot Street is done we will look

at placing a line for the septic from Town Hall and determine if the leach field is still good and at least put a line in to the Police Department for future use. There was no further discussion at the time.

### Road Improvement Requests

The town has been contacted by residents on three (3) different roads concerning paving and improvements.

R. Loring Carr suggested the need to take a ride out to the locations.

#### Marlene Drive

The residents have contacted us regarding paving.

#### Lily Pond

There is quite a bit of drainage work that needs to be done and ledge on the road which would be a concern for paving.

#### Echo Point Road

Received a letter today from an Association, anyone that knows the road knows how it winds and it is very narrow. The residents don't want any improvements they just want repaving. The road doesn't need to be brought up to town standards; there are major issues there as the buildings are very close to the road. E. Russell Bailey noted that it does need resurfacing; that it should be ground and paved.

Ken Roberts can give his opinion and recommendations during the budget process on these roads along with what he will propose within his budget.

There was further discussion on the Depot Street road reconstruction with the cost of irrigation being brought forth during budget season.

### 2013-2014 Budget Review

Marc DeCoff questioned the October 14th date and how will we be able to finalize the budget if we don't have all the numbers for health insurance.

E. Russell Bailey stated that generally we receive the numbers for insurance the end of October the beginning of November and based on town policy we use the July Northeast CPI in reference to COLA which is 1.8%. Also, what would be the objective for non personnel items? Marc DeCoff was inclined to the use the 1.8% for the overall budget. E. Russell Bailey is looking for

direction to bring to the Department Heads to allow them to prepare their budgets. R. Loring Carr noted that we have used zero for the last three (3) years. There are some big ticket items coming up this year which will be needed in the overall budget if they don't pass as warrant articles and there are two (2) departments that are way over on vehicle maintenance. R. Loring Carr polled the Board members; Robert Daniels voted no Cydney Johnson 1.8%; Marc DeCoff 1.8% and R. Loring Carr 1.8%. E. Russell Bailey will advise the department heads to use 1.8%.

The Board was given a schedule of dates for the budgets; after meeting with the department heads the schedule will be posted for the budget workshops.

Marc DeCoff had concerns for the October 14<sup>th</sup> date as it is Columbus Day.

#### Bid Awards~Used Trailer & York Rake and Post & Beam Planking (Dahl Property)

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the bid for the 20 ton trailer in the amount of \$950.00 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the bid for the York Rake in the amount of \$300.00 and R. Loring Carr seconded. The vote was 3-0-1 with Marc DeCoff abstaining.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the bid from Architectural Salvage Inc for Post & Beam Wood Salvage in the amount of \$2,000.00 conditional upon having proper insurance and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### **New Business:**

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

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2013 Administrative Abatement for Map 65 Lot 4-1 in the amount of \$778.00 and R. Loring Carr seconded. No vote was taken at this time.

Discussion: Robert Daniels asked for an explanation of this Administration Abatement; E. Russell Bailey will pull the file and explain.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2012 Land Use Change Tax for Map 16 Lot 5 in the amount of \$7,500.00 and Map 2 Lot 5-4 in the amount of \$6,700.00 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2012 Administrative Abatement, Timber Tax for Map 21 Lots 23 & 34 in the amount of \$205.65 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2012-2013 Timber Warrant for Map 6-32, 27 & 3-22 Operation 12-11-24 in the amount of \$47.89 and Map 5-73 & 74 Operation 12-11-27 in the amount of \$201.35 for a total of \$249.24 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

E. Russell Bailey addressed Robert Daniels question on the Administrative Abatement from earlier on Item #1 of the Land Use Items explaining that the property was owned by NH Housing and Finance Authority and that the property was totally tax exempt and now has a new owner.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2013 Administrative Abatement for Map 65 Lot 4-1 in the amount of \$778.00 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Snowmobile Club Request

E. Russell Bailey noted that Powder Mill Club wants to use part of the shoulder on Stockbridge Corner Road on the New Durham end and Ken Roberts reviewed and has no issues with them using the town shoulder for snowmobiles.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the request from the snowmobile club for the use of the Stockbridge Corner shoulder and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

#### Class VI Town Road Agreement and Release, Africa Road

E. Russell Bailey stated if someone wants to build on a Class VI road they need to sign a waiver for responsibility and liability. The approval goes to the Registry to be filed and it shows that the person understands that the town does not maintain the road and that the town is not responsible however Police and Fire are still responsible. This road already has existing house lots on it and Highway and Fire has already signed off. It needs to go to the Planning Board for just review not approval. In order to get a building permit the Board needs to sign off on the release.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the road agreement for release of Africa Road to Ronald Arsenault for Map 3 Lot 30 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

## **Public Input II**

Raymond Howard approached the Board stating that “last year we had about a 5% increase in the overall town budget and I know that a lot of people were wondering why we can’t zero fund. There was actually a rumor at the Deliberative Session that they were going to try to reduce the operating budget by 10% and I think if they had they tried it, there would have been a vote there for it. People are getting tired, COLA increase is what it is costing the average taxpayer but they are not actually getting a COLA increase in their pays they are getting decreases so they are going backwards and I think during these times the Selectmen should work a little harder to at least try to hold the line on the town budget. I would like to see that with the school too but I know that’s a different board. I would just ask the Selectmen if they could do due diligence and try to hold these departments or maybe even cut some wasteful spending out of their budgets”.

## **Non-Public Session**

R. Loring Carr made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II(a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims/litigation and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis  
Recoding Secretary