

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2011
Public Session I
ALTON TOWN HALL

At approximately 6:05pm, Chairman Hussey convened the meeting of the Board and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. Those present included the following Selectmen and staff:

David Hussey, Chairman
R. Loring Carr, Vice- Chairman
S. McMahon, Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman (delayed)
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Approval of the Agenda – R. Bailey amended the agenda to add two items to Old Business as follows: Item #7 – Bid Quotes for the Town Hall and Pearson Road Community Center Doorways and Item #8, Special Events Application. L. Carr motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by S. McMahon and passed with all in favor.

Announcements – The Chairman announced dates and time for the Household Hazardous Waste day scheduled for September 10th at the Solid Waste Center.

Appointment – The Chairman announced this appointment has been cancelled until a later date.

Selectmen's Committee Reports

Stephan McMahon – S. McMahon stated his report was to announce the Household Hazardous Waste Collection day, which would also include the medicine collection.

Loring Carr - L. Carr stated the school had held a deliberative session, he had no other report at this time.

Town Administrator Report and Updates

R. Bailey presented handouts to the Board from the fire chief relative to air cots. The expense is over \$18,000. He explained that the fire department had raised a third of the money towards the cost, in the amount of \$5,559. L. Carr moved to pledge \$273.66 towards monies needed for the down payment and that the old equipment will be sold. money made from the sale of this old equipment would go to pay off the balance, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey continued that Neider & Perkins Inc., who are working with the assessing department on a revalue, had presented an amendment, with a date for the final report which will be September 30th, the report is then reviewed and to the Selectmen following that it would go forward on the MS-1 form to set the tax rate, that this is more of a clarification, and he would need approval from the Board to sign the document,. P. Bolster motioned to have the Town Administrator sign, seconded by L. Carr and passed with all in favor.

R. Bailey advised that the Police Department has an opportunity to exchange their firearms, holsters and ammunition without cost from Sig-Sauer Arms of Exeter, and each officer will have new handguns, equipment, and training. D. Hussey read a letter explaining how this came about, it was noted all officers will have the same weapons. S. McMahon motioned to accept the offer, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

Public Input

Barbara Howard asked about any issues with trading in handguns and if other costs would be incurred. She was advised there were no extra costs, this is actually a trade-up in equipment, some training has already been done and there are no issues with insurance.

Raymond Howard asked if a date had been scheduled with regards to the appointment that had been cancelled, he was advised it could possible be at the next scheduled meeting on September 19th. He asked about the guns as previously mentioned. He was advised these are SIG 357 caliber pistols.

Robert Tilton asked why the Water Commissioners had expanded from 3 –5 members. He was advised a petition had been lost and then the Selectmen put it on the warrant. He was also advised the Water Commissioners had not submitted their budget, and never answered questions, the Selectmen had agreed that a 5 member commission would keep a ‘better eye’ on things. R. Tilton agreed that some corrections should be made.

Stephen Parker stated that lowering speed limits on Route 11 as previously discussed in a past meeting, was a good idea.

David Dolan asked if the Board would do some research on the ROW in West Alton in the areas as previously discussed at the Board's last meeting and that if the Selectmen take any action on this matter, to do so when the citizens are in residence and not away from their properties during the winter season. He was advised that his request would need to be presented in writing, the Board needs facts and background information, D. Dolan noted that after 16 years of back taxes, the beach is now owned by the Town, but he and other residents in the area cannot use it, the area is blocked off. He was also

advised this could be a civil matter between property owners. D. Dolan further stated the beach is public property not just for the use of a few people. D. Hussey again asked for a letter with the list of concerns and information.

Bill Fauver advised he had put his concerns in a letter, about the ROW, and he wanted this to be taken care of in a positive manner, this area is on an old railroad bed and could be used for recreational activities, but was bought up at auction.

Tim Croes asked if the vacancy on the Board would be announced at the meeting, and was advised that this matter would not be addressed at this meeting. He asked about the closure of the Bay restroom due to vandalism, R. Bailey advised the matter is under investigation.

Brian Fortier asked about future plans for the W. Alton Fire Station, noting his grandfather had been instrumental in building it, and that the Board in 2007 had agreed to maintain it. D. Hussey advised the Board is considering how to best handle the situation noting the building is in need of much maintenance and renovation. It cannot be used for larger fire equipment. Also that mutual aid from Gilford is available, and that only one fireman currently lives in W. Alton. B. Fortier advised although the Town has leased it, no rent has been paid sine 1955, and that would have been only \$1.00 a year.

John Jude asked about the bid for Milfoil Removal, He was advised this matter is scheduled on the agenda.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes:

June 2, 2011 – (Sealed) Non-Public Session – L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes And to release Item #1, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

June 2, 2011 – Public Session II, L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by S. McMahan and passed with all in favor.

June 20, 2011 – (Sealed) Non-Public Session – L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes and to release Items #3 and #4, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with 1 abstention (SM)

July 20, 2011 – Public Workshop Session - L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

August 17, 2011 – Public Session I and II – L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with 1 abstention (SM).

August 17, 2011 – (Sealed) Non-Public Session – L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes and to release item #1, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with one abstention (SM)

August 29, 2011 – Public Workshop Session - L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

August 26, 2011 – Public Workshop Session - L. Carr motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

Old Business

It was agreed to move Item #5 up to item #1

1. Milfoil Bid – John Jude asked why the partial bid was accepted by the Milfoil Committee, rather than his bid which was submitted by specification. He was advised to resubmit a bid. After a discussion, L. Carr motioned to table any action on the milfoil bid, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

2. 2011 Budget – R. Bailey advised that certain line items will be compensating other items such as Legal and Heidke funds. He also noted FEMA would not be covering storm expenses as Belknap County was not listed by FEMA. The Bridge on Reed Road will have to be replaced. Storm costs are approximately \$13,000 not including the Bridge. Also during the storm 25 people used the emergency shelter coming from Alton, Barnstead and New Durham.

3. 2012 Budget – R. Bailey and the Board agreed to the schedule of meeting with department heads to review budgets. Meetings will start September 25th beginning at 5:00pm.

4. Fuel Expenses – R. Bailey and the Board discussed fuel costs and difference in prices between the school and Town. It was noted the Town has several buildings while the school system has less. R. Bailey noted that Eastern will lock in a price for propane at \$2.19 per gallon until June. D. Hussey motioned to approve Eastern for propane, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor. R. Bailey stated he would continue to review oil prices and try to eliminate the need for K12.

L. Carr noted that in 2011, 5 departments had been asked to hold back spending money.

5. Sand & Gravel Bids – R. Bailey noted the bids had been opened, and reviewed, the Highway Agent has recommended Green Oak Realty as the low bidder for Sand at \$8.00 per yard delivered and Gravel at \$9.00 and \$7.00 per ton/\$10.50 for gravel per yard picked up. L. Carr motioned to award the bid to Green Oak Realty as recommended, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor.

6. Speed Limit on Route 11 – Following their review, concerning where to install signs, setting a precedent on other roads, amount of pedestrian traffic, use of docks and public safety issues, P. Bolster motioned to recommend lowering the speed limit to 35 MPH in the vicinity of Sandy Point, Lakewood Estates and Keewayden Park on Route 11 and to send a letter to the State DOT, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with one opposed (LC)

7. Handicap Doors – R. Bailey recommended the low bidder, Granite State Glass, but that the Town is responsible for any wiring, electrical work. L. Carr motioned to award the bid, for the Town Hall entry way and Senior Center doorway, as quoted, seconded by P. Bolster and passed with all in favor. The Board asked that Granite State not change the appearance of the doorway at the Town Hall.

8. Special Event Application – R. Bailey advised this application was in reference to Sunny Slope Farm. And includes a schedule. Following a review, and noting there have been no complaints, L. Carr motioned to grant a waiver to the 30 day notices and to approve the schedule as presented to Joy Hill, LLC for wedding events, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.

New Business:

1. Vote to Approve Land Use Items as Recommended by Assessing Department – D. Hussey motioned to approve the items as presented and to sign appropriately, seconded by L. Carr and passed with all in favor.
2. Forester Contract – R. Bailey noted there are no changes, this is the same as last year. P. Bolster motioned to approve the contract until September 12, 2012, seconded by D. Hussey and passed with all in favor.
3. MS-1, Extension Request – The Board unanimously agreed to an extension until October 31, 2011.

4. Building Code Review – R. Bailey noted this is a proposal from the Building Inspector for the Board's review and will be placed on a future agenda.
5. Street Sign Request - It was noted this is for a "Blind Driveway" sign on Powdermill Road. R. Bailey advised the State DOT has a program concerning installation of warning signs and they could make recommendations. These would be signs that meet state regulations. L. Carr suggested sending a letter to this homeowner advising him of the Board's decision.

Public Input II

T. Croes asked for the address of Sunny Brook Farm. And he asked about the Town Policy, if the Board had the same response, R. Bailey advised yes, under advice from the Town Attorney.-

Barbara Howard asked about the Town Attorney's response, if the personnel policy is disclosed publically. She was advised the Board has been told not to comment. She asked if there was a mandate in the policy that we pay someone on administrative leave, and if there is such a policy once a person is on leave. R. Bailey will ask the Town Attorney with Board approval.

Harold Bothwick noted he had been on the Planning Board for 10 years, and the Highway Agent would know about signs for blind driveway, this may have been grandfathered and maybe a new person just brought the property. He noted signs need certain specifics before being submitted to the state. He did not think the new policy on weddings was unreasonable.

Stephen Parker asked why the police log could not be more specific, with names of those arrested and that other Towns including Wolfeboro are more specific, including radio station WASR which broadcasts the police logs. He would like to know if there are criminals in the area. The Board will look into this.

Peter Keen would like information to understand the nature of crimes, these could occur by car or by boat, he is a homeowner on the E. side of the Lake, he only hears after the fact. Her also asked if any thought has been given to forming a committee to rewrite policies and procedures, to eliminate this administrative leave, as to why should a person receive pay for no work and not doing their jobs.

Raymond Howard, asked about the fuel prices, he was advised these are in effect until June. He stated that when the trucking company started hauling water on Reed Road they had to place a bond, and asked about the bond, and that the water company built the bridge. And he continued it was after that time when the Town took over the road.

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Non-Public Session

At 7:45pm. D. Hussey motioned to enter into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA91-A:3, II (a)personnel (c)character/reputation and (e)claims/litigation, the motion was seconded, the Chairman polled the members who each voted in the affirmative and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Rockwood, Secretary

Minutes Approved: September 26, 2011