

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2013

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: December 11, 2013

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
David Hussey, Selectman
Marc DeCoff, Selectman
Robert Daniels, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Note: The meeting will not be video taped tonight due to a failure with the camera; it will be audio taped.

Approval of the Agenda

E. Russell Bailey added item #5 under new business for a Special Events Application; Alton Business Association, Light Up Night 2013.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments

None

Announcements:

Town Offices are closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday, November 28th and 29th, 2013. For public reference the Transfer Station will be open on Friday.

A word of Remembrance; in honor of the late Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton who served from 1977 to 2013. He was a great Statesman and friend and will be sadly missed.

Selectmen's Committee Report

R. Loring Carr reported that the ZAC and Planning Board held a joint meeting. The ZAC handed over the proposed Zoning Ordinances to the Planning Board and they will be discussed on Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

R. Loring Carr reported that the Budget Committee has met twice and has gotten through the town budget and they are currently working on the school budget. They will begin making their recommendations.

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

The tax rate has been finalized and the bills were mailed on Friday. The new rate is \$13.44 which is 24 cents less than last year. To confirm, the Board approved to use surplus with a question of what amount would be used. It was estimated to be in the range of \$190,000.00 but could be anywhere from \$235,000.00 up to \$250,000.00. All Selectmen were contacted by a phone poll and it was agreed that \$245,000.00 of fund balance would be used. The surplus remains at \$2,070,000.00 which is well within the range that is needed. Robert Daniels questioned the approved amount of \$190,000.00 from the last meeting. E. Russell Bailey commented that the Board left it open; as the amount needed was unknown. Selectman Daniels then questioned if another vote was taken? E. Russell Bailey stated that it was left that surplus would be used to level fund the tax rate and it was confirmed with the Board via phone poll which was agreed upon by the Board at the last meeting. The poll was taken and is being ratified in public which is acceptable as long as it is disclosed. The DRA needed to be contacted to confirm the numbers as we didn't know what the overlay was going to be, therefore the phone poll. We all agreed in the meeting to a phone poll to level fund the tax rate from the surplus. Selectman Daniels voiced concerns regarding the decision of the phone poll and felt that it should be done in a public meeting and not using private telephone calls. R. Loring Carr noted that the phone poll was used due to time constraints and to get the tax bills out in a timely manner.

The septic system excavation work is in progress; the generator has been disconnected and the old propane tank has been removed. The goal is by the end of week or beginning of next week to have the leach field in place before putting the generator in place due to the slope changes then bury the 500 gallon propane tank. We don't have a backup generator running at this time.

Senior Center; a time line and plan are being put together for the remodeling of the kitchen. The new director started today and the concrete slab out back should be poured by Wednesday/Thursday.

Public Input I

Jane Cormier approached the Board both as a Representative of Belknap County District 8 and as a resident of Alton. After reviewing RSA:91A she was specifically questioning the poll that was taken by phone then read an excerpt from such, she questioned what was not reasonable about the quarter of a million dollars that was taken out of our fund for future emergency purposes that could arise at any time. Under RSA:91A this was only supposed to be used for emergency purposes and felt that this was not an emergency; trying to figure out how this worked and why this was done by phone and not done in full view of cameras, people and at a public hearing so that the residents could hear what was going on. The response was due to the DRA being under pressure this year due to legislature putting something in for the schools so they couldn't set the tax rate in a timely manner. We were pushed way back on the list to obtain our tax rate. Due to this and there was a need to get the tax bills out in a

timely manner. We wanted to hold the tax rate level and the Selectmen have the right to use the surplus funds. The numbers were being worked on by Mr. Bailey and needed them to be verified by DRA for how much was needed and the Board wanted to have a phone poll once DRA confirmed the correct number in order to get the tax bills out to the public in a timely fashion and that this is reasonable for the Board to do a phone poll.

Cydney Johnson brought forth that there was no contact of Board member to Board member; the calls were made by the Town Administrator who contacted each Board member, individually to conduct the phone poll and by law all phone polls must be ratified in public which is what is being done tonight. What was read specifically addresses among members of a public body and it was the Administrator that made the contact and he is not a member of this Board. It was the general consensus of the Board that it was reasonable to use a phone poll.

Jane Cormier then questioned E. Russell Bailey on the time remaining on his contract. Russ responded that he is approximately half way through.

Barbara Howard inquired as to the day of the phone poll being conducted; in relationship to the poll, when was the next workshop meeting? The response was there was none. She also had concerns that during all the workshop meetings that are held there is no access to the information and discussions, no recording and no video taping of these meetings and that the public needs to hear this. It was noted that the workshops are public, posted and open to the public and are generally held at 5:30 PM or 6:00 PM.

Barbara Howard then mentioned attended the last Workforce Housing meeting at the Gilman Museum. R. Loring Carr stated that this is not a Selectmen's issue; we have nothing to do with Workforce Housing. A Right to Know request was made on October 15th, a couple of emails were sent by different people regarding the request. I was looking for the itemized expenses being billed to the \$37,500.00 grant for a breakdown of meeting costs and would like clarification on a couple of items. R. Loring Carr and David Hussey are the ZAC representatives. The grant was billed at \$41.81 per hour for Ken McWilliams and \$21.79 per hour for the ZAC members and asked if you were actually getting paid. R. Loring Carr responded "no". The question is how are you, reporting to a federal grant that you are getting paid when you are not getting paid. R. Loring Carr stated that it is administrated by the Planning Board, it is their grant; you can ask them that. A question of fraud was indicated by Ms. Howard with Cydney Johnson cautioning her in reference to the issue.

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

Note: Robert Daniels left the meeting at this time.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2013, Public Session I as presented and Marc DeCoff seconded. R. Loring Carr had concerns on page 8, paragraph 3, after the votes, was when we had the phone poll we would have the DRA to review the amount. It was decided to review the tape and table the minutes.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to table the November 4, 2013 minutes and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2013, Non Public Session releasing items #1, 2 & 3 and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2013, Public Session II and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

2013-2016 Plowing Bid Results/Recommendation

Two (2) bids were received on the bid for West Alton plowing which is contracted out.

- Lambert Landscaping for \$49.00 per hour
- GMI Asphalt for \$62.50 per hour

Ken Roberts, Road Agent is recommending awarding the snow plowing bid to the low bidder, Jeremy Lambert in the amount of \$49.00 per hour for a three year period.

Dave Hussey made a motion to accept the low bidder awarding the snow plowing bid to Jeremy Lambert in the amount of \$49.00 per hour for a three year period (2013-2016) and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Warrant Articles

The Warrant Articles need to be presented to the Budget Committee with the vote counts; all Articles were discussed and voted on the substance of each.

Article Number	Vote	Discussion
10	4-0	Change Verbiage
11	4-0	Add Verbiage and Change Amount
12	4-0	No changes
13	4-0	No changes
14	4-0	No changes
15	4-0	No changes
16	4-0	Add Verbiage
17	4-0	No changes
18	4-0	Add Verbiage
19	4-0	No changes
20		Hold
21	4-0	No changes
22	4-0	No changes
23	4-0	No changes
24	4-0	No changes
25	4-0	No changes
26	4-0	Add Verbiage
27	4-0	No changes
28	4-0	No changes

29	4-0	Add verbiage
30	4-0	No changes
31	4-0	No changes
32	4-0	No changes
33	4-0	No changes
34	4-0	No changes
35	4-0	Change Amount
36	4-0	No changes
37	4-0	No changes
38	4-0	No changes
39	4-0	No changes
40	4-0	No changes
41	No vote required	
42	No vote required	

New Business:

Vote to approve Land Use Items as recommended by the Town Assessor

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Timber Warrants for \$456.20 for Map 24-6 in the amount of \$331.49 and Map 24-7 in the amount of \$124.71 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Special Event Applications, Castleberry Fairs & Festivals

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the 2014 dates for Castleberry Fairs & Festivals; July 12 & 13, 2014 and August 30 & 31 and September 1, 2014.

At this time E. Russell Bailey brought forth an issue regarding a request that no other vendors be allowed in the Bay spaces. The general consensus of the Board was not to support this request. After the discussion another vote was taken.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the application taking out the statement of their vendor request and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Special Event Application, Turkey Dip; High School Class 2015 town beach fundraiser

Marc DeCoff made a motion to approve the Turkey Dip Application for November 27, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Clerkworks® Service Agreement, Town Clerk's Office

This is the same software being used for motor vehicle registrations instead of going through BMSI; eliminating the middle person using Interware Company. This is the same company that is used for the credit card system and the cost is the same as what we currently pay. Attorney James Sessler reviewed the contract and has no issues. Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the Interware Company and authorize the Town Clerk to sign the contract and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Special Events Application, Alton Business Association

Every year the tree is lit up in front of Town Hall and at Ginny Douglas Park. Alton Business Association will have a small tent set up for donuts and drinks with hayrides down to the park.

David Hussey made a motion to approve the Special Events Application for Light Up Night 2013 for the Alton Business Association at Ginny Park for the 2013 holiday and R. Loring Carr seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Public Input II

Barbara Howard had several comments/concerns

- Was the recorded tape for tonight going to be available at Library? E. Russell Bailey responded that we will have to get copies made.
- A thought regarding safety features at Stockbridge Corner Road.
- Cutting out the middle man, BMSI why is it the same cost for Interware; is it negotiable? E. Russell Bailey responded that it is just a fixed rate and a lot of other towns are moving over to their services.
- Adding the four (4) cruisers into the budget via a lease, last year there was one (1) cruiser, it didn't pass; Howard had concerns of circumventing the voters by putting 4 cruisers in the budget opposed to 1 last year.

Jane Cormier wanted an explanation of the land use items as recommended by the Town Assessor. It was explained that it is the Timber Tax for logging, for the timber that is taken off the property; which the town receives.

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.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary