

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
November 12, 2024
(Approved - November 26, 2024)

Chairman P. LaRochelle convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

P. LaRochelle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

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Paul LaRochelle, Chairman
N. Buonopane, Vice-Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman
Richard Shea, Selectman
Drew Carter, Selectmen
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle would like to add #4 to New Business - Fire Department Sign and #2 to Old Business - Roll Off Truck - Transfer Station and D. Shea would like to add to New Business #5 - Brief discussion of the experience with the new voting machine during the election process. N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda for November 12, 2024 as amended and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

- The Public Participation Policy applies to all Selectmen meetings. A copy of it is on the back of each agenda, posted outside this meeting room, and on our website.

Public Input | *(limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)*

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. New Hampshire Electric Coop - Presentation

M. Jennings, P. Glenshaw from New Hampshire Electric Co-op approached the table. They are here to present some information as well as have a discussion. They are going to review the reliability data. They are a non-profit cooperative, so they are owned by their members. They are the second largest utility in New Hampshire. About 400 miles of line come off the sub-station here in Alton. It is one of the larger sub-stations they have. P. Glenshaw highlighted some of the things that the Co-op has done for the Town of Alton. M. Jennings presented data about some of the major outages in 2024. 95% of their feed comes from Eversource. When they have a problem on the line, it affects NHEC. The storm in April was the worst storm that they had in the history of their system. It was the most expensive. At the peak they had 50,000 members without power. Total there were over 100,000 restorations. Because they are non-profit, they can file with FEMA for reimbursement. In the last year there were 5 claims from major storms. He highlighted several initiatives they are working on.

2. New Hampshire Electric Coop - Petition and Pole License - Buried Cable 193 Trask Side Road

R. Heath, Town Administrator stated that this is just like the regular pole licenses, but it is underground. This is to a residence.

D. Carter made a motion to approve the petition and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Mount Major Snowmobile Club - Permission Request - Farmington Road

P. Mason from the Mount Major Snowmobile Club approached the table. He stated that the property on Farmington Road has changed hands and the new owners do not allow access on their property. There is an 8' Right of Way next to it. It is not marked but they can get it marked so people know there is a Right of Way. The trail use to go through the culvert. The culvert hasn't frozen in many years. They have submitted to the State to go across Route 11 where Rand Hill Road comes down. They need access to the lake. The Right of Way is a potential way to get on the lake. They have not heard back from the State as of yet. D. Carter asked if the intention is to groom it at all. P. Mason stated that 8' would not need it. It would not see much traffic.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Mount Major Snowmobile Club trail access over the Town Right-of-Way between lots 50-16-0-0 and 50-17-0-0 with the Snowmobile Club responsible for all trail maintenance and marking and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. Fire Department - Sign Request

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, approached the table. The sign that is in front of the station needs to be rehabbed. It has since disintegrated. It was completely rotted out. He reached out to several different companies to get quotes on a sign similar to what was there. Two companies responded. Discussion ensued on the difference between all of the sign types. D. Carter asked how far out the requests went. He suggested a reaching out to a company he is familiar with in the Seacoast.

It was the consensus of the Board to reach out for more quotes.

5. Experience with New Voting Machine

R. Shea stated that it should be considered to purchase a second machine for voting. If the first one went down, they would probably still be there. He would also like to request from the manufacturer a detailed account of what went wrong and how it can be avoided in the future. He stated that the last thing is when the Moderator, Town Clerk, and Town Clerk staff have to start their day at 4 or 5:00 in the morning and work for 20-22 hours straight. He was wondering if there was a way to help with the situation. If there is anything that the State would allow.

Old Business

1. DPW - Cemetery Mapping Update - Old Riverside Cemetery

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table. He stated that this is the Mapping Software that was approved at the last meeting. This is a quote for the Old Riverside Cemetery. It is for \$8,190.00 to provide the same services as New Riverside Cemetery.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve \$8,190.00 from the CTC Expendable Trust to Chronological Mapping & Database Solutions for the Old Riverside Cemetery and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Transfer Station - Roll Off Truck

S. Garland remained at the table. He stated that he put together a spreadsheet detailing Waste Management costs. Waste Management would still honor their costs with the Town being responsible for transportation. He explained the spreadsheet. D. Carter stated that since we do not reap a benefit from this until 2026 is it okay to rush into this. R. Heath asked how much notice we would need to give in order to get out of the year's fees. S. Garland stated that they would honor their prices through 2025. R. Heath explained line items that would or could possibly change. Discussion ensued about when and how these changes could happen.

R. Heath stated that the Solid Waste Budget still needs to be approved.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Budget for \$395,521.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter stated that there is a Budget Committee meeting coming up next week.

R. Shea had nothing to report.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane stated that they have a ZAC meeting coming up later in the week.

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Election.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that there is a memo on the table from the Fire Chief. It outlines what duties they would be responsible for while helping out the Building Inspector.

R. Heath presented a memo from the Belknap County Board of Commissioners. They are looking for opinions and interest in forming a Community Power Aggregation.

It is the consensus of the Board to express their interest in forming a Community Power Aggregation and to send a letter expressing that.

Approval of Minutes

October 22, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2024 Public Session and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

October 22, 2024 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2024 Non-Public Session releasing none and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the November 12, 2024 Consent Agenda as presented and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

None

Public Input II (*limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business*)

None

Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

D. Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary