

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
May 28, 2024
(Approved - June 11, 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

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the agenda for May 28, 2024 as presented 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 I (limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. NHDOT - NH Route 11 Culvert Replacement Presentation

D. Smith and C. Carucci from NH DOT approached the table. They are here to discuss the Alton 44456 Project. It deals with the section of Route 11 that failed in July of last year. It is approximately 700 feet north of Lakewood Drive and 225 feet south of Keywadin Drive. The project is funded 80% from Federal Highway and 20% State. They explained a slide show to the Board. There are two solutions for the repairs. Road Open vs Road Closed. They explained the difference between the two options. R. Shea asked how they were going to get the opinion of the residents. They discussed having a Public Informational meeting. It was discussed and decided to have the Informational meeting on June 25, 2024.

2. NH Electric Coop - Pole License - Frohock Brook Road

R. Heath stated that this is a standard Pole Position and License from NH Electric Coop sent for the Board's review and approval. They will be installing 2 poles on Frohock Brook Road. He stated that the next item on the agenda is the same thing. N. Buonopane asked if there were any issues. S. Kinmond stated that there are no issues and there is no preparation or anything needed from the Town.

N. Buonopane made a motion to accept the NH Electric Coop new pole licensing for Frohock Brook Road #56 and 57 and Damon Drive and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. NH Electric Coop - Pole License - Damon Drive

Voted on in New Business #2.

4. Fire Department - Central Station Repairs

R. Heath stated that there is a memo from the Fire Chief outlining three repairs that need to be done at Central Station. The dollar amounts are usually something that the Department Head would sign off on but he is looking to use funds from the Ambulance Revolving Capital Reserve. The replacement of the damaged overhead door would be \$1,011.85, replacement of the

broken tension spring would be \$632.72, and replacement of 12 overhead lights, current lights or inoperable lights would be \$1,350.00. D. Shea was wondering if some utilities offer rebates or even free transitions to LED lighting. He would like them to take a look before diving in.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to expend from the Fire Department Building Improvements Capital Reserve for the replacement of the 12 x 24 overhead door panel at the cost of \$1,011.85 replacement of the broken tension spring overhead door \$639.72 and replacement of the 12 lights current fixtures inoperable for \$1,350.00 for a total of \$3,001.57 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

5. Water Department - Request for Abatement

R. Heath stated that he received an email from Steve Gray requesting consideration or waiver for his water bill. He received a bill in the amount of \$1,795.64. The Water Department did offer to pull the meter and have it tested mechanically. Mr. Gray declines to allow them to do that or have it done. N. Buonopane asked if he denied us from being able to take the meter. R. Heath stated that he didn't deny, he just declined. He did say he would contact a lawyer. Discussion ensued about possible causes and options.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the meter sent out for testing. If the meter is found to be faulty then the Board will readdress the situation. If the meter is not found to be faulty then Mr. Gray is responsible for the bill.

6. Police Department - Body Worn Cameras Grant - Public Hearing

T. MacDougall, Police Chief approached the table. He stated that he is here to request a Public Hearing. In March of 2023 he became aware of an opportunity to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending Request through Senator Shaheen's Office.

The Body Camera is a pretty popular thing in law enforcement. The biggest issue to get this started would be the funding. The opportunity for a non-match grant arose. It would be fully funded and would give the Department coverage for five years to get the program up and running.

In March of 2023 he applied for the grant. In August they were informed that Senator Shaheen's office approved it. The Department of Justice would be the one to administer this grant. Now they are at the point that a Public Hearing needs to be held in order to accept the funds. R. Heath stated that because this is unanticipated funds a public hearing needs to be held.

T. MacDougall stated that part of this project is not only the body worn cameras but to replace all the tasers as well. He suggested establishing a CRF and start putting money in it so they are ready at the five year mark. He explained some of the cameras that were looked at. The Board discussed they dates for a Public Hearing. They decided to hold the Public Hearing on June 11, 2024.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to go to a Public Hearing on the grant application for Body Cameras and tasers contingent on the acceptance by the Board on June 11, 2024 and authorize the Police Chief to sign on behalf of the Board and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Police Department - FY24 Highway Safety Grant Adjustment

T. MacDougall remained at the table. He explained that the previously approved grant they became aware that they are doing a 75% match. They applied for both a radar and a LIDAR. He explained what the LIDAR is and how it would be used.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Police Chief for a PD Highway safety grant 24-004 grant agreement for Highway Safety amending the FY24 award from \$10,200.00 to \$13,398.76 coming out of the Police Detail Revolving Fund and authorize the Town Administrator to sign and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. DPW - 2024 Aggregate Contract Extension

S. Kinmond approached the table. He stated that it is up to be renewed or put back out to bid. It now doesn't meet the threshold for going out for bid. He did reach out to several companies for quotes and pricing. He stated that the current vendor is a very good supplier and has worked out very well.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the contract extension to 2024 to NE Earth Mechanics for our aggregate and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. DPW - 2024-2025 Catch Basin Cleaning Contract Extension

S. Kinmond remained at the table. He explained that this is the same as the previous one.

N. Buonopane made a motion to accept the contract extension for two-year 2024 to 2025 to Belmore Catch Basin Maintenance of Bedford NH with a 2024 amount of \$215 per hour and 2025 amount of \$250 per hour and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion. P. LaRochelle stated that a good portion of that is already in play. There is a Read File in the Selectmen's office.

4. Selectmen's Email

R. Shea stated that the other thing that he had was the Public Participation Policy. Discussion ensued about ways to improve the Public Participation Policy. He would like to add a section to it.

R. Shea stated that he has two things to discuss. He would like the Board to put the emails in a file accessible in the Selectmen's office. Ryan or other staff members may note if some action is taken. Any issue of concern can be added to the next agenda with what action is taken. It will be part of the permanent record.

Selectmen Reports

R. Shea stated that they had their 2024 Hazardous Collection Day.

D. Carter had nothing to report.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane stated that D. Carter covered the Planning Board for him and he went to the Old Home Week meeting. It will now be called the Old Home Days. It will include two weekends but not during the week.

P. LaRochelle had nothing to report.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the first thing is the Town Clerk, J. Collins is asking if she can charge \$1.00 for tax bills that the resident comes in and requests. In July 2018 the Board allowed \$1.00 to be charged to Real Estate agents.

It is the consensus of the Board to transfer the charge to anybody looking for an extra copy.

R. Heath stated that the last thing he has is about the intersection of 11a and West Alton Marina. Originally rumble strips were suggested but another good idea is a flashing light. He did get a cost for that which is \$2,000.00. NH Dot will not absorb the cost of the light but they will absorb the cost for reflective tape strips and a stop sign.

It is the consensus of the Board to go with the stop sign and reflective tape.

Approval of Minutes

May 7, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2024 Public Session and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

May 7, 2024 - Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2024 Non-Public Session releasing #1 & 3 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 28, 2024 as presented and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Water Department

Courtney Mitchell, Water Superintendent, \$100,072.08 /yr, effective 7-1-2024

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

Daniel Silver - Non-Profit Request - Use of Facilities

N. Buonopane made a motion to allow the appointment and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

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

None

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:27 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters) and e (litigation) N. Buonopane seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 8:27 pm Chairman LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

P. LaRochelle, Chairman
N. Buonopane III, Vice-chairman
R. Shea, Selectmen
A. Morse, Selectmen
D. Carter, Selectmen
R. Heath, Town Administrator

P. LaRochelle moved at 9:06 pm to exit Non-Public session. N. Buonopane seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

P. LaRochelle moved to 'not divulge' item two of the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. N. Buonopane seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 9:07 pm to adjourn. D. Carter seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary