

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
July 23, 2024
(Approved - August 13, 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 made a motion to add an announcement to the agenda and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

- A military veteran from Alton will be representing the United States at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Team USA announced last week that Howie Sanborn made the triathlon team. Sanborn served as an airborne ranger, and he was a demonstrator on the U.S. Army parachute team. He became paralyzed from the waist down in 2012, when he was struck by a distracted driver while he was biking, according to USA Triathlon. Seven months later, he completed his first triathlon as a wheelchair athlete. Sanborn has since medaled in three Warriors Games and one Invictus Games. This will be his first Paralympics appearance.
- 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. Notice of Limitations/Waiver of Liability - 91 Black Point Road, Map 45 Lot 8A

R. Heath stated that this is part of the Short-Term Rental stipulations. A waiver must be executed. This is a pre-existing residence.

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Waiver of Liability for the property at 91 Black Point Road, Map 45 Lot 8A and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Notice of Limitations/Waiver of Liability - 16 Peggys Cove Road, Map 40 Lot 23

R. Heath stated that this is exactly like the last one.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Waiver of Liability for 16 Peggys Cove Road, Map 40 Lot 23 and R. Shea seconded with four in favor and one abstention (DC).

3. Town Treasurer

R. Heath stated that the current Town Treasurer put in her notice that at the end of her term she will be retiring and not seeking re-election. She served her community for a very long time and successfully. We greatly appreciate her for all of the work she has done.

4. 2025 Budget Preparation

R. Heath stated that the Department Heads have already been set to task on working on their budgets. They will be starting with one-on-one presentations with him. We are looking to have them meet the first week of September and then we can start a schedule with the Board earlier than normal in mid-September. He asked the Board if they are in favor of carrying forward the 4% Merit that they weren't successful with last year. It was the consensus that they move forward with the 4%. D. Carter asked that the numbers be run with 3% as well for comparison. R. Heath stated that they have started to receive the FEMA funds from last year's floods. They are ear marked to receive more before the end of the year.

5. Changing Phone Service Providers

R. Heath stated that this proposal comes from the IT Manager. It is broken down in an email. Nextiva increased their prices by \$100 a month. He cannot give a definitive number. There would be a significant savings by swapping over.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to authorize J. Monaco IT Director to switch from Nextiva to Skyetel based on the information for the fee of \$250.00 per month or less and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Swap Shop Discussion

R. Shea stated that he has information based on previous discussions with the Board. He is aware of 12 towns in the state that have swap shops. They are all at their landfills. He visited 8 of the 12. 7 of the 8 had enclosures of various sizes. 5 of the 8 were staffed entirely by volunteers. He explained how several of the towns operate their swap shops. There were various restrictions. Discussion ensued about various ideas for the Swap Shop. D. Carter suggested that there be a site walk two meetings from now.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter had nothing to report.

R. Shea stated that they had their HHW meeting last Wednesday and everything went well with the Milfoil Committee.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane stated that they had their Planning Board meeting last week and ZAC tomorrow night. He would also like to mention that Board and Committee members are there trying to do a service they need to be treated with the utmost respect.

P. LaRochelle stated that the ZBA met on July 11 and the Master Plan Committee met last Wednesday. Their next meeting will be in September.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath asked the Board if they will be in attendance at the Old Home Week Parade and if they will be walking or driving.

R. Heath stated that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector would like to invite some Board members to an upcoming training for Voting Works on August 29 from 9 am to 1:00 pm.

R. Heath stated that on the table there are two letters that were written to B. Luponi and J. Housel on the recommendation of the previous DPW Director for their work during last year's storms and the transition to the new DPW Director.

Approval of Minutes

June 25, 2024 - Public Session

D. Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2024 Public Session as presented and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

July 9, 2024 - Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2024 Public Session as presented and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for July 2, 2024 as presented and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. **Water Department**

Boccelli, Stephen	9 Depot Street	Payment credited to wrong account, owns multiple properties	Credit \$458.00 TO ACCOUNT
Mahoney, Michael & Donna	37 Bay Hill Road	Billing Error Acct: 357/1160	Credit \$410.00 to Account
Francis, Daniel	90 Suncook Valley Road	We shut off because it was our fault (False Leak)	Credit \$51.63 to Account

2. **Levey Park Trustees**

Richardson, Donna, 3-year term, expiring March 2027
 Janes, Robert, 2-year term, expiring March 2026

3. **Assessing Consent Items**

Administrative Abatement
 Roosa Map 72 Lot 95 Alton Shores Road \$280.00

Timber Tax
 Yelsgup Map 11 Lot 18 298 Alton Mountain Road \$84.00

Excavation
 Williams Map 8 Lot 3-2 Frank C Gilman Highway \$80.84

Excavation Intent
 Williams Map 8 Lot 3-2 Frank C Gilman Highway
 Green Oak Realty Development LLC Map 5 Lot 72 Suncook Valley Road

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)

J. Houser approached the table. She stated that she was told that the Levey Park Trustees would be discussed at tonight's meeting and did not hear them discussed. She stated that the Town needs to take a deeper dive and double check because Lee has a training manual for volunteers.

K. Sullivan approached the table. She stated that serving on Boards and Commissions is a thankless job. She is also disappointed that the Swap Shop is being put out to a Warrant Article.

J. Blackwood approached the table. She stated that she is worried about negligence. She has dealt with Lee about volunteers.

R. Mastellar approached the table. She stated that the Board needs to think about the Town. The Swap Shop has been opened since 2003.

R. Larson approached the table. She stated that it needs to be looked at as an opportunity. Don't look at it as a liability/

H. Taylor approached the table. He stated that he is impressed with the discussion tonight. He also had worked with Primex previously.

D. Richardson approached the table. She asked what the cost has been to the Town since closing the Swap Shop. She feels that in 4 years we have paid substantially more.

M. Knight approached the table. She stated that she was there the day it was closed.

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:22 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters) and d (sale or lease of real property) 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 7:22 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
- J. Reinert, Fire Chief

At 7:55 pm Fire Chief J. Reinert exited the room

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:11 pm to exit the nonpublic 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.

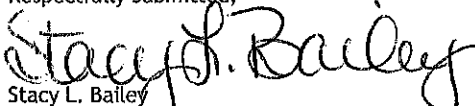
Public actions.

N. Buonopane motioned to promote FF Landon Baker to Lt. with a starting rate of \$26.00 per hour effective July 28, 20024. A. Morse seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

R. Shea moved at 8:13 pm to adjourn. D. Carter seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary