

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
August 13, 2024
(Approved - August 27, 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

R. Shea would like to add two items to the agenda the August 27th meeting in regards to the Swap Shop site discussions and a brief discussion of the problems that we are experiencing with multiple power outages in Alton and what we might ask of NHEC. N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the August 13, 2024 agenda 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.
- The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office will be closed on Thursday, September 19, 2024. The staff will be attending the Tax Collectors 85th Annual Fall Conference. The office will reopen on Monday, September 23, 2024.
- The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office will be closed on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 for the State Primary Election that will be held at Prospect Mountain High School from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm and will reopen on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 12 Noon.

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

K. Sullivan approached the table. She would like to say that Ginny Douglas Park is a welcome addition to the downtown area. She would like to thank everyone who has contributed to that.

J. Houser approached the table. She is here as the Chair of the Gazebo Committee of the Alton Garden Club. That is a heavy responsibility on her shoulders. There are 60 very serious gardeners counting on her. She had the opportunity to drive from Holderness to New Durham and Alton is looking very good from the road. P. LaRochelle would like to clarify that they are still in Public Input. He asked if she was speaking on Item #1 under New Business.

P. LaRochelle closed Public Input and went right into #1 under New Business.

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Ginny Douglas Park Gazebo - Repair Request

J. Houser remained at the table. The Garden Club has donated over \$11,000.00. They have set aside another \$1,000.00 to assist with the repairs to the gazebo. She may be able to come up with another \$500.00. The cupola is not looking super sturdy. It needs some work. She has spent more than a year looking for people who would give her three quotes. It is a small job but an important job. She has come up with some quotes and they vary in their amount. She would like the Board to see if they can pool together any kinds of funds to get it done. She is hoping to get it done for under \$4,000.00. P. LaRochelle stated that the quotes vary as far as work. He stated that one of the things they need to think about is that we are in a default this year. Things have been very tight. J. Houser stated that she had been working on this for more than a year and is very frustrated. She is hearing that she may not have had to actually get the bids. She has no idea what the Town or the staff are working on. She understands that this is not a priority. P. LaRochelle stated that he did take a look at it very closely. In his opinion the roofing material needs to be removed. The cupola needs to be taken down and scraped and redone. As far as everything else like the posts and decking are looking very good. D. Carter asked if there are cedar shakes on the roof. J. Houser stated that there is and

it is breaking the hearts of some of the Garden Club but three tab architectural shingles will seal those joints better and last longer. She is not going to try and put a cedar shake roof on it. R. Heath asked if it is agreeable with the Board he did talk to the Public Works Director and if they would put a cap of \$2,500.00 on the Town side of things then he can work with J. Houser through the donation and the Town's match to get as much if not all of the work done by talking to the various contractors. There is a line for Ginny Douglas. There is only \$100.00 in it right now. D. Carter spent some time reviewing the expense reports and we seem to be doing very well at managing the money.

N. Buonopane made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$2,500.00 for the repair and restoration of Ginny Douglas Park and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Ladder Truck Replacement Options

J. Reinert Fire Chief approached the table. He would like to discuss some options on the Ladder Truck replacement. One option would be to purchase a brand new aerial truck as has been presented previously. It would probably be in the ballpark of \$1.7 - 1.8 million dollars. The second potential option is a refurbished truck. There is no solid price on it right now but probably \$750,000.00 - \$1,000,000.00. The biggest issue would be some of the manufacturers are no longer in business. The third option would be to look at another used aerial apparatus that would fit our needs for 10 or 15 years. If you find a truck that is within that time frame they typically go pretty quick. He has been working with the Town Administrator to see if the Board would be in agreement to put a deposit down to go and inspect a truck to see if it meets our needs and come back to the Board for a potential purchase of a good truck. They have to be very specific when it comes to size. Length and height make a difference. P. LaRochelle asked what kind of deposit he is looking for. J. Reinert has not had to do this before. R. Heath stated that in the past the DPW has put down refundable deposits in order for the Town mechanic to go and look at the vehicle. They would be proposing that the money come from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve which currently has \$1.7 million in there right now. D. Carter asked if these things need to be certified. J. Reinert explained the different certifications that are needed for the trucks. D. Carter asked what size of truck they are looking for. J. Reinert stated that they are currently using a 100 foot truck. They can get anywhere from 77 - 100 foot in the station. D. Carter asked if the current ladder that they have now is functioning. J. Reinert stated that it is currently functioning it is a 1999. It just went for inspection and failed. It was for mechanical stuff. P. LaRochelle asked if there was a certain amount of axles that they can have. J. Reinert stated that is correct. They can only fit a single axle in the station right now. D. Carter asked the Chief if he figured out what the absolute most he would feel comfortable spending on a ladder truck. J. Reinert stated that he would probably not go over \$700,000.00. He explained that the CIP Plan will need to be updated for inflation.

P. LaRochelle made a motion they approve the Fire Chief and Town Administrator to enter into a search for fire apparatus that is needed for an ariel truck coming out of the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve with a cap of a refundable \$50,000.00 deposit D. Carter would like other expenses such as travel, etc. included in the amount and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. NH Coop Concerns

D. Shea stated that he would like to discuss an email from a resident about the power outage. Alton outages were three times as many as surrounding towns. He would like to invite the Coop to come before the Board and explain the situations and possible causes and what measures they might be planning or could offer to improve service. Discussion ensued about certain areas in Town with repeat outages. R. Heath stated that the data in that particular email was severely understated.

Old Business

1. Fire Department - Equipment Purchase Request

J. Reinert, Fire Chief remained at the table. He stated that the ambulance will be delivered sooner than expected. We are looking at a November delivery dates. We need to look at the additional equipment needed. Monitors, radios, etc. The total is about \$43,407.88. They are looking to take the money out of the Ambulance Revolving Fund. Most of the items are from Zoll and Knox. P. LaRochelle asked about the refurbished. J. Reinert stated that is correct. They are looking to keep costs down. The warranty on the monitor was discussed.

N. Buonopane made a motion to appropriate the amount of \$43,407.88 out of the Ambulance Revolving Fund which currently has a balance of \$737,560.00 for the purchase of the Zoll X series monitor, new Kenwood mobile radio, and the Knox box vault and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the amount.

N. Buonopane made an amendment to his original motion that it the monitor has a 5 year warranty and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Water Interest Removal Request - 3 and 13 Riverlake Street

R. Heath stated that a couple of meetings ago there was some email correspondence about the same properties. One is an office building and another is a rental unit. They received a bill for excessive water usage. The Board decided to give the option to have the meter sent out for testing for failure or faulty reading. We offered to send the meter out. The owner stated that the meter was correct and his tenant was not willing to admit to the problem had occurred. The owner feels since it has taken so long for any resolution he is asking for the interest charges to be waived in the amount of \$134.60.

D. Carter made a motion to waive the interest charges and allow 60 days to pay the outstanding balance due any additional interest charges that will occur will also be waived and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Swap Shop

R. Shea wanted to make sure that at the next meeting they would review the possible locations for the Swap Shop. They would like to determine if the Board would like to do a site visit. P. LaRochelle stated that it was determined at the last meeting that is what they were going to do. R. Heath stated they would meet at 5:00 pm and recess from there and return to Town Hall.

P. LaRochelle would like to add to the discussion. He would like to stop at the Senior Center and review and look for possible options if there is time. He would like the Board to look at the Senior Center for a possible location for the Swap Shop for the size of the parking lot and a place for social activities as well.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter asked if there is any information about when the Budget Committee will meet. There are only three members. He would like to put on the record that he is disappointed that a Town that rejects a budget and in response nobody is interested in actually participating to develop the budget.

R. Shea stated that the Milfoil Committee is pretty well wrapped up and turned out well and the Household Hazardous Waste Committee continues to move forward.

A. Morse stated that the CIP will be meeting next week.

N. Buonopane stated that the ZAC Committee went well and Planning Board is next Tuesday.

P. LaRochelle stated that the Old Home Day Committee met last week and the events are currently happening.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the next meeting falls on the State Primary. It will need to be rescheduled. It is the consensus of the Board to move it to September 9.

R. Heath stated that he is reminding the Board of their attendance at the State Primary. There needs to be a schedule so as to avoid having too many members there at once.

R. Heath stated that the Emergency Operations Plan will be on the next agenda for adoption. He will have it emailed out ahead of time for their perusal. It goes on file with the State and Federal Government.

R. Heath stated that he received correspondence from the State in reference to the Route 11 culvert replacement. The State is now requesting financial assistance to move the water line. There was no talk at either meeting that they made their presentations at. The State sent an invoice to the Water Department in the amount of \$6,800.00. The Water Department can do it for far less than the State. He did push back with several options and have not heard back as of yet.

R. Heath stated that the Conservation Commission wants to apply again for the 3/19 Grant. We have applied for it three years in a row. We have not succeeded in achieving it. They want to apply again this year. It is specific to Mill Pond. They need letter of support to be updated.

R. Heath stated that the last item pertains to a cracked septic pipe in the basement. He queried the Board. There were no leaks. They were able to expose the pipe all the way and the plan is to replace it with PVC on Friday when the building is closed.

Approval of Minutes

July 23, 2024 Public Session

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024 Public Session and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

July 23, 2024 Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024 Non-Public Session releasing #1 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for August 13, 2024 as presented and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. **Notice of Limitations/Waiver of Liability**

35 Farmington Road, Map 50 Lot 33
24 Basin Road, Map 18 Lot 27
17 Basin Road, Map 48 Lot 24

2. **Assessing Consent Items**

Timber Taxes

Schaeffer; Map 8 Lot 18-4; 197 Frank C Gilman HWY; \$17.93
Lamper; Map 8 Lot 26; L/O Frank C Gilman HWY; \$485.94

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 would like to have the font on the agendas larger. She stated that she is not super clear on the gazebo. Is it going to be done in house. R. Heath stated that they can meet tomorrow and sort it out. J. Houser would like to address the Swap Shop. Traffic can back up Old Wolfeboro Road. Social wise she loves going to the dump.

C. Shea approached the table. There is only one means of egress. The fire escape needs to have a sign.

K. Sullivan approached the table. She appreciates what they are doing about Ginny Douglas. She appreciates that the Swap Shop is still on the agenda and being discussed. She believes they have been kicking the ladder truck down the line for a number of years. It is necessary for the Town. She explained the baseball game between the Fire Department and Police Department. The Fire Department always falls on the short end of the stick.

Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

N. Buonopane moved at 7:37 pm to adjourn. A. Morse seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary