

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
August 27, 2024
(Approved - September 24, 2024)

Convene: On-Site Meeting at Alton Transfer Station, 74 Hurd Hill Road, Alton, NH

Recess: To Return to Town Hall

Chairman P. LaRochelle reconvened 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 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.
- 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)

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Friends of Alton Parks & Recreation - Jone Field Update/Request

J. Houser and C. Diveny approached the table. C. Diveny stated that as a committee of Parks and Rec for over 2 years now, they are looking at creating, upgrading the existing playground at Jones Field in that area. They are trying to hit the community surveying people.

They've finally organized and got a thumbs up to move ahead to create a 501C3 to raise funds. They feel like they have a pretty good basic plan and are getting ready to go out into the Community.

In order to move ahead with the usability study, the main question is may we utilize Mr. Larochelle's and Mr. Morse's names on our cover letter.

P. LaRochelle and A. Morse have no objection with the Committee using their names on the cover letter.

Old Business

1. Fire Department - Ambulance Equipment Update

J. Reinert, Fire Chief approached the table. He would like to give the Board an update about the warranty on the cardiac monitor. If a refurbished unit is purchased, then there is a six-month warranty and a new unit would come with a 12-month warranty. If a refurbished unit is purchased, you are able to purchase an extended warranty for \$1,800.00 a year or \$7,500.00 for five years.

Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of buying a refurbished unit with a six-month warranty or an extended warranty.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to purchase a refurbished unit with a six-month warranty and N. Buonopane seconded with 3 in favor and 2 against (DC, RS).

2. Emergency Operations Plan 2024 - Adoption/Approval

R. Heath stated that this Plan has been sent out to the Selectmen as well as posted on the website. This plan has been updated. This is a working document.

D. Carter made a motion to adopt the Emergency Operations Plan 2024 and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Swap Shop Site Visit Discussion

R. Shea stated that they have had a number of discussions regarding the swap shop, and he thinks it's generally safe to say that we've given a lot of consideration to a number of concerns. One of the proposals that came forth that I had not initially given any consideration at all to was rather than locating the swap shop at the recycling center, where it had been in the past, we consider locating it at the Senior Center.

As for the transfer station, location would be affected by the amount of sitework and preparation we'd have to do and the cost of bringing power to the swap shop if we elected to do that, which is certainly desirable.

P. LaRochelle stated that R. Shea and D. Carter have done an excellent job in their research. He has thought a lot about it and talked to numerous people. He went through some of the steps that would need to be done at the Transfer Station. He asked the Board to stop at the Senior Center on the way back from the Transfer Station tonight. He went through all of the pros if the Swap Shop were located at the Senior Center.

R. Shea stated that either location will work. There is an attraction with lower cost at the Senior Center location. He is under the understanding that work done at the Transfer Station could be covered by the existing Capital Reserve. Most people he has talked to give no consideration to any other location.

N. Buonopane stated that the other benefit at the Senior Center would be the hours. It wouldn't be limited to the hours that the Transfer Station is open.

P. LaRochelle stated there are ways that the Swap Shop should be run at the Senior Center.

A. Morse stated that the biggest thing is the amount of money to do it at the Senior Center versus the Transfer Station.

It was the consensus of the Board to table this until the next meeting.

Selectmen Reports

D. Carter stated that the Budget Committee meeting was cancelled.

R. Shea gave an update about the Milfoil Committee and the Household Hazardous Waste meeting.

A. Morse had nothing to report.

N. Buonopane had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to thank everyone involved with the Old Home Day and the Water Bandstand Committee for putting on the Water Ski Show.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the first thing is a Budget Committee update. The last meeting had to be cancelled due to not having a quorum. We are working to set up another meeting.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is that he talked to the local supervisors at NH Electric Coop in reference to issues that have been happening with power. He invited them to speak at a future meeting.

R. Heath stated that the next thing is the short work weeks with two days off were previously discussed. There was never any formal vote taken at the time.

P. LaRochelle made a motion that we don't have the case where we have only two work days during the week and N. Buonopane seconded with 2 yes and 3 nays (DC, RS, AM). Motion failed.

R. Heath stated that there needs to be a Public Hearing in order to receive the FEMA Funds. It is the consensus of the Board to have it during the September 24, 2024 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

August 13, 2024 - Public Session

D. Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2024 Public Session and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for August 27, 2024 as presented and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Water Department

Sanborn, Carol	Map 27 Lot 3-2	Energy Assistance Paid on Account	Refund \$311.55
Mains, Mike & Michelle	6 Jewett Farm	Billed for \$110.00	Credit \$44.39 to Account

2. Assessing Consent Items

Timber Taxes

Peak Properties LLC; Map 11 Lot 13-32; L/O Highpoint Drive; \$3.26

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

Daniel Campano - Water Dispute

D. Carter made a motion to waive the late fees

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

J. Houser approached the table. She stated that the Swap Shop has always been a collaboration. She hopes that at the next meeting there will be an idea of where the money is coming from.

J. Gregory approached the table. She would like it to be at the Transfer Station.

J. Blackwood approached the table. She really appreciates all of the great ideas but there are two reasons why it won't work at the Senior Center. It will be an added burden to the Police and there would be money for it at the Transfer Station.

B. Dodge approached the table. She wants to get the Swap Shop going and feels that the Senior Center would be an extra trip.

K. Sullivan approached the table. She thanked the Board for all of their approvals tonight.

D. Richardson approached the table. She would like the numbers for the difference in costs since closing the Swap shop. The Senior Center came up unannounced.

C. Diveny approached the table. She asked if anyone had reached out to Primex in reference to the liability of the Swap Shop.

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:55 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel matters) and L (legal advice). 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 7:55 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 9:05 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. A. Morse 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.

P. LaRochelle motioned to reclassify the Water Operator Grade I position to a minimum of \$25.40 per hour, resulting in a wage adjustment for current Water Operator I, Dominic Viscariello, to \$26.49 per hour. Drew Carter seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary**