

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
December 9, 2025
Approved January 13, 2026

Chairman N. Buonopane convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

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

The following staff members were present:

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

Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and N. Buonopane 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. NH DOT - NH Route 11 at Rand Hill Road

Bill Lambert, NHDOT State Highway Safety Administrator, approached the table. They are here to talk about the intersection of Route 11 and Rand Hill Road. He read the NH State Safety Mission. He stated there is a long history of this intersection. They have been trying to decide what to do with it. There is a sharp curve because of the lake. There has been some concern from the business owner of Foster's Tavern. He would like to talk about potential measures that can be taken. The issue is when most people want to continue on to Rand Hill Road. There used to be a crosswalk going from the Busy Corner Store to the Post Office and back across to what used to be the Chinese restaurant. The main concern is the traffic light that was taken out in a crash and has not been replaced. One of the issues is that the location of the pole for the beacon was on private property. There are a lot of physical constraints with this intersection. Possible counter measures are one would be Rand Hill Road being one-way, signal control, and all way stop control. He reached out to several states in reference to all way stops. He explained the data. He intersection is within the range for an all way stop. He explained some of the ways that the all way stop can be done. If there is a local need and the Selectmen support this then a letter of support needs to be written. R. Shea asked if a regular traffic signal would be an option. B. Lambert stated that you would need significant traffic from Rand Hill Road to trigger it. It would also cost up to \$1,000,000.00. A. Morse stated that the double yellow lines look like they are going straight up Rand Hill Road and not curving. He also said that the flashing light that was there worked as well. P. LaRochelle stated that with an all way stop the traffic that would back up would be an issue especially near the two marinas. He feels that the blinking light overhead did work. B. Lambert stated that one of the issues with the beacon is that the pole was on private property and they were not able to get permission to replace it. N. Buonopane stated that he understands about the stop signs but the traffic backup would be substantial. He agrees about the lines being continued with the curve along with re-installing the beacon. P. LaRochelle stated that he agrees with that but also suggests a sign that stated curve ahead. B. Lambert stated that sign space is at a premium. Discussion ensued about various measures that can be taken to resolve this issue. R. Heath raised concerns about the all way stop signs as well. P. LaRochelle stated that a sign with "right turn ahead" would be a good idea also. D. Carter asked if there were any easements done for the property that had the pole. B. Lambert stated that those type of things were not done that way back in the day. R. Heath stated that he can reach out to the property owner and see if anything is feasible.

2. DPW - 2026 Ground Water Management and Landfill Monitoring Services

S. Garland, DPW Director approached the table. He stated that this is to maintain our compliance with Groundwater Management Permit. It is all of the testing that is required for 2026. There are 22 monitoring wells and 3 private wells. It is very standard.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve \$14,213.00 to come out of the Landfill Monitoring CRF to pay for the Groundwater Management Landfill Monitoring for 2026 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Fire Department - Ambulance Billing Procedure

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, approached the table. He gave a brief overview of the changes he would like to make to the Ambulance billing procedures. R. Heath stated that it will be on the agenda for the next meeting. He would like to push it out so the Board has time to read and familiarize themselves with the changes.

4. 2026 Warrant Articles

R. Heath stated that there are two different copies of Warrant Articles on the table for them tonight. One includes all of the Warrant Articles and the other does not contain any of the CIP recommended articles.

Article #: Benefit Pay Capital Reserve Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Benefit Pay Capital Reserve Trust Fund, previously established in 2000. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)

D. Carter asked if this amount can be lowered. L. Parker stated that it could be lowered to \$30,000.00.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Benefit Pay Capital Reserve Trust Fund Warrant Article for \$30,000.00 and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Town Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$10,791,640.00. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$9,795,561.00, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles voted separately. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$4.78)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Town Operating Budget Warrant Article and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Water Works Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600,916.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution system for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by users' fees. Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be \$590,653.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. This article does not affect the tax rate and is funded by the end users. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0)

R. Shea asked of the word "fully" can be added before the word "offset" in line two.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Water Works Operating Budget Warrant as amended Article and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 216,500.00 to be added to the following capital reserve funds previously established:

Police Building Expansion CRF	\$20,000.00
Rock and Asphalt Crushing CRF	\$12,000.00
Building Department Vehicle CRF	\$3,500.00
Assessing Department Vehicle CRF	\$3,500.00
Highway Sand Shed CRF	\$10,000.00
Sidewalk CRF	\$15,000.00
Senior Center Building CRF	\$20,000.00
Town Owned Parking Area CRF	\$20,000.00
Environmental CRF	\$20,000.00
Transfer Station Building & Site Improvements CRF	\$20,000.00
Jones Field CRF	\$12,500.00

Milfoil Treatment Program CRF	\$15,000.00
Alton Bay Community Center CRF	\$20,000.00
Water Bandstand CRF	\$5,000.00
Landfill Closure CRF	\$20,000.00

Said funds to be raised through taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required). (The estimated tax impact is \$0.10)

R. Heath stated that the Police Building Expansion CRF, Building Department Vehicle CRF, Assessing Department CRF, and the Highway Sand Shed CRF can be eliminated for this year and still be okay.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations Warrant Article for \$179,500.00 as amended and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in 1973. Recommended by the Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.22)

Article #: Fire Stations Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 to be added to the Fire Stations Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2005. This fund is utilized in conjunction with the capital improvement plan for the replacement of Fire Department buildings. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.13)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Fire Stations Capital Reserve Warrant Article and P. LaRochelle seconded with 4 in favor and 1 against (RS).

Article #: Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2014. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Highway Building Improvements/Repairs Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1995. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.04)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1981. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.07)

It was decided to remove this for this year.

Article #: Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 to be added to the Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2018. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.03)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Retaining Wall Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Grounds & Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 to be added to the Grounds & Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2019. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-) Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)

R. Heath stated that this can be changed to \$25,000.00.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Grounds & Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article as amended and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve fund, as previously established in 2011. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.01)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Town Hall Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: New Riverside Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the New Riverside Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 2023. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the New Riverside Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,450,000.00 to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 1998. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$205,233.00. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the Maintenance of existing roadways. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required.) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.64)

D. Carter made a motion to approve the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and N. Buonopane seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: IT Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 to be added to the IT Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established in 2020. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)

R. Heath stated that this can be reduced to \$20,000.00.

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the IT Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article as amended and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 to be added to the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 2025. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing, equipping, repairing, and replacing police vehicles; and to raise and appropriate \$40,000.00 to be placed in this fund; and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend from this reserve fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.02)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of performing a statistical update revaluation of the Town every five years pursuant to RSA 75:8-a. and to raise and appropriate \$126,000.00 to be placed in this fund; and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend from this reserve fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.06)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Fire Department Occupational Health Screenings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Department Occupational Health Screenings Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of providing fire department personnel with comprehensive job related medical examinations and early detection health screenings and to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 to be placed in this fund; and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend from this reserve fund. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (-). Recommended by the Budget Committee (-). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$0.00)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Fire Department Occupational Health Screenings Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Article #: Nonprofits

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,625.00 for the purpose of supporting the following nonprofits and their individual appropriations:

Alton Community Services	\$18,000.00
American Red Cross	\$2,000.00
Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc.	\$2,000.00
Granite VNA & Hospice	\$12,000.00
Community Action Program (CAP)	\$3,300.00 **** (10k requested reduced for rent owed) ***
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$500.00
Lakes Region Mental Health Center fka Genesis	\$15,750.00
Life Ministries, Inc.	\$3,000.00
New Beginnings	\$1,575.00
Waypoint fka Child and Family Services	\$2,500.00

D. Carter stated that he does not like that all of the Non-Profits are lumped together in one Warrant Article. There are some that residents agree with and some that they don't. R. Heath stated that he has reduced the amount for Community Action Program because they have not paid rent for the use of the Senior Center for sometime now.

Article #27: Town Hall Metal Roof

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to purchase and install a new metal roof on the Town Hall and prevent further water damage. Said metal roof shall be consistent with the style and era of the Town Hall. \$55,000.00 to come from the Clough-Morrill Trust and the remaining \$45,000.00 to come from the Town Hall Capital Reserve. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-0). (Majority vote required) (The estimated tax impact is \$.0)

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Town Hall Metal Roof Warrant Article and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

None

Town Administrator Report

None

Selectmen Reports/Questions

D. Carter stated that he is not able to attend the Budget Committee Public Hearing on January 7 and asked if anyone could step in for him. R. Shea stated that he would be able to.

R. Shea stated that he has been able to attend several meetings for anything from Zoning to Budget Committee.

A. Morse had nothing to report. He would like to thank all of the Department Heads for the Budgets that they prepared. They did a wonderful job.

P. LaRochelle stated that he had a ZBA meeting.

N. Buonopane had nothing to report.

Approval of Minutes

November 25, 2025 - Public Session

R. Shea made a motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2025 Public Session and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

N. Buonopane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for December 9, 2025 and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Fire Department

Charles DeCoff, Firefighter to FF/EMT, \$17.95/hr to \$19.45/hr, Effective 12/1/2025

2. Solid Waste

2026 Solid Waste Holiday Schedule

3. Building Department

New Hire, Lisa Partington, Building Department Administrative Assistant, \$20.17/hr., Effective 12/15/2025

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)*

L. Carr approached the table. He asked if they are going to give the Fire Department the Capital Reserve and N. Buonopane stated that they are not. L. Carr stated that he is concerned about that. He would like the Board to reconsider. He stated that he has a Solar Exemption. Last year's Warrant Article that was passed stated that it was originally passed in 1985. He looked and it is not in that year.

J. Houser approached the table. She stated that some Town residents have seen things that are perceived wrong such as the installment of LED signs, the K9 at the Police Department. They think there is more wiggle room than there actually is. The Budget Committee had several conversations about improving communications.

Non-Public Session

N. Buonopane moved at 8:56 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, I (legal advice). A. Morse seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes

R. Shea - yes
Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 8:56 pm Chairman N. Buonopane 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. MacArthur, Planner

J. MacArthur left the room

A. Morse moved at 10:19 pm to exit the nonpublic session. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes

R. Shea - yes
Roll call vote carried unanimously.

N. Buonopane 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. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes N. Buonopane III - yes
D. Carter - yes A. Morse - yes

R. Shea - yes
Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Adjournment