

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
March 18, 2026
(Approved - April 14, 2026)

Vice-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, Vice-Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman, Excused
Richard Shea, Selectman
Drew Carter, Selectmen
Jack Sleeper, Selectmen, Excused
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Reorganization of the Board

P. LaRochelle stated that the Reorganization of the Board will be postponed until there is a full Board present.

Agenda Approval

R. Heath stated that #2 under New Business, the Revaluation Contract will be pushed until the next meeting. Also, the Town Hall Roof Bid is still being compiled at this time and add Mill Pond under the Alton Dam Drawdown Discussion.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and R. Shea 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. **DPW -Proposed 2026 Paving Bid - Request**

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table. He stated that last year was the final year for the contract with GMI. He would like to put the Paving back out to bid using the same process. He listed the roads that he is looking to pave. It will be approximately 7.2 miles of roadway. R. Shea asked if he has any idea if the cost of paving products will go up sharply. S. Garland stated that he would expect to see a slight increase over last year. It has been steady so far. R. Shea asked if there have been any significant request from residents to pave roads that are not on this list. S. Garland stated that there are other roads that people would like to have paved but not multiple people for one road.

R. Shea made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director to solicit bids for the 2026 Alton paving season in accordance with the documentation presented this evening and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. **Assessing Department - Revaluation Contract**

Removed from the agenda

3. **Water Department - Public Hearing Request - Rate Increases**

C. Mitchell, Water Superintendent, approached the table. She would like to ask the Board to entertain a Public Hearing for proposed adjustments to the Water Rates for 2026 to 2029. She explained that the need for this was discussed when Tighe and Bond came in a did their presentation. The rates have not changed since 2020. Everything from chemicals, electricity, fuel, etc. have gone up. Maintaining those rates over several years has resulted in the revenues not keeping pace with the infrastructure needs. The discussion needs to take place. D. Carter asked about the Capital Reserve and if money is being set aside for the tank repairs. C. Mitchell stated that there has not been anything put into the Capital Reserve because they are over expending their budget.

D. Carter made a motion to have the Water Department have a Public Hearing to discuss rate increases for the upcoming 2026-2029 estimates on April 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

4. Roberts & Greene, PLLC - Auditors Report

R. Heath stated that included in the packet is the cover letter from the auditor. This is their overview through December 31, 2024 audit. There is summary paperwork in the binders and the full audit is available in the Read File. D. Carter wanted to state that the cover letters are key. If they identify concerns it would be in the letter. There appears to be none.

5. E911 - Road Name Request - Revival Way

P. LaRochelle stated that this is at the Alton Bay Christina Conference Center.

D. Carter made a motion to approve the road name for Revival Way and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

6. Budget & Voting Results - Discussion

R. Heath stated that on the table there was a breakdown put together from Finance. It is a comparison line by line of what the proposed 2026 Operating Budget is and what the 2026 Default Budget is. The reason for this is to have a discussion. He wanted to give the Board options on how they want to proceed. He explained that this of for the budget as well as the warrant article for the Revaluation. The Revaluation is state required. It needs to be done this year and if it is not done the State could start fining us. There is another email on the table from Town Counsel. He had a conversation with Town Counsel with this being the third year of Default Budget. Town Counsel stated that there are three things to do. One, circle the wagons and move on as is. Two, the Town can take on a special meeting for a revised budget, which would mean going through the whole voting process again. There is a timeframe that needs to be followed. The cost for a special meeting would be about \$5,000.00. He explained what would be involved in setting up for a new election for one warrant article. P. LaRochelle stated that he has a hard time making a decision on this without a full Board. R. Heath stated that he would like to have the Department Heads here at the next meeting with their modified budgets. It will not commit the Board to a special meeting.

R. Heath stated that he spoke to A. Morse and he would not be back in Town until midnight next Tuesday and was wondering if they could push the meeting to Wednesday night. He did reach out to J. Sleeper and he would be alright with that. R. Shea stated that he would not be able to make it next Wednesday. It was the consensus of the Board to have the meeting next Tuesday.

7. Proposed Town Hall Roof Bid - Request

Removed from the agenda

Old Business

1. Alton Dam Drawdown Discussion/Mill Pond

S. Garland, DPW Director approached the table again. There was a lot of feedback about the presentation that Fish and Game and DES did on the dam drawdown. Conservation Commission had some concerns that they put into a letter. They requested some advanced testing of Mill Pond before the drawdown happens. As a result, the Board was polled for their support for the Conservation Commission's concerns and a letter was drafted in support of the Conservation Commission's requests. As a result, DES responded with a letter dated March 12. It is addressed to the Board of Selectmen in response. P. LaRochelle stated that the letter states that they are not going to do the drawdown all at once but in stages. R. Heath stated that they are breaking down the processes. He believes what they are trying to say is that they don't believe it will carry down sediment. There has also been concerns from the Water Department sent to Fish and Game and DES with additional concerns. D. Carter stated that there was a representative at the last Con Comm meeting who did explain more of what was going to happen.

S. Garland stated that he was asked to put a pause on the Mill Pond Project. The plans are back and the survey is done. It looks like they will be able to put in the four bay on the inlet side so it would be directly across from School Street. It will fall on Town property. He would like to continue. The plans from Tighe and Bond are about 90% complete. The only thing left is submitting the permits to the State. It is anticipated to be a 60 day turn around time for approval.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath had nothing to report.

R. Shea stated that there was a letter from a resident that lives across the street from Dunkin Donuts. R. Heath stated that the concerns that the resident has is an ongoing issue. His requests are enforcement actions on behalf of the Police Department.

Selectmen Reports/Questions

D. Carter

Approval of Minutes

February 18, 2026 - Public Session

Tabled - Not enough Board members to approve

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for March 18, 2026 as presented and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Sales and Solicitation License Application

Alton Youth League – 2026-2027 Baseball Season Snack Shack

2. Employee Handbook

Rescind 5.5 Firearms and Weapons

3. Milfoil Committee

Elizabeth Sheehan, 3 year term, Expires March 2029

4. Parks and Rec Commission

Kenneth Robertts, 3 year term, Expires March 2029

5. DPW

Kyle Place, LEOI/Assistant Mech, \$25.00/hr, 2/23/2026

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)*

Recording stopped No Public Participation was recorded.

Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

D. Carter made a motion at 7:40 pm to adjourn the meeting and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.