ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
July 28, 2026
(Approved – September 9, 2026)

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:

The following staff members were present:

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

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle stated that there shouldn't be two July 14, 2026 – Non-Public minutes. The Non needs to be removed from the first set. D. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda for July 28, 2026 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.

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

A. Burns approached the table. He has several questions in regard to the Vessel Rack on Blueberry Lane. He has several questions. He would like to know who will be responsible for cleaning and who would be responsible for policing. He stated that there appears to be erosion already in the new construction area.

J. Geleas approached the table. He is one of the abutters to Blueberry Lane. He is dead set against this recreation vessel lift. He stated that the Town and he had an agreement in October 2025. He stated that he started this in 2019. He allowed the water to be rerouted onto his property. If the Town would allow this boat rack then he would not be in agreement with it.

D. Collins approached the table. He lives on Blueberry Lane. He utilizes it for boating and fishing. He takes his boat down. He doesn't like the idea of the rack at all. He would like to know where they will be parking.

Appointments

Blueberry Lane – Temporary Placement of Recreational Vessel Rack

A. Sakalyte approached the table. She heard a lot of concerns from people tonight in regards to parking and trash. Blueberry Lane is at the end of Alton Shores Road. It was improved by the Town last year to divert water. There are people in the area that are using it to access Hill Pond. They are talking about 6 to 12 maximum kayaks so they would not be laying on the shoreline now. The people who will be accessing it they are the same people who already live in the neighborhood and they're walking there. Most of them are dragging them up and down the hill. She stated that they would be financed by the group and put up by the group, this is not a permanent rack. This is a temporary rack that would be put up in the beginning of season and taken down by the volunteers, they would put up a sign stating the rules. They will have somebody go out once a week at least. There's always people going down there anyway, who are using it to kind of monitor to make sure it's neat in regards to parking. She doesn't see an issue in terms of parking that they're not asking to put an extra parking or to allow parking. So the same rules would stay in effect for parking.

P. LaRochelle stated that he thinks we should look into the agreement that was originally drawn and written. We'd like to look at that and see what we're dealing with down there and actually take a take a ride over there and take a look at the conditions of what it looks like now being 40 feet wide, and if there is any erosion going on right now, if something needs to be looked at. So we have a few factors to look into.

New Business

1. Boston Post Cane – Nomination

R. Heath stated that we received this nomination for the Boston Kane Award for your review this evening.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to just accept the nomination for Corinne Greeley Smith for the Boston Post Cane nomination and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Police Department – Motorcycle Loan Payoff

A. Painchaud, Police Chief, and B. Tolios, Lieutenant, approached the table. He stated that he brought a proposal to pay off the police motorcycles. A little back story on this. B. Tolios, Lieutenant, brought this to his attention pretty recently, as we're due for our annual lease payment through Manchester Harley-Davidson and had showed him the interest that we're paying on these. The Town got two 2018 Harley-Davidson police package motorcycles Chief Heath had purchased those back in 2017, we were on an annual lease. Every year we'd get new ones, but the Manchester Harley-Davidson and Harley ended that program. The Town opted to buy the motorcycles back then through kind of a handshake deal through Manchester Harley-Davidson. They're very gracious to allow us to continue that with the payments right now. Right now, with interest, we're just making a lump annual payment towards that and we're essentially paying almost just under $1000 in interest annually and we still have several more years to go if we just stay with that plan. So just as the Lt. mentioned, there's the motivation here is save the Town probably a few $1000. The Detail Revolving Account, which currently has a balance of about $130,000 in it, will be used. It's a cool thing for the town to have these two bikes obviously we don't want to lose them, and the replacement cost to buy new is $33,000 a piece without all the police up fitting. So it just seemed fairly logical to just do it.

R. Shea made a motion to proceed with the motorcycle loan payoff in accordance with the Chiefs recommendations in the amount of $17,000 and the funding to come from the Police Detail Revolving Account and A. Morse seconded with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (DC) of the motion.

3. Police Department – Detail Rate Increase

A. Painchaud, Police Chief, and B. Tolios, Lieutenant, remained at the table. A. Painchaud stated that for the public certification, we do police details on a regular basis, we get several calls a week to do police details just leaving the PD tonight we got one for the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion. Most of the police detail requests that we get at the major majority are for road type of details, whether that's utility company, fiber company road work, things like that. That's the majority of the police details that we work. But we do do special events and things like that. Here we get a few detailed requests weekly, and it's not uncommon almost every day during the week we have A at least one, maybe 2 detail officers out there working, so it's fairly common as you know the police detail or the way it's funded, these contractors contract us, they pay a fee and the residual from that after the officer payout portion goes into our police detail revolving account, which is right now at current balance of $130,000, which is pretty healthy. They did a little study. Some officers have had come to the Lieutenant and myself and asked about our current detail rate and if there was a chance it could be reevaluated just based on what's common in the state right now. So right now we're at $63. Which is paid to the officer. We did a little research and the average in the state, so then that's all the police agencies in the state that reported at least right in the $70 per hour ballpark, the local agencies around us, it came out a little bit higher just under$ 71. Guilford PD for instance is $75.00 an hour. If it's an alcohol type of event like Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion for instance, they get $80.00 an hour. New Durham is at $75, Wolfeboro is at $63, which they're probably going to be going to their board here pretty soon on that. I would imagine Gilmanton's at $70, Laconia at $75, Barnstead at $70. The Sheriff's Department $65 and state police at $72. There's three portions of the detail rate you have the paid to the officer, which is $63 for us currently. And then you have two different other type of fees, one of them is a $21.00 cruiser fee. Most of the details, the major majority of them that require a car with the police officer, especially on the side of the road, whereas working at the. There's an administrative fee of $21.00, and that's to cover the process of coordinating the detail and all the other administrative functions are associated with doing the detail. So what we're proposing to bring us up to the average and sustain us for the next 2-3 years, however long that is, is to bring us up on par with Guilford, Laconia, New Durham for instance, and bring us up to that $75 ballpark. That's what we're proposing. I can tell you there's a lot of times we get a detail request and we just can't fill it because our patrol schedule has priority. So we'll farm it out to other agencies. We'll contact the local agencies and say, hey, we got details available if anybody wants to work them, that's pretty common that we can't fill all our details, but I think it's a reasonable request to get us up at least on par with everybody else and sustained so we're not having this conversation every year. I think we only have three officers. Sergeant Clinton, Corporal Hunter and Kane, and Officer Johnson that they when they work at detail, there's a portion of their retirement needs to be worked into the calculation where all the other police officers.

D. Carter asked how much would be needed to cover retirement and other costs associated with that. A. Painchaud stated that those officers are under a different retirement band than our part-time police officers, obviously that doesn't apply. So basically we have three officers. When those three officers, working with the detail, there's a portion of it that needs to be paid by that.

J. Sleeper made a motion to approve the Alton Police Department detail rate increase to increase the detail rate to $75.00 for the officer and $24 for the admin fee, and $21 for the cruiser fee and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. Police Department – NH Safety Grant 2027

A. Painchaud, Police Chief, and B. Tolios, Lieutenant, remained at the table. A. Painchaud stated that they get money grant money every year. We're here tonight to renew that. Historically over the years we've gotten grant money from the State to do specific highway enforcement events. These targeted patrols are DWI patrols, speed patrols, buckle up patrols for the Under 18 crowd, and also hands free. We've been taking advantage of this for a number of years. There's some discretion on our part of

when we do them. The State also pushes out guidance on when they want them done. Like Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights. They want DWI patrols out there. There are some targeted nights like New Year's the day before Thanksgiving. Saint Patrick's Day. The grant amount this year is the same as it's been, I think, for a number of years, which is $10,500. There is a 25% soft match.

P. LaRochelle made a motion then to accept the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of $10,500 and to give permission to the Town Administrator to sign for the Highway safety grant and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. MS-535

R. Heath stated that the MS-535 basically is the accounting and auditing of the town. This is the NH Department of Revenue Administration fund. It is a DRA worksheet that we are required to accept and submit. Not only was our audit fine, but looking on the very last page that's talking about the General Fund balance reconciliation sheet and you'll notice, even though that the Board had approved to offset the tax rate using That we our fund balances back at the beginning fund equity on the last line is $5,251,317.00. We're still back up over 5.2 million even with paying down the tax rate.

It is the consensus of the Board to accept the MS-535 as presented.

3. DPW – Roberts Cove Bridge Replacement Project Recap

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table. He stated that the Roberts Cove Bridge replacement project began as scheduled on Monday, July 6th, 2026 at 6:00 AM, with the closure of Roberts Cove Rd. Immediately following the closure, DPW staff removed the existing wooden guard rails saw cut the asphalt and assisted MA Bean associates with the demolition and hauling off of materials. Throughout the first week, the old concrete bridge was removed and the new footings were excavated and poured, and the deteriorated Granite Bridge deck was removed and retained at the highway barn. During the week of July 13th, the crane was mobilized to set the new precast bridge sections with assistance from DPW staff, the bridge sections were installed, pinned, mortared, waterproofed, and a new guard rail system was completed. The bridge was then backfilled, fine graded in approximately 16,150 square feet of asphalt, was placed on July 16th. By 8:00 AM the following day, equipment and Rd. closure signs were removed and Roberts Cove Rd. was reopened to the public. This project was originally scheduled to take 17 working days, or 21 calendar days. Throughout the outstanding teamwork of MA Bean Associates and our DPW staff, this project was completed in just eight working days, or 10 calendar days, allowing the road to be reopened 11 days ahead of schedule. The DPW staff played a significant role throughout the project by hauling materials, installing the New Guard rail system, assisting with Mortaring bridge joints, and providing general construction support. The original project estimate was $375,000, a single change order of $14,620 was required to account for increased additional material costs since 2023, primarily in the bridge components increases concrete bringing the contract total to $389,620. An additional $10,288.67 was spent on gravel, stone and asphalt, bringing the final project cost of $399,908.67 ninety $1.33 under the $400,000 authorized budget. I'd like to personally thank Ma being Associates and the dedicated members of our public works for their exceptional work on this much needed infrastructure project, their professionalism, teamwork and commitment allowed this bridge to be completed 11 days ahead of schedule and under budget despite working through heat advisories on some of the hottest days of the summer. The result is a high quality bridge that will safely serve the residents and visitors of all and for generations to come, and is expected to provide a service life of approximately 100 years or more. I would like to thank Mr. Bean. Under budget under time.

A. Morse stated that he would like to just reiterate, This is why we went with this guy.

4. Alton Power Dam – Update

R. Heath stated that he received some e-mail correspondence. He did at the Board's request, reach out to Fish and Game in New Hampshire, DES, about the possibility of Alton taking ownership of the Alton Power Dam. As you can see in the replies for right now. DES responded. They did advise that apparently under RSA 4:40 that in order for them to transfer ownership of the property that it had to be sold at current market value and would require a current appraisal. They did go on to point out the fact that. The town would have to take responsibility even after purchasing it for acquiring a high hazard dam and the state. The way he took their response is that we would be acquiring a high hazard dam and poor condition and we would be required to bring it into compliance with dam safety standards and it would require an investment of several millions of dollars. He did get a follow up response along the same chain of emails from Fish and Game, who reminded me that Fish and Game actually is the owner of the dam. He did receive a response from Fish and Game that basically this was the gentleman that was here during the presentation stated that he didn't really have much to add to what DES had already stated. But he did state that they would like to see what the drawdown looks like in the fall before any further discussion takes place and how far upstream water levels are impacted May influence what decision Fish and Game will make at the Alton Power Dam. I might add they also said that there would not just be the several million dollar range would also be a $3000 year annual dam registration fee. R. Heath will see if he can schedule something and see if they're willing to come and talk to us.

5. Town Hall Roof Bid

R. Heath stated that at the last meeting they discussed a few things and wanted to see some changes to the bid. They were talking about the half inch plywood and another 100 snow breaks and possibly for the half inch CDX plywood to be used instead of OSB. He did reach back out to the vendor and posed all the questions that we took notes on that day. What they came back

with that. He wanted to confirm that the dumpster and disposal costs are all included in the original bid, that is not an additional cost if we want to go up from 7/16 OSB to half inch plywood and another 100 snow breaks, bringing the total of the 200 snow breaks around the perimeter of the building. That addition would be $2500 for both if we wanted to go from the 7/16 plywood to half inch CDX and the additional 100 snow breaks, making the total 200. That addition to the CDX is $7500.

R. Shea made a motion that we award the contract for the town hall Reroofing project to Drew's Affordable Steel Roofing, in accordance with their quote that was received with the with the addition of the use of half inch CDX sheathing in space of 7/16 and with the contractor to follow exactly the manufacturers instruction as laid out in the manufacturers literature and additional snow blocks will be provided separately to be determined by the town in terms of the number needed for the sum of $106,469.00 plus the $7,500.00 for the CDX and an additional 100 snow blocks and P. LaRochelle seconded with four in favor and 1 opposed (JS).

6. Bay Hill Road – Discussion

R. Heath stated that in their packets they will see some minutes from a public hearing that was held on Bay Hill Rd. The topic came up because there was some discrepancy between the six ton load limit on Bay Hill Road. The section he is speaking of is only from 28 A to 28 this stretch, there was a six ton load limit. There is no travel during inclement weather listed. There was several conversations during that public hearing. I also found some discrepancies with the motion that was made and it contradicts the motion. You'll see it speaks of no through traffic or local traffic only and then a six ton load limit which are contradictory because local traffic only means no through trucking, even though it's a different terminology. The signage would be no through trucking. Seth and I had a conversation this afternoon and the highway regulations that are posted on our website specifically call out no through trucking on the stretch of 28 to 28 a in Bay Hill Road. Now mind you, this public hearing took place after those standards were put in place in 2010. This public hearing, I believe was 2021, but like I said, if you look down at the motion that was made by then Selectman McDonald and then a six ton load limit right afterwards. So it warranted a discussion because it was brought up again for the Board to look at it and possibly decide whether or not they want to revisit this to clarify it. The issue that came up as signage and DPW needs some guidance as to what signage it needs. It is going to get peppered with signs right now if we don't clarify how we want to go about doing that and there's a couple of ways that we can go about doing. I mean, one first and foremost, if you want, we can schedule another public hearing and talk about it and try to clarify it at a public hearing. There's enough here to bring it back up to public hearing again.

It is the consensus of the Board to hold a Public Hearing on September 9 for Bay Hill Road.

7. Hidden Springs – Update

P. LaRochelle read a statement:

This board has consulted legal counsel and our contract engineers firm, Tighe and Bond regarding the situation on Hidden Springs Rd. Based on the information and a lot of discussion, we have decided to proceed with the completion of the project as bid was awarded. At this time, we have not paid any money for the work or anything that has been done at this at this point. The contractor has agreed to continue as outlined in his bid specs to stump, grind and stabilize only the 11 acres covered under the alteration of terrain permit. We feel it is important to finish the scope of work before jumping to any conclusion as to what further might need to be done or addressed by proceeding and working with the contract that the town has not fortified its right to address any discrepancies on the site identified once we can fully assess the site conditions. Tighe and Bond is finalizing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and has indicated they plan to have it submitted by the end of the day today. Once submitted, there will be eligible for 14 day review period by state and federal agencies. If no further action is requested, we will be cleared to proceed. Tighe and Bond is also scheduled to delineate the 11 acres limits of work for grubbing tomorrow, July 28th using sub meter accuracy GPS equipment to field locate and mark the approved boundaries. Following the review period and once authorization is received to proceed, the contractor will be notified to begin work. At that time, Tighe and Bond staff will conduct site visits at least weekly and after any rain event exceeding .5 inches to complete written reports stamped by the engineer and submitted to DES as required under condition #5 of the AOT.

He stated that's the current report for the Hidden Springs project. Tighe and Bond's efforts from this point forward are focused only on the 11 acres it has absolutely nothing to do with the overcut that was done, and determining run off and drainage and concerns up there. We should leave it that way for right now, because that's what provides the most stabilization, but really the point of the of the update was to update everybody that had been asking about it. But also was the fact that that the town isn't forfeited anything. By moving forward, it was recommended that we complete the work because it's kind of hard to understand what the site looks like with all that brush piled up at the stumps. It needs to be clean.

8. Mt. Washington Dock - Update

R. Heath stated that the company that operates the Mount have not contacted us. We will try and get any information on updated schedules and whether or not it's going to be on a regular rotation again or if they're just doing test runs right now. We'll keep trying to poke for some more information, but at least we saw some physical progress.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that he needs to see if he can get the Board's support. He received an e-mail from Leslie Rentel. They do the cooking and the food preparation for the PD and FD softball game during Old Home Weekend. She purchases all the food and she was wondering if the Board would authorize a reimbursement not to exceed $200 for the food condiments and stuff that are served. That would be coming from the Old Home Week Committee fund. It's a fund that currently has approximately $5337.27.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to allow Leslie Rentel to get reimbursed with the $200 for the food for the old Home Day police and fire baseball game from the Old Home Day Account and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

R. Heath stated the last thing he has is just a quick discussion on meeting dates on we have a meeting scheduled for August 25th He will be on vacation out of town on the last week of August so it would be a good opportunity if the Board so choose to take a break.

It is the consensus of the Board to take a break for the last week of August.

Selectmen Reports/Questions

J. Sleeper stated that he had a Planning Board meeting.

R. Shea sated that Milfoil costs were under control. He received an e-mail from a resident bubbling over about the fact that stickers at the recycling center were being checked by a young gentleman named Dale, whose last name I don't have, but I must express my appreciation to Dale, and he thinks that exercise is going to pay big dividends in terms of avoiding stuff that's not coming from Alton.

A. Morse stated that CIP meetings will be starting in August.

D. Carter stated that he attended Conservation Commission meeting. They have been working with the water testing.

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to elaborate a little bit on what Richard was saying. We received the letter from Mr. Underhill. He was writing to thank the Selectman and the Department of Public Works for beginning enforcement of a displayed sticker for use of the town transfer station, please keep it up. He would like to compliment Dale, a station attendant who monitored the vehicles entering the station on Sunday, July 26th. Dale, professionally and courteously managed the people who had or did not have stickers.

Approval of Minutes

June 23, 2026 – Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 2026 – Non-Public Session releasing #1, 2, 3, and 4 and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

July 14, 2026 – Public Session

D. Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2026 - Public Session and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

July 14, 2026 – Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2026 Non-Public Session sealing #1 and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for July 28, 2026

1. **Alton Water Works**

Abatement

Aube		Acct 1418	$246.08
Puleo		Acct 526	$1476

Wilson		Acct 1289	$656
Zelanakas		Acct 107	$299.63

2. **Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Delegation of Deposit Authority, Amount increase from $1,500.00 to $3,500.00

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)***

G. Young, Moderator, approached the table. He mentioned the primary on September 8th where we'll need all of the Board's attendance. We also will be counting ballots and testing the tabulator on September 2nd 9:00 AM in this room. He would really like to have one or two of the Board there for that.

A. Burns approached the table. He would like to address the earlier issue with the Blueberry lane temporary rack. He just wanted to bring to the board's attention that there are three deeded accesses to the Hills pond one within several 100 yards of the Blueberry property, so there is access there to the community. He believes that this access area would be more to people outside of Alton Shores. That would mean that people are bringing a vehicle there. That would mean people need to have vehicle somewhere there. So I just wanted to make that as a clarification and make sure that that's appreciated.

R. Finethy approached the table. He just a few questions on the meeting. He wanted to know if the DPW labor was included in the bid for the Robert's Cove bridge. He would also like to know if the Town has water rights whaen is comes to the dam issue.In other words, if they drop when they do a drawdown. He asked several questions about the Town Hall Roof Bid. He would like to know who will be overseeing the project. Who is going to make sure they are adhering to the manufacturer's recommendations.

K. Sullivan approached the table. She stated that we had a 10 acre over cut and we are choosing not to hold anybody accountable. They got the wood, they destroyed habitat. They are still continuing to get the job and finish it. We're just going to leave it to grow back, which is all well and good, is what we need to do at this point. But the fact that 10 acres were overcut. We are holding nobody accountable right now and they got all of that wood at how much wood. This seems a little unreasonable to me. Why are we not holding anybody accountable? We had put out the RFP, we got three beds. We wanted the low bidder. This is what it got us. And now there are two other people that bid that we could certainly go with that did not overcut 10 acres.

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:18 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, l (legal). D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle – yes J. Sleeper – yes R. Shea – yes
D. Carter – yes A. Morse – yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 8:18 pm Chairman P. LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

P. LaRochelle, Chairman
A. Morse, Selectmen
R. Shea, Selectmen
J. Sleeper, Selectmen
R. Heath, Town Administrator
A. Painchaud, Police Chief

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:52 pm to exit the nonpublic session. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle – yes J. Sleeper – 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. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle – yes	J. Sleeper – yes	R. Shea – yes
D. Carter –Yes	A. Morse –yes	Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:52 pm to adjourn. A. Morse seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary