ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
September 9, 2026
(Approved – October 13, 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:

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Paul LaRochelle, Chairman
Drew Carter, Vice-Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman
Richard Shea, Selectman
Jack Sleeper, Selectmen, Entered at 6:10 pm
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to amend the agenda and move #4 New Business to right after the Public Hearing 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 Hearing – Bay Hill Road 6:03 pm

P. LaRochelle opened the Public Hearing at 6:03 pm.

P. LaRochelle stated that this has been on the agenda before. Changes were made to Bay Hill Road signage. This is the section between Route 28 and Route 28A. It is a steep hill. After several years of having a 6 Ton Weight Limit sign, an Inclement sign, but large trucks, heavy trucks, eighteen wheelers are still using the road. It looks like there should be a sign that says "No through trucking" on each end which should slow down or stop the traffic. They need to be closer to the route so that when trucks start to turn they can see them.

L. Carr approached the table. He stated that at the hearing before a lot of people said that it was the GPS that directs people to use the road. He asked if anything has been done about that. Have they notified Google. R. Heath stated that IT has reached out to them. IT has reached out on several occasions and Goole takes note of the issue. L. Carr asked if there was a way to put up a sign that stated to ignore GPS.

R. Shea stated that he believes that the Town owns the property where the water tank is and was wondering if it would be a good idea to put up a billboard. Thay way drivers would see it.

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table. P. LaRochelle asked if we have the proper signage to put up for "No through trucking". S. Garland stated that we do.

D. Richardson approached the table. She asked why the Town is trying to address it and it hasn't made it up to the State level. Therefore, they are responsible for the signage. P. LaRochelle stated that it is a Town owned road. A. Morse stated that the State does not want any issue to do with a Town owned road. D. Richardson suggests that we still send something to them even though they have not been cooperative.

R. Heath stated that for a matter of clarification, the 6 ton weight limit has changed in the Highway Regulations. Hence the hearing to change the regulations. It is not just about what signage is there but the enforcement under our local ordinance has to be changed.

P. LaRochelle closes the Public Hearing at 6:12 pm.

R. Shea made a motion to change the signs on Bay Hill Road, removing the 6-Ton Limit signs and putting the No Through Trucking signs and D. Carter seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (JS).

New Business

4. Fire Department – Unit Citation

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, approached the table. He thanked the Chairman and members of the Board.

August 5th 2026 at approximately 9:02 pm Alton Fire/Rescue was dispatched for a woman reported to be in labor. On duty crew and several off duty members responded to the scene. Upon arrival, a patient was located laying in the driveway. It was confirmed that she was in active labor. Within minutes of arrival, Alton Fire personnel assisted with the delivery of a healthy baby boy. Both mother and son were transported to a local hospital for further evaluation without incident. The men and women involved with the call were faced with a rare situation as this type of incident is an uncommon occurrence out in the field. It is because of those actions that the responding crew members are being awarded this unit citation and merit badges.

Captain Patrick O'Brien
Captain Gregory Trombi
Firefighter Advanced EMT Brandon Rague
Firefighter EMT Advanced Matthew Krafton
Firefighter Paramedic Rebecca Johnson
EMT Emily Dahl
Firefighter Mitchell Harzmovitch

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

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Partner's Bank –Municipal Banking Proposal

Erin Tyler and Dave Long, from Partner's Bank, approached the table. R. Heath stated that over the last six to eight months they have been speaking with different financial institutions about what they could possibly provide for a proposal for municipal banking. This is not the trust funds. It is the everyday accounts. AP banking, payroll, and things of that nature. The Town has had a couple of incidents last year where there was fraudulent activity. Checks that were written and cashed. We had to change accounts. Security is a priority. We met with every local financial institution. Partners Bank had a booth set up at the municipal conference and originally had made contact with L. Parker in Finance. We ave had a couple of meetings with Partners Bank after meeting with other banks. We found that the proposal that Partners Bank brought forward was the most positive in the way that we need to advance. They hit all of the bullet points in their presentation. L. Parker took the lead in regards to vetting the financial institutions and what they could provide. Some of the highlights from Partners Bank are the positive pay, they are willing to give us 3% which currently we receive 1 ½%, check scanning ability, we can do deposits via check scanner, right now we have to make hand deposits. There was one concern about they don't have a local branch in town which is problematic for the treasurer so the solution is we are going to keep a local cash account open that will automatically sweep to our accounts that are at Partner's Bank. They will not lose that ability to do local cash deposits. Another issue that we have been shopping and no one has found a solution is our credit cards. We have credit cards for our department heads. We have operated with third party credit card vendors. They will only open an account with an aggregated amount. We are constantly faced with departments that will charge emergency supplies. It will lock out the rest of the departments from using their credit cards because it is an aggregated account. They will not set up separate balances for separate departments. Partner's Bank was able to come up with a service for us where all department heads will have cards to be able to use with a set limit. This will allow Finance to control it a lot better. D. Long stated that they will come and install it and make sure that the transition goes very smoothly. He stated that they work with a lot of municipalities.

R. Shea asked if the 3% interest rate is adjustable. D. Long stated that it is. It will be locked in for 6 months. If it is ever adjusted that will give the town ample notice.

R. Shea made a motion to engage with Partner's Bank in accordance with the proposal they presented here tonight to serve as the Town's primary financial institution and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. DPW – Winter Sand Bid – Request

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table. He stated that this is a bid for our winter sand. The material is outlined in the bid. He is asking for samples from prospective bidders. He is looking to have it closed for October 1.

D. Carter made a motion to allow the DPW Director to release the Winter Sand Bid proposal request for pricing and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. DPW – Rock & Asphalt Crushing 2026 Bid – Request

S. Garland, DPW Director, remained at the table. This is for the Rines Road pit. This is the same procedure as in years past. They are looking for 2 ½" gravel and crashed stone. He is asking that once they start to continue until they are done.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to allow the DPW Director to submit the bid request for the rock and asphalt crushing for 2026 and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

5. Fire Department – Ambulance Purchase Request

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, approached the table. He would like to start the process of ordering a new ambulance to replace the 2016 Ambulance 3. There is approximately a two year lead time build time for the ambulance. Currently the 2016 Ford has approximately 97,000 miles on it and 5,400 engine hours. It will be kept in the rotation until the new ambulance would arrive. The purchase price of the new ambulance minus any discounts would be between $451,450.00 and $461,450.00 for a 2028 Dodge Ram Braun. That would be through Autotronics who is the authorized dealer for New Hampshire. We can't really go out to bid anywhere else regarding that. The last ambulance was a Braun and they are extremely happy with that. This would come out of the Ambulance Revolving Fund so there would be no taxation through raising taxes. R. Shea asked how this aligns with the Capital Improvement Plan. J. Reinert stated that it does align with the Plan for the ambulance replacement. It is for the 12 year cycle on the ambulance they are looking to replace. J. Sleeper asked for the trade-in value if it is something we would likely do better if we use something like Municibid. J. Reinert stated that he would be very cautious personally. He did that process with his previous employer and they got $6,000.00 for a newer ambulance. He explained how the calls are increasing. D. Carter asked if there is any reason they are going from a Ford to a Ram. J. Reinert stated that the last ambulance was a Ram and have had decent luck with it. P. O'Brien, Captain, approached the table. He stated that they switch to Ram in 2018. They have had pretty good luck with Ram's in the ability to service. P. LaRochelle asked if any of them are diesels. P. O'Brien stated that the Rams are all diesels. They spend a lot of time idling. R. Shea asked what we could tell the tax payers why we do not need two other quotes. J. Reinert stated that Autotronics is the only authorize dealer for Braun. P. LaRochelle stated that personally he would like to table this until the next meeting so it would give them a chance to do a little bit of a review and talk with Finance. D. Carter is in agreement with that. P. O'Brien stated that he doesn't want any hint of a conflict of interest, he is a service technician for Autotronics. He doesn't do sales in the area and get nothing from this purchase. J. Sleeper asked how difficult would it be to get another quote in order to stick to the usual request for three quotes. J. Reinert stated that he could very well do that.

It is the consensus of the Board to table until next meeting.

6. Fire Department – Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator Purchase Request

J. Reinert, Fire Chief, remained at the table. He stated that in staying in line with the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan they are looking to upgrade the cardiac monitors and defibrillators for the three ambulances. He stated that he would like to make a correction that is not mentioned in the quote. Subtract $11,000.00 off of the bottom line for trade-in. The new monitors are a lot more streamlined. The current monitors have multiple menus that you need to get through in order to get to the one that you want. They have upgraded the ease of use during high stress calls. The cost would come out of the Ambulance Revolving Fund for these expenditures. We have no other option. We go directly to Zoll. This is for three units. J. Sleeper asked if he was incorrect in saying that there are no other companies that make these products. J. Reinert stated that there are other companies but he has never used anything in his 25 years of service except Zoll and other companies in the area use them as well. It is a familiar platform and it is what we know. J. Sleeper stated that he understands what is being said but there are purchasing procedures that need to be followed in order for them to make an informed decision for the voters. R. Shea asked what the lifespan is on these products. J. Reinert stated that typically they are six to eight years.

D. Carter made a motion to authorize the use of Revolving Fund to purchase three new Zoll Zenix Monitor defibrillator monitors with accessories for $163,587,61 and waive the three bid requirement and P. LaRochelle seconded with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (JS).

7. Assessing Department – Cyclical RFP 2027 – Request

R. Heath stated that this goes back to a few months ago when there was a discussion with the Assessor about the 5 year Reval. The discussion came up because we had a contracted services group providing the cyclical evaluations leading up to the 5 year reval which is part of the overall process. The Board had expressed that we should get ahead of this and do a proposal that we look at a proposal for the cyclical along with the reval. The Assessor wanted to bring this forward for the Board to consider that we start going out to bid now for the cyclical contract along with finishing the reval in 5 years. This would have no bearing on the reval cycle that is going on that the Board had already approved.

D. Carter made a motion to send out this request for proposal for the assessment properties in Alton and J. Sleeper seconded with all in favor of the motion.

8. Parks & Recreation – Trick or Treating Date and Time – Approval

K. Troendle, Parks & Recreation Director, approached the table. She stated that Halloween this year is on Saturday, October 31. Typically, the hours are 5 to 7 pm. The Police Chief had also recommended that as well.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the time slot from 5-7 pm for October 31, 2026 for trick-or-treating hours to the Parks & Recreation Director and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

9. Water Bandstand Committee – Video Camera/Weather Station Discussion

P. LaRochelle stated that this is part of the airport and ice runway. They have been talking for a couple of years about putting out a video camera on the water bandstand with a 180 degree view looking down the bay and up the bay. They would also like to put a weather station in so you would know what the temperature and wind speed is. This would not only be for pilots and winters, but for year round people to be able to access it and see what the weather conditions are in Alton Bay. It would be

helpful for pilots and people going out on the water. This would be totally purchased by the Ice Runway Committee and Ice Runway sales of the shirts. He has personally spoke with the IT Director about a signal and there is Wi-Fi on the community center which would need a booster. The Ice Runway Committee would pay for it, maintain it, and take care of it. He is looking for approval from the rest of the Board to mount the camera and weather station that would go on to the trim on the exterior. There would be no cost to the Town. R. Shea asked how the public would access it. P. LaRochelle stated that they would get an access code at the community center. J. Sleeper asked if that is something that we could possibly put a link on the Town website for. P. LaRochelle stated that it could. He stated that he would recuse himself from the Board for this decision.

It is the general consensus of the Board that it is a good idea and to move forward.

Old Business

None

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the first thing is that the Fire Chief had presented to him and been discussing and agreement or memorandum of understanding with the Town of New Durham. New Durham has suffered some setbacks with their Fire Department and some of the mutual aid has become more burdensome than typically expected of mutual aid. New Durham is aware of this agreement but have not seen the final draft. The Chief presented it to him and Legal for some initial vetting. He wanted the Board to be aware of this in case someone got wind of this. No decision will be made until they have a final draft.

R. Heath stated that the other thing that will be forth coming is he received a draft copy of the franchise agreement. They have been in litigation with a consortium lawyer who is representing almost every Lakes Region community. Legal will write up a memo highlighting the differences between our current Comcast franchise agreement and what is being presented in the new agreement with Breezeline. We will have to have a public hearing. It is quite the lengthy process.

R. Heath stated that the next update if about the Hidden Springs Alteration of Terrain permit. We did hear that the Storm Water Management Plan was approved. There is a 14 day waiting period which we hit approximately two days ago. Once that period expires we can commence with the work required for that.

R. Heath stated that his last item is a dam update. There has been a lot of discussion and activity around the draw down. The Board did seek out Legal Counsel. He has been in constant communication with them and updating them with paperwork, photographs, and status. Currently we are exploring every legal avenue that the Town has available to itself. The State owns the property which puts us at a big disadvantage when it comes to what is going on. He discussed some of the things legal has advised. We are in the process of seeking out a few different experts.

Selectmen Reports/Questions

J. Sleeper stated that he had a Planning Board meeting. There were lot line adjustments and a minor site plan change.

R. Shea stated that the milfoil situation for this year is quite good. All of the treatments are complete. The results are good. There was a ZBA committee is starting to meet and the CIP people are starting to meet. He received and invitation from the Master Plan Committee for a meeting.

A. Morse stated that CIP is meeting with Department Heads and there is another meeting Monday. He would also like to thank everyone involved with voting.

D. Carter stated that the Conservation Commission met.

P. LaRochelle stated that Zoning Board met with three cases. Hee stated that the ski show put on by the Water Bandstand Committee went very well. He would like to thank the Fire Chief and crew for coming out to help as well as the Police Department. There will be a memorial on September 11 at the American Legion at 8:30 am and is open to the public.

Approval of Minutes

July 28, 2026 – Public Session

Tabled

August 11, 2026 – Public Session

R. Shea made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2026 – Public Session and D. Carter seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (AM).

August 11, 2026 – Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2026 – Non-Public Session releasing all and D. Carter seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (AM).

Consent Agenda Approval

R. Shea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for September 9, 2026 as presented and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. **Cold Spring Farms**

Temprary Liquor License, Harvest Happenings, October 18, 2026, 74 Davis Road

2. **Assessing Consent Items**

Timber Taxes

Town of Alton; Map 15 Lot 49; 18 Hidden Spring Road; $5,600.38
Roberge; Map 5 Lot 56; L:/O Fank C. Gilman Highway; $9,788.11

Abatement

Town of Alton; Map 15 Lot 49; 18 Hidden Spring Road; $5,600.38
Alton Bay Campmeeting Association; Map 34 Lot 33-105; 38 Rand Hill Road; $534.00

3. **Fire Department**

Harzmovitch, Mitchell, Student Intern to Per-Diem Firefighter/EMT, $19.70/hr
Jones, Sawyer, Full-Time Firefighter/EMT, $24.25/hr, Effective 9/9/2026

4. **DPW/Solid Waste**

Hanley, Kevin, Solid Waste Attendant, $19.25/hr, Effective 9/11/2026

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

Brian Fortier – Barn Sign – Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Request for Appointment for Brian Fortier as an agenda item at the next meeting and D. Carter seconded with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (RS).

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

A. Burns approached the table. He was expecting to discuss Blueberry Lane tonight. He wanted to inform the Board that this past week someone decided to use that property to put a boat on a trailer into the lake. There was some damage done.

S. Esposito approached the table. She wanted to thank the Town Administrator because she didn't think she was going to hear anything about the dam tonight.

J. Mazzeo approached the table. He is following up on Blueberry Lane. He stated that in regards to the damage down there, there have been a few trailers down there. He thinks signage will help.

D. Richardson approached the table. She stated that in regards to the question J. Sleeper had about running the ambulance to keep meds cold. She would like to know if any research is being done to look at when it is at an established event could a portable generator be used. Her second question is in regards to the camera and weather station on the bandstand. She hopes that running it on it's own youtube channel can be looked at. With subscriptions it could generate revenue that could be used for maintenance and upkeep of the bandstand. She would also like to know the cost of running it because it will need power.

L. Carr approached the table. He stated that he has seen a lot of the signs that the State puts up. He thinks they should approach the State about the issues with Bay Hill Road.

Non-Public Session

None

Adjournment

A. Morse made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm and D. Carter seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary