



Draft Minutes
Alburgh Selectboard Meeting
01/08/2024

The Selectboard will meet in the municipal office conference room on Monday, January 8th at 6:00PM. **To join remotely:** enter this link... <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5043834193>

Municipal Officials Present: Russell Duchaine, Donna Boumil, Elliot Knight, Jim Hokenberg, Alex Goddard, Danielle James Choiniere

Public Present:

MEETING AGENDA

- 6:00pm – Call to Order - Russell D. Called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- 6:05pm – Adjustments to agenda
 - Table: Delinquent Tax Collector position, Auditors appointed transition, Alburgh Totality Festival, ARPA Allocations
- 6:10pm – Minutes from 12/11, 12/18
 - Spelling correction of Elliot Knight x2
 - Motion: Donna Boumil motioned to accept the minutes from 12/18/2023 as amended. Elliot Knight seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
 - Minutes from 12/11/2023 tabled as there is not a quorum of members present from that meeting

- 6:15pm – **Department/Committee Updates**

- **Highway Department**
 - Purchase policy Discussion
 - Discussion of recent purchase by the Highway Dept of a tool at the local auction where we were charged tax on the tool due to it being purchased on a personal account. Reimbursement outside of normal warrant / meeting cycle. Russell Duchaine felt that it was within the Highway Departments jurisdiction to purchase the tool, as it was both well within their tool budget and a needed piece of equipment. Board to review Purchase Policy when the board chair returns from vacation.

- **Transfer Station**
 - Pertinent updates by transfer station manager
 - The compactor is down. An electrician has visited to begin diagnosing the issue. Likely a blown transformer. Parts have been order and will be installed in the coming week. Further diagnostics may be needed.
 - Board to review a clothing allowance for Transfer Station staff for inclement weather clothing.

- **Town Office**
 - Budget meeting schedule
 - Meetings on budget scheduled for 01/10/24, 01/15/2024, and 01/17/2024 all at 6pm. Town Administrator to post warnings.
 - Budget status report review
 - Brief review of Budget Status report for all line items. To be reviewed more in-depth during budget talks in the coming weeks as a tool to build next year's budget.

- **6:35pm – New Business**
 - Mailbox policy – the board will review the town policy regarding mailbox damage from highway department operations

- Russell to follow up with Rodney about continuing to communicate with the Town regarding mailbox strikes during snow plowing operations. Russell was in favor of tabling the discussion with no action by the board, consensus was we do not replace mailboxes. The board did not feel a policy was needed and would inform those who file complaints for reimbursement as they arise.
 - Delinquent Tax Collector position review
 - Tabled. Town Administrator to follow up with current Delinquent Tax Collect on plans for his workspace.
 - Auditors – transition to appointed position discussion
 - Discussion tabled for next meeting

- **7:00pm – Old Business**
 - Notice of alleged violation (NOAV) received from VT Agency of Natural Resources – debrief on meeting with the state
 - Russell: Board members met with Enforcement Officer and provided him with a tour of the Wetland Delineation Signs. Enforcement Officer conveyed that there does not appear to be an issue after all, and will forward those findings to the appropriate department to withdraw the (NOAV).

 - Complaint re: Grand Isle County Sheriff's deputies
 - The Selectboard received multiple complaints regarding the behavior of the Grand Isle County Sheriff's (GICSD) Deputies during 2 traffic stops in the county.
 - Elliot Knight felt that this is what increased funding to the GICSD provides the citizens of the county (pro-active policing). Would like to look at the request for increased funding for FY25 that we received from GICSD as part of the discussion. Increasing contract hours for additional police cover is concerning at this point. There should be changes to policing moving forward, and they should come from GICSD though there is low confidence change will occur.
 - Donna Boumil – Sheriff Allen should come address the board in person to justify the request for increased funding for FY25 as a part of the budget talks and would like to request a copy of the Internal Investigation conducted by the Williston Police Department regarding the traffic stops and complaints received. Town Administrator to request a copy of the Internal Investigation, and the board suggested a FOIA request if it was not provided.

 - Deso Drive Junk Complaint – HOA Owner requests status update

- The board discussed the junk complaint at 41 Deso drive. Board members visited the location and are happy with the progress.
 - George – I have heard that the cars are simply being moved to another location in the town and am concerned that “the can is just being kicked down the road”. George did not elaborate on where the cars were alleged to have been moved.
 - Motion: Donna Boumil motioned to close the 41 Deso Drive junk complaint citing satisfactory compliance with Junk Ordinance provisions. Elliot Knight seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Town Administrator to follow up with Brendan Deso.
- Highway Ordinance – amended draft addressing speed limit changes
 - The board reviewed the Draft Road Ordinance, and the changes to the speed limits on Martell Rd, Alburgh Springs Road, Truck Rte., and Center Bay Road. All seeing reductions in speed limits.
 - Motion: Elliot Knight motioned we adopt the draft ordinance as written, Donna Boumil seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Town Administrator to post draft ordinance for 30-day period as required by law.
- Alburgh Totality Festival - update on planning for the April 8th total eclipse
 - Discussion on planning update tabled to next regular meeting
- ARPA Allocations
 - Review and discuss preliminary list of appropriations
 - Brief follow up research / updates
 - Planning commission grant application
 - Discussion Tabled until next regular meeting – Town Administrator to present 1-page executive summary to the board on the projects outlined previously in the ARPA Committees recommendation.
- **7:30PM – Financial Issues / Updates and Warrants**
 - FY2025 Alburgh Municipal Budget final review– assessments and donations section
 - Tabled to 01/10/24 special budget meeting
 - Monthly bills checklist
 - Tabled to 01/10/24 meeting where Treasurer is present
 - Warrants
 - The board reviewed and signed warrants
- **8:00PM – Executive session placeholder**
 - There was no executive session
- **8:30pm – Adjourn**

- Elliot Knight motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm, seconded by Donna Boumil; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned

**These minutes are a draft only, and not slated for approval until the next selectboard meeting*

Tabled Issues:

- Transfer of Alburgh Industrial Corp property to the town
- Rabies Clinic – ACO pursuing options
- Alburgh Totality Festival
- ARPA Allocations
- Purchase Policy
- Delinquent Tax Collector Position
- Auditors – appointed position transition