



**Draft Minutes**  
**Alburgh Selectboard Meeting**  
**06/24/2024**

**Municipal Officials Present:** Elliot Knight (Chair, Selectboard), Damien Henry (Selectmen), Alexander McCracken (Selectmen), Russell Duchaine (Vice-Chair, Selectboard) Jim Hokenberg (Selectman), Margret Brescia (Treasurer), Alex Goddard (Town Administrator – Emergency Management Director)

**Public Present:** Lynn O’Neil, Josie Henry, Jason Beaulac, John Beaulac, Mike Boutah, Carol Behrman, Herbie Durham, Rodney James, Tom Cassavant, Joanne Jarvis, Matthew Lefleur, George Hakey, Jeff W, Terry Tatro, Alton Brusio, Adam Driver, (not all public members signed the sign-in sheet that was circulated, this list is not all inclusive of public participation)

**Draft Agenda:**

- **5:00pm** – Elliot Knight called the meeting to order at 5pm
- **5:01pm** – Adjustments to the Agenda – there were no adjustments to the agenda
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- **5:05pm** – Public Comment Period:
  - The selectboard heard a public comment period where members of the community expressed varying degrees of displeasure with the potential transfer of operations to the NWSWD and away from the towns control.
  - Damien Henry provided an overview of the nearly 3 year long process that has led to tonight’s meeting citing historical financial burdens accounting for many thousands of dollars of losses year after year, and overall time the selectboard must dedicate each week dealing with issues at the transfer station.
  - Russell Duchaine provided an overview of his work as the Transfer Station Manager, which has drastically improved the operations this fiscal year. At the time of the meeting, the transfer station was close to breaking even for the fiscal year.
- **5:20pm** – Petition received requesting town vote on maintaining operational control of the Alburgh Transfer Station
  - Elliot Knight read the wording of the petition signed by 161 verified residents of the community “we the undersigned legal voters of the Town of Alburgh, hereby petition the Selectboard of the Town of Alburgh, Vermont. This petition is filed pursuant to 24 VSA 2691. We certify that we are presently voters of that town. The Article to be placed on the warning to read: Article: Shall the town vote to maintain local control of the transfer station thereby ensuring that decisions regarding its management, operations, and policies remain under the control of the Selectboard, rather than being outsourced to the Northwest Solid Waste District?”
  - Damien Henry provided an overview of the legality of the petition. The public present was informed that after a review by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, it was

determined that the voters do not have the legal authority on the issue at hand, and cautioned that allowing the petition to go to a non-binding town vote was not in the public interest.

- Russell Duchaine motioned to accept the petition, and bring the matter to the voters, seconded by Jim Hokenberg. Damien, Elliot and Alex – No; Russell, Jim – yes. Motion failed 3-2.
  
- **5:30pm Northwest Solid Waste District MOU Review and Transition of Operations discussion**
  - An overview of the MOU was provided, and sections were read aloud to the public in response to questions about its contents. The Draft MOU was posted in previous selectboard minutes on the website.
  - Damien Henry motioned to accept the MOU as written, and to turn over operational management to the NWSWD effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Seconded by Alex McCracken. Yes – Damien, Elliot, Alex; No – Jim; Abstained – Russell. Motion passed 3-1-1.
    - Russell Duchaine exited the meeting
  
- **Department and Committee Updates**
  - **Town Office**
    - Town Office cleaning bid review
      - Alex McCracken motioned to accept the cleaning bid from Island Touch LLC for FY 25, seconded by Damien Henry, all were in favor and the motion passed.
    - AVFD – Town of Alburgh MOU adoption
      - AVFD request to table this item
    - Tyler Shannon resignation from the Planning Commission
      - Alex McCracken motioned to accept the resignation, seconded by Damien Henry. All were in favor and the motion carried.
    - GICSD Coverage to Alburgh
      - Jim Hokenberg provided an overview of a situation where law enforcement was needed, and GICSD was off-duty. The most recent invoice received from GICSD showed a credit on the bill due to low staffing. Town Administrator to reach out the Sheriff Allen to schedule a status meeting with the Selectboard.
  
  - **Highway Department**
    - Review of HW Dept end of year vacation payout request
      - Highway Foreman has unused vacation time and requested a payout. T.A. to obtain final figure for payout at weeks end.
    - Resignation of HW Dept Employee, Vacancy Posting, request to pay out comp time
      - Irving Wetherby resigned from his position with the Town of Alburgh. The Town wishes him the best of luck in his new position and thanks him for his years of service to the municipality. T.A. to pay out unused comp time.
    - Stormwater Annual Inspection Report received for HW Department Parcel – discrepancies noted

- T.A. presented the annual inspection report received from Cross Consulting indicating issues with impervious land behind the Highway Department. CC indicated that the inspection would not pass next year without addressing the issues outlined in report.
- **Warrants / Financial Review**
  - The treasurer presented the year-end financial review, cash flow estimates, and warrants to the selectboard. The selectboard reviewed and signed the warrants.
  - Damien Henry motioned to approve the treasurer to pay GICMAA invoice in the coming week in the amount of \$9,308.62, seconded by Jim Hokenberg. All were in favor and the motioned carried.
- **Executive Session Placeholder** – There was no executive session
- Alex McCracken motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm, seconded by Damien Henry. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

