

Minutes must be kept of all public meetings and must be available to the public upon request not more than five business days after the public meeting. A business day means the hours of 8 am to 5 pm on Monday through Friday, excluding national and state holidays. The minimum content of meeting minutes includes: (1) names of members present; (2) other people participating (it is not necessary to list everyone present, however); (3) a brief summary of subject matter discussed; and (4) any final decisions reached or action taken. There is no legal requirement to accept or approve the minutes. Even if minutes have not yet been approved, they still must be made available not more than five business days after the public meeting. When the five business day deadline is reached before the minutes are approved, they can be made available to the public with a notation that they are a draft version.

Taken from “*Knowing the Territory*,” a publication from the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Selectmen’s Meeting
Minutes
Albany, NH Selectmen’s Meeting
February 10, 2016

Members present: Kelly Robitaille, Cathy Ryan and Rob Nadler
Public: Lee Grant, June Johnson, Dorothy Solomon, Steve Knox, Sara Young-Knox, Rick Hiland, Joe Ferris and Bob Mathieu.

Call to Order: At 4:07 p.m., Chairman Robitaille called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Review & approve minutes: Selectman Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Chairman Robitaille seconded the motion and all were in favor.

New Business:

- **Approval of consent file:** Selectman Nadler made a motion to approve the consent file as presented, Chairman Robitaille seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sign checks	\$230,687.58
Request for leave form	
Sign up for online access	Registry of Deeds
Approve Reach the Beach Race	

Chairman Robitaille opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2016 Municipal Budget and Warrant.

Chairman Robitaille announced the proposed 2016 budget one line item at a time. Bob Mathieu asked if the Town Administrator's position was hourly or salary. He wanted to be sure the Selectmen understood what salary meant. Selectman Nadler said he understands the difference and the town is in complete compliance.

Rick Hiland asked how the North Country Council fee is calculated and how does Albany benefit from them. Selectman Nadler replied Albany receives support as a regional organization. They helped in the development of the Master Plan and the Planning Board has used them for technical assistance. They were helpful when Albany purchased the town forest as they supported the Scenic Byways application. They also helped to get Albany back on the NHDOT's 10 year plan. As a small town it is beneficial to be part of the region. They are always there as a resource. Selectman Nadler did not have the formula that calculates their fee. He thought it was based on population.

Rick Hiland asked about the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council line item. It used to be \$25.00 and is now \$300.00 as brought forward by Selectman Nadler. Selectman Nadler personally thinks they don't charge enough. Each town has a representative along with some local business leaders to make up the board. They support regional companies. As a board member, they ask for \$100.00 and Selectman Nadler thinks \$25.00 is an insult. He is trying to get other towns to do the same. Rick Hiland said \$300.00 is the same amount a business with 50 employees would pay. Selectman Nadler said it shows support for them. Selectman Ryan thought the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council is like an incubator system for small businesses in the valley. They have been trying to bring small businesses to our area for the tax base. They helped AMBIX come to Albany. She strongly feels being a part of them is important. Selectman Nadler added they also hold many educational events. Selectman Ryan noted they also hold an event called "Eggs & Issues" where business leaders get together to network.

Bob Mathieu asked how the budgeted amount for recreation is formulated. The Town Administrator replied it is based upon Albany's evaluation and its percentage compared to Conway. Albany pay a percentage of their overall budget.

Chairman Robitaille read the 2016 warrant.

The Selectmen support all the articles unanimously except article #7 regarding the purchase of video cameras and the software to film all town board meetings. Chairman Robitaille and Selectman Ryan were in favor.

Selectman Nadler was against.

Selectman Nadler discussed article #7 in regard to hiring a company to supply video cameras to film town board meetings as well as the software to have them stream live and archive the meetings for five years. Selectman Nadler is not against the concept but feels either the Time Warner franchise fees should be used to pay for it instead of going to Valley Vision, or other money should be shifted to pay for it.

Selectman Nadler made a motion to amend article #19 to read, "To see if the town will vote, pursuant to RSA 80:80, V, to retain and hold for public use, the property identified as 2008 Passaconaway Rd., tax map 11, lot 56, taken by Tax Collector's deed on August 7, 2013, said property to be used as an asset for the Town. Managed for timber, recreation, possible location for a cell tower, another Town Cemetery or other public use." The amendment will be conditional upon town counsel approval, Chairman Robitaille seconded the motion. Selectman Ryan noted the change includes any other purpose the town deems appropriate. There is nothing concrete. Selectman Nadler thought at this point a 50 year plan is not needed. Rick Hiland called for a point of order, saying if the wording is changed again, another public hearing will have to be held. Chairman Robitaille agreed. The vote was taken and all were in favor.

Joe Ferris asked about article #5 adding \$5,000.00 to the cemetery expendable fund and what that money would be used for. Chairman Robitaille replied the Cemetery Trustees have been using money from the Trust Fund over the past few years on upgrading the cemeteries and cutting back trees. They would like to start to save up again in order to continue getting the cemeteries back in shape. They did not have a lot of specific details for the capital improvement plan committee and therefore the Planning Board did not suggest the approval of the article. Chairman Robitaille hopes to have more specifics available at town meeting so the article will be passed. He would also like to have money available so the trustees may act upon the possibility of acquiring land for another cemetery. Selectman Ryan added the money would be used for needs that are over and above normal cemetery maintenance. Rick Hiland noted the Planning Board wanted more details as to how many empty burial plots are available to be included in the capital improvement plan.

Bob Mathieu asked about article #6 adding \$25,000 to the highway capital reserve fund. He would like to know what the plan is. Rick Hiland gave Bob a copy of road agent, Curtis Coleman's plan that was submitted to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee. Bob felt that sealing Wildwood Rd.

was a waste of money and it is time to replace it. Rick replied that is what the Capital Improvement Plan is for.

Bob Mathieu asked about article #8 which appropriates \$1,500.00 to the town picnic and children's holiday party. He would like to know the attendance of each event. June Johnson replied approximately 80 people attended the picnic and about 75 children came to the Christmas party. Bob felt with such a slim budget the town should not spend frivolously. Selectman Nadler added that the town picnic creates a sense of community and it has been popular. It is held on the town forest property and people like it. It brings the town together in a positive way. Bob felt that was important. Selectman Nadler added prizes and some food are donated. This is a petitioned warrant article and is at the will of the people.

Article #15 was discussed next. It appropriates \$3,000.00 to the Blue Loon buses. Bob Mathieu would like to know if the amount was based on usage. Selectman Nadler reported he knew that ridership had increased as a whole in the county. Steve Knox reported a few years ago, Selectman Rose reported 50 riders from Albany for the year. He thought the town could pay for a taxi instead which would save money. Dorothy Solomon added 10 years ago, she paid a taxi company \$50.00 to take her to the hospital. Bob asked if the money went toward the Blue Loon's operating expenses. Selectman Nadler replied yes. It has nothing to do with the count of riders from Albany.

Dorothy Solomon explained article #18 that she petitioned to be on the warrant. It urges the President to restore government and get big money out of politics. The purpose is to get all towns in New Hampshire to push this through to the federal government. Chairman Robitaille said he has too many questions to support it.

Joe Ferris questioned article #19 that would allow the town to keep a piece of property taken by Tax Collector's deed. Joe would like to know the plan for the house and barn. Selectman Nadler replied there is no plan at this time. The question is, does the town want to keep it or not? Joe questioned the cost of doing something to the property. Selectman Nadler replied there could be a timber management plan that would offset any costs.

Steve Knox asked if the Conservation Commission voted on this. Selectman Nadler did not remember and added he would like to see it for the town as a resource. There would be no easement so it would be more open to use as an asset. Chairman Robitaille's thought was that nothing can happen on this property until August when the three year window expires that would allow

the former owner to repurchase his property. He does not want to put the cart before the horse.

Bob Mathieu asked if the Board had considered biannual property taxes. Chairman Robitaille replied the Board recently found out they can enact it themselves and it does not require a town vote. Rick Hiland said he would support it. Bob has a piece of property in another town. They bill biannually and he prefers it that way.

Selectman Nadler commented the primary election was amazing. It went very well for the amount of voters. Chairman Robitaille added the Supervisors of the Checklist certainly earned their money that day. June Johnson thought it was the busiest election she had worked at. Selectman Nadler said he was impressed the polls passed the Attorney General's inspection with flying colors.

Chairman Robitaille closed the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2016 Municipal Budget and Warrant.

- **Reviewed DRA equalization ratio report:** The Town Administrator reported the ratio is in line and we have Jason Call to thank for that. He has done a great job assessing our town.
- **Review Capital Improvement Committee and Planning Board recommendation report:** Rick Hiland submitted signed copies of his report.

Old Business: None

Other Business:

- **Board update reports:** Selectman Nadler reported the Conservation Commission will be working with the Forest Service to burn the fields of the town forest. They will be applying for a grant to help with the cost through the Hazard Mitigation program. He will e-mail the details. He is not familiar with the details but figures they shouldn't turn it away.

Correspondence: NONE

Public Comment: Selectman Nadler would like to see the municipal budget expressed as a percentage. It will show how little control the town has because of the school and contracted services. He feels it will help people understand. Steve Knox added the town controls so little and the budget has been cut so close, we run the risk of being penny wise and pound foolish.

KR____
CR____
RN____

Chairman Robitaille obtained the recreation attendance sheet and gave it to Selectman Ryan. He said some children use multiple programs. Selectman Ryan said they are a participant in each program. Chairman Robitaille added it is nice to have the opportunity to use it. Steve Knox noted it had a significant jump this year and if the Selectmen would gather the background on why it went up. Steve explained how the school budget could go up even though Albany may send fewer students to Conway.

Adjournment: At 5:41 p.m., Chairman Robitaille made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Nadler seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard
Town Administrator