

**Town of Alstead
First Session Minutes
February 6, 2021**

Attendees: 45

Moderator Susan Norlander called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The Moderator discussed the procedures and the rules of conduct. The Moderator also introduced the officials that were present and announced the date and time of the town election.

Article 01: Election of Officers

Article 02: Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 1

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: This change would add a definition of the term "Event Center" and define same as a venue available for rent for both public and private functions in which such activity does not occur on a daily or weekly basis? The Planning Board approves of this proposed amendment to the Alstead Zoning Ordinance. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Joe Levesque Second: Mary Ann Wolf

No Discussion

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 03: Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: This change would incorporate "Event Center" (as defined above) as an allowed use by special exception, within Article III-C Table of Allowable Uses, in all zoning districts? The Planning Board approves of this proposed amendment to the Alstead Zoning Ordinance. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Mary Ann Wolf Second: Joe Levesque

Discussion:

Q: M. Chris Hansen- what is a special exception?

A: Matt Saxton-Town has three districts: village, lake, rural residential. Approvals for special uses in these districts are given by town zoning ordinance exceptions.

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 04: Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: This change would add a definition of "Short Term Lodging Facility" establishing such as any premises utilized for rental to guests for less than 30 consecutive days and with services consistent with that part of the hospitality sector as well as insert the application of this term or utilize it as a replacement for various portions of the Zoning Ordinance including: a) definitions of other related uses; b) allowed uses within Article III-C Table of Allowable Uses; c) parking requirements (Article IV-E); and d) requirements for a special exception (Article VII-G). The incorporation of this term would also result in some minor additional amendments to the Zoning Ordinance in order to better accommodate the inclusion of this concept. The Planning Board approves of this proposed amendment to the Alstead Zoning Ordinance. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Mary Ann Wolf Second: Joe Levesque

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 05: Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: This change would restrict any allowable expansion of a non-conforming structure from being built within 10 feet of a property boundary (including any such building's drip line)? The Planning Board approves of this proposed amendment to the Alstead Zoning Ordinance. (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Mary Ann Wolf Second: Joe Levesque

Discussion:

Q: Juliana Stevens- Why is it 10 feet and not 35 ft?

A: Matt Saxton-Continuing confusion in circumstances where buildings are close together - measure from dripline, or foundation. Only applies to non-conforming buildings.

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 06: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$1,634,128.48. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,612,252.48, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alstead or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Mary Ann Wolf **Second:** Joe Levesque

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 07: Paving

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$220,000 for the purpose of reclaiming and paving Gilsum Mine Road, with \$150,000 to come from unassigned fund balance and \$70,000 to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Mary Ann Wolf **Second:** John Mann

Discussion:

Q: Priscilla Sawa-Which portion of the road will be repaved and reclaimed?

A: Rock Wilson-From 123 to Pine Cliff

A: Prescott Trafton: Reclaim a section that is about a half mile long. Pave 123 up to Pine Cliff with a depth of an inch and a half.

Also, will address some of the driveways that have some bad culverts.

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 08: Add to Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 to be added to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1992. The sum of \$45,000 is to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Rock Wilson **Second:** Mary Ann Wolf

Discussion:

Kim Kercewich-Asked to amend the article to increase to 75,000. Improvement plan has been underfunded, in some years received nothing, and the replacement of Engine 3 has been put back on to 2030 - will need to build the fund up if we're going to replace the engine

Motion: Kim Kercewich Second: Nicholas Wright

Went to people to vote on the amendment, majority passed.

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as amended.

Article 09: Add to Highway Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1988. The sum of \$100,000 is to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Mary Ann Wolf **Second:** Joe Levesque

Discussion: none

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 10: Purchase a Ford F550 to replace the Ford F350

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$80,000 for the purpose of purchasing a Ford F550 to replace the Ford F350 with \$70,000 to come from Highway Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1988, and \$10,000 to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (2-1). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Rock Wilson **Second:** Joe Levesque

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 11: Add to Bridge Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2012, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Ellen Chase

Second: Joe Levesque

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 12: Add to Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to be added to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund. The sum of \$8,000 is to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Sara Webb

Second: M. Chris Hansen

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 13: Purchase a Baler and Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000 for the purpose of purchasing a baler and equipment at the transfer station, with said funds to come from the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2015. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Laurence Howard

Second: Julie Bacon

Discussion:

Q: Priscilla Sawa-Will this equipment increase revenue for the town?

A: Jodi Kercewich-Yes

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 14: Add to Shedd-Porter Library Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2010. The sum of \$10,000 is to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority vote required)

Motion: Matt Saxton

Second: Ellen Chase

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 15: Add to the Police Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 to be added to the Police Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2011. The sum of \$18,000 is to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority vote required)

Motion: Rock Wilson

Second: Mary Ann Wolf

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 16: Add to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,000 to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1992. The sum of \$27,000 is to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority vote required)

Motion: Nicholas Wright

Second: Julie Bacon

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 17: Digital Tax Map Data Conversion & GIS Development

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,500 for the purpose of digitizing Town tax maps and AxisGIS services which is an internet-based service that publishes maps online, enabling homeowners and real estate professionals to print maps and search for abutters. This also provides a valuable platform for police, highway and emergency responders. The sum of \$12,500 is to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority vote required)

Motion: Julie Bacon

Second: Merrilee Frable

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 18: Modify Elderly Exemptions

To see if the town will modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Alstead, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$25,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$50,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$100,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income limit of \$20,000 or, if married, a combined net income limit of \$27,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority vote required)

Motion: Jodi Kercewich

Second: Nicholas Wright

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 19: Purchase a Side-by-Side Off-Road Vehicle

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 for the purpose of purchasing a side-by-side off-road vehicle equipped for firefighting and rescue. The sum of \$9,500 to be withdrawn from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1992. The remaining \$18,500 to be provided from The Firefighters Association donation fund. No amount to be raised by taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). (Majority vote required)

Motion: Joel McCarty

Second: Nicholas Wright

Discussion: None

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Article 20: NH Resolution for Nonpartisan Fair Redistricting

To see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. Additionally, these voters ask the town of Alstead to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts. We further ask that the NH Legislature and Governor establish this fair and transparent procedure by law. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to Alstead's state legislators, the whole NH Senate and General Court, and the Governor, informing them of the demands from their constituents, within 30 days of the vote. (By Petition). (Majority Vote Required)

Motion: Chris Hansen

Second: Sara Webb

Discussion:

M.Chris Hansen: Advocating on behalf of the resolution.

Richard Nalevanko: Where did the language come from?

M.Chris Hansen: Believes it originates from Granite State Progress, and a coalition of small towns.

The Moderator requested that the Town Clerk place the Article on the Warrant Ballot as written.

Further Comments:

Juliana Stevens: Why wasn't this held on zoom?

Rock Wilson/Susan Norlander: It was considered, but the process unfolded quicker than was able to be planned for and broadband is also not universally available in the town.

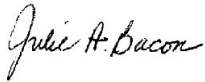
Priscilla Sawa: Will absentee ballots be provided for in the town election in March?

Julie Bacon: People can get absentee ballots if applications are submitted; ballots will be sent out once Fall Mountain's are received.

Motion to Adjourn: Richard Beringer Second: Jodi Kercewich

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie A. Bacon". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Julie A Bacon
Alstead Town Clerk/Tax Collector