

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602
Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Rock Wilson; Mary Ann Wolf; Joe Levesque (in person)

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator; Supervisor; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Bobbie Wilson, Vilas Pool Committee (in person)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Mary Lou Huffling and numerous Friendly Meals volunteers; Mike Jasmin; Gordon Kemp; Marge Noonan; Barbara Viegner; Judith Willis (in person), John Mann; Kenyan Nesbitt (on phone)

GUESTS ON CONFERENCE CALL: Senator Jay Kahn (on phone)

CALL TO ORDER: Rock Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: At 6:03 p.m. Rock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION: Senator Kahn gave an update that there were about 400 bills which passed the house and senate. Bills were amended on to house bills by the senate consolidating into packages allowing about 200 bills to be consolidated into 33 which were passed to the Governor. HB 1266 is still being considered. It is an absentee ballot bill allowing voters to ask for absentee ballot and drop off the same day of election. This also allows for streamlining the opening of absentee ballots prior to the day of election. It is specific to 2020 elections. HB 1129 which continues the guidance of virtual town meetings. It makes provisions for virtual live meetings even the town meeting of 2021. Senator Kahn discussed other house bills, and the long-term care and work force shortage he's working on.

Mary Lou Huffling voiced her concern that Friendly Meals (FM) won't be able to do things the way they have for the past 33 years based on the letter the Board recently sent. Although they have been operating out of the kitchen on Bragg Lane the past four months in what appeared to the Board as a smooth operation, she said there is not enough room there. She said people enjoy coming to the town hall and interact with others. It was still agreed they can use the closet, and store things in the frig, but not the heating unit and no stove. Mary Lou asked if they could leave the tables up after Tuesday meals. The Board had no comment on this and no vote was taken. Some discussion took place on when FM could move back in once the hall was complete, no decision was made. Mary Ann and Joe mentioned that according to emergency operation calls they have been on, the elderly is the highest risk group and they should air on the side of caution for gatherings and if possible, wait until there is a vaccine. According to the Dept. of Justice and our insurance company, they suggest not moving in any time soon. Rock felt they could use their own judgment of when they feel it's safe. After hearing from multiple people, it was decided that we would write up a memorandum of understanding. Mary Ann will work on this.

Barry Bellows explained that the electric hot water tank is the most cost-effective way to go. The propane tank is 52 feet away and 25 feet to the left to run a pipe. Then you would have to trench it which is currently paved and then run up and vented out the roof. Charlotte called the propane company and they said it could cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 to install a propane hot water tank. Barry said our electricity is tapped out right now so we would have to be careful on additional things that are plugged in. On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted to have the hot water tank installed for \$1,845. The motion passed unanimously.***

The COVID guidelines for Town Hall rental agreement application was reviewed and agreed upon.

Bobbie addressed the Board about the Friendly Meals. She said she noticed that the Board was firm on things at the last meeting and tonight the Board gave FM an inch and they kept moving for more. She said that as a citizen and volunteer for many years at FM, she never heard anyone say they liked the food, that they liked Mary Lou. They were there for socializing and the food meant nothing. She said they don't always clean up after themselves. The ambulance meets every 3rd Wednesday and she stated there are times when food is stuck on the tables, it's filthy and smells.

Bobbie mentioned that the Ambulance Dept needs a shower to use for when they go on a COVID call. They currently go to Walpole. Discussion took place about the shower and cleanliness in East Fire Station. Bobbie said it hadn't been used in years. The Board asked Charlotte to ask Kim to come in to discuss the shower at the East Station.

Discussion took place on the folding tables for town hall in the amount of \$1,467 for 12 tables. On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted to order 12 new tables for the town hall. The motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion took place on 14 new voting booths for a total of \$1,932.43. On a motion by Joe Levesque, seconded by Mary Ann; ***the Board voted to order 14 new voting booths. The motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion took place on how many miles the board felt comfortable with the Chief of Police living from Alstead. Steve may be in the market to purchasing a house further north. On a motion by Rock, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted that 20 miles is reasonable. The motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion took place on the decision made last week by email on the approval of using excess funds of approximately \$14,000 to pave the 200' x 20' apron on Pine Cliff Rd. Prescott had asked permission on whether this could be approved and that it was time sensitive as the contractor still had the equipment there. He indicated that there was money left because liquid asphalt was currently low. He wanted to bring it up at the next meeting but Bazin was ahead of schedule. He said the main reason was for the safety of the road crew and town equipment. He stated "Pine Cliff is the shortest road and yet is the most graded road in Alstead. The grader is big and slow and when we have to grade Pine Cliff, we have to back out onto Rt. 123. This is a very dangerous corner and it is at the bottom of a bowl. It doesn't matter how many signs we put out to slow traffic down on Rt. 123, they do not. If we pave the 200' apron we won't continue to be put into a dangerous situation". Both Rock and Joe were in agreement with this, Mary Ann was not. Mary Ann felt it should have waited until the SB meeting. In addition, she stated that in the future she wants it to be clear in the paving warrant article what any leftover monies will be for.

Mary Ann questioned the invoice from Cold River, how we could have an extra \$14k when we just spent \$2k in gravel. Prescott stated that the warrant article is very specific and stipulates paving and not gravel. That it is sure pack he bought for entrance of driveways.

Discussion took place on the sign that was meant for the gazebo which was no skateboarding or riding bikes on the gazebo. Someone stole it from in front of the Gazebo and placed it in the middle of town causing false and negative accusations from hundreds of citizens about the Select Board on Facebook. This sign was intended to stop the kids from jumping up and down on their skateboard in the gazebo as to not hurt themselves or damage the floor. The town insurance company said we could be liable as the structure is not intended for that purpose. Prescott will look to see if he can find a sign that specifically states gazebo.

Quote for additional repairs to the Pavilion on Bragg Lane was approved.

Rock asked if either one of them wanted to be the Zoning Officer as he didn't want to do this anymore. There were no takers. He said that a car port on Griffin Hill Rd was put in last year and now they have closed it in and it is not in compliance with setbacks and bigger than a 10x12. It is right on the road. Rock has tried to contact the owner but with no success. The Board asked Charlotte to reach out to town council to see what can be done. Prescott says it's a problem with plowing.

Gordon Kemp addressed the Board to give an update on the Broadband Committee meeting. They have 6 members and always looking for more. They are gathering information, leaning towards the Chesterfield model. They are meeting at the Municipal building on Wednesdays at 6:30. Would like the info on the website. Charlotte will do this.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed: bill and payroll manifest

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of June 30, 2020: On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.***

Purchase order for 4 drums of oil for \$1,436 that Prescott presented was signed. Prescott mentioned that he went down to get the oil pan done on Dodge and the manifold is busted and will need repair. Prescott said that the roadside mower will be in town next week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

INFORMATIONAL:

On a motion by Joe; seconded by Mary Ann, ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

The next meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m.