

The Alstead board of selectmen met in open session on Tuesday September 18, 2018 at 6:00 pm. Chairman Noonan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were Tim Noonan, Alan Dustin and Rock Wilson. Alan Dustin moved to go in to nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 at 6:05 pm, Rock Wilson seconded, roll call to enter into nonpublic was done, Tim Noonan-yes, Rock Wilson-yes and Alan Dustin-yes. Alan Dustin moved to exit nonpublic and reconvene public session at 6:25 pm, Rock Wilson seconded, roll call to seal the minutes Rock-yes, Tim-yes and Alan-yes.

Selectmen signed manifest, purchase orders and read mail.

Rock asked if the payable checks could be attached to the invoices before mailing them out. There was no motion but Charlotte said that she could do that for future.

There was some discussion on doing something different with the time card system but no motion made.

6:50 Tim led the pledge of allegiance. Jodi was not there for the transfer station. Will meet with her another time in order to get a better figure for the increased costs for the Langdon contract in order to determine how to apply the 1/3 increase discussed at the last meeting.

Tim read the email of the timeline regarding the sand and gravel contract:

*On May 5, 2018, the Town of Alstead posted a request for bids on the Construction Summary of NH, Maine and Vermont web site for crushed gravel and winter sand. At the May 22, 2018 public meeting of the Alstead Board of Selectmen, the bids were opened and reviewed, and Custom Crushing was selected to provide the gravel and sand. During that meeting, Jeff Andrews (owner of Custom Crushing) was present and in the course of a discussion with the Selectmen agreed to provide the Town with two things: (1) a reference from his client list of past customers, as well as (2) the use of a loader to move material from his stock pile and load it into the Town's trucks. Although minutes of the Selectmen's meeting were kept in compliance with the legal requirements under RSA 91-A, the minutes did not reflect the details of those two items Mr. Andrews agreed to provide. Nevertheless, those two items were an important part of the Selectmen's ultimate decision to award the project to Custom Crushing and, unfortunately, they both went unfulfilled.*

*Custom Crushing was awarded the project on May 22, 2018. By the third week of June, 2018, the Town was still unable to initiate any contact with Custom Crushing to confirm when the work would begin. Multiple telephone calls from the Town's Road Agent went unanswered, voice mails were not returned, and there was no reply to e-mails sent from the Town to Mr. Andrews. The Road Agent was able to reach him by telephone in late June and a start date of July 23, 2018 was discussed. However, after that conversation, the Town was again unable to reach Mr. Andrews and received no response to messages. Growing concerned about the dwindling supplies of gravel and sand, and extremely concerned about Custom Crushing's failure to respond, the Board voted to require the project to begin by July 23, 2018. The Town sent Mr. Andrews a letter through the US Postal Service asking him to confirm that the project would begin on July 23, 2018, but received no response. July 23 came and went, and the project did not begin.*

*Accordingly, at its meeting on July 25, 2018, the Board of Selectmen voted to terminate the contract for non-performance so they could find another company to do the project. Mr. Andrews was in attendance at that meeting and threatened litigation against the Town, forcing the Board of Selectmen to seek the advice of its legal counsel. Through that counsel, an extension to the original start date of July 23 was negotiated. However, Mr. Andrews subsequently sought multiple additional extensions to the start date through the month of August, none of which were actually met. The last extension required Mr. Andrews to move his equipment in place by August 27 and to begin producing material by August 28, 2018. Neither of those deadlines were met, and ultimately the Board was forced to terminate the contract on August 28 for non-performance.*

There was an inquiry about who would provide the sand and gravel now. Tim responded that it would be Fuzzy Brothers and will be the end of October.

It was brought up that the realtor wanted to reduce the price of the tax sale from 45,000 to 35,000. Alan motion to accept this change, Rock seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Didn't sign appointment for Health Officer. Rock moved to table it until they could talk with Mike Jasmin, Alan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Resident John Mann spoke on the Lake Warren water deteriorating and how we could go forward to do some things about it. He feels it is important that the town get involved as it is an asset to the town in terms of image. Value of houses are high but if water deteriorates value may go down. He feels there are a lot of issues in drainage and would like road crew to keep up with this. John also said there are ways they can get money from the state (clean water act) to help pay for some of the costs of tasks that need to be complete. He then proceeded to pass out a sheet called "selected water quality management tasks" with a breakdown of the various tasks. Rock mentioned to John that his sign that is currently up isn't in compliance. Tim told him to think about getting something better. John agreed he would take it down.

Tim made an announcement that on 10/27 there would be a tax auction on 26 River Street.

Tim mentioned that at the last meeting they talked about getting rid of the purchase order policy and review on case by case basis but now no policy in place. He motioned to reestablish the PO guideline with a reservation that anything over \$500.00 requires a purchase order, just like it was before, Alan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Tim discussed painting the Vilas bridge with acrylic paint over the lead paint. Alan and Rock said they should get bids. Tim and Rock will ask around for bids.

Appointment for Inspector of Elections for Holly Gay was not signed. Bobbie Wilson mentioned she did not think Holly was allowed to change party when she did. Selectmen didn't sign and this will be looked into further.

Tim and Alan reviewed the Employee Performance Review form that Charlotte created. Tim moved to accept the form, Alan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Prescott discussed the Baine Rd logging. He said continued use of the road could jeopardize the road and damage that area. Prescott will talk to the logger about this situation and see that the logger takes care of this without any further action on our part.

Prescott mentioned that they want to take 12-14 test samples on Pine Cliff road to determine what the next step to take for maintenance. The cost from M&W Soils to do these test samples is about \$2,500.00. Rock moved to accept the samples be done, Alan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Prescott mentioned that they will be opening the Vilas Pool gate in October. He said the permit expires in October and wants to do the dam work before then. The extension has been applied for and now waiting to hear back from DES.

Resident Glen Elsesser mentioned that the box culverts on Thayer Brook Road needs to be replaced and start putting money aside for this. Prescott will be looking into the cost for this.

Resident Chris Hanson wanted to know if they were going to put pins in Bell Hill. Prescott responded that they will be bench marks instead of pins and after paved.

Rock moved to accept the minutes as read, Tim seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Alan Dustin moved to go into non-public RSA 91-A:3, Rock Wilson seconded, roll call to enter non-public Rock Wilson-yes, Tim Noonan-yes and Alan Dustin-yes. The board entered non-public at 8:20 pm. Alan Dustin moved to go back into public session at, Rock Wilson seconded, the board enter public session at 9:00 pm.

Rock moved to adjourn, Alan seconded meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting is 9/25/18 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Charlotte Comeau***