

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

To attend via Google Meet, access code is <https://meet.google.com/hnr-zuns-igp>
Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Mary Ann Wolf, Joe Levesque; Joel McCarty

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator; Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station Attendant; Shaena Hakey, Transfer Station Attendant; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Mr. & Mrs. Dowling; Ben Duffy-Howard; Mr. Lawlor; Rich Nalevanko; Marge Noonan; Mr. & Mrs. Quaglin; Barbara Viegener; and other community members from the Lake Warren area and Lake Warren Association (in person) Gordon Kemp, Vilas Pool Member (on Google Meets)

GUESTS: Annie Hess, Vice President of the Lake Association (in person), Bob Brown, Chase's Mill; Mindy Cambiar, Hundred Nights (on Google Meets)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Marge Noonan led in the Pledge of Allegiance

CALL TO ORDER: Mary Ann called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; *the Board voted to approve and signed the bill manifest in the amount of \$320,274.81. The motion passed unanimously.* On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Joe; *the Board voted to approve and signed the payroll manifest in the amount of \$18,821.70. The motion passed unanimously.* Pay rate sheets and credit card agreements signed.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board recognized Bob Brown. Bob read the letter he sent to the Board regarding granting permission to fill Mill Pond from Lake Warren. This was granted last year so they could demonstrate the water powered turbines during their tours at Chase's Mill. He asked that they be allowed to fill it, if needed, for the tours again this year. This would be only when the mill pond doesn't have adequate water, in which case he would lift the stop log, fill the pond and then replace the stop log. He stated that the mill pond is very small and the amount needed to fill it spread over the 195 acres of Lake Warren would lower the lake level by less than 1/16th of an inch. The tours are on Saturday and Sundays between 10-noon or by appointment.

Bob wanted to know if there is an arrangement that can be made so that this doesn't have to be an annual request. He indicated that the Road Agent removed the security stop log. Prescott said it was removed because the modified stop log that was put in place was not where it was supposed to be, it was on top of the grate so water was continuously flowing out plus it wouldn't last the winter. He said that last fall we talked about this and we were going to stop doing this until we can figure out who is in control. He said if he opens it, he would have to do it on a Thursday and not close it until Monday. Prescott feels we need to discuss this further. He stated that no one is control of the dam except the Select Board and Road Agent so if there is any issue, it falls on them. Bob's main issue was getting the mill operational. Mary Ann asked for input from other people that were in attendance that lived around the Lake. After much discussion with various Lake Warren residents Joe suggested that the Lake Assoc. and Mill Hollow Heritage Assoc. get together to discuss this and come up with an agreeable decision. Bob agrees with this and says he is available. Anne Hess will contact Bob to arrange a date and time to meet with Lake residents and Mill Hollow.

The Board acknowledged Mindy from Hundred Nights in Keene. Mindy mentioned there has been two Alstead residents they provided for a total of 145 bed nights. She stated they are trying to increase their fundings from towns and said they will be sending a letter in July requesting assistance. She asked that the town consider supporting them when preparing the budget for next year. Mary Ann mentioned that we pay the county money and the county gives Hundred Nights money. Mindy said there are 16 towns in Cheshire County that gives to both the county and Hundred Nights. She said the county is supportive but they do say they hope that towns will support as well. She doesn't consider this double dipping.

The Board acknowledged Shaena Hakey and Junie Esslinger. Shaena mentioned they are working on getting the baler up and running. There is a market for plastics so they are going to start taking 1 through 7 type plastics as well as cardboard. They want to hand out flyers in advance in order to give residents notice on the recycling process. Jack Fuller will be coming out and hook up the baler.

Junie stated that the transfer station needs maintenance, especially the floor of the railroad car so they have a place for electronics. Prescott mentioned that we could get ¾ inch pressure treated plywood and that would work fine. He will look into how much the plywood would cost.

Both Shaena and Junie are in agreement that they would like to have a supervisor. Charlotte mentioned that there is a job description for this.

Junie shared some safety concerns. He said they need signage for people so they don't go in certain areas around the compactors. Joel asked if Junie would identify the high-risk areas and put together a solution and bring it to the Board next week.

The Board acknowledged Kim Kercewich. Kim said he heard there was discussion on installing fire alarms in buildings. He gave the Board a brief description of what is needed and said four years ago it was approximately \$10k a building. Joel suggested this could be something to add to capital reserve over time and stated that we need someone that designs the systems that is not selling them. Joel knows someone who designs these that he can ask.

Kim asked the Board if they were okay with him going forward with ordering the extractor. Charlotte reminded them that this was something that was in the budget and split between fire and ambulance. The Board was fine with Kim proceeding.

Joe asked Kim if there was a Fire Truck committee and whether we will be getting another fire truck. Kim said this is nothing they are discussing.

Jesse mentioned that the cameras are all installed at the fire station and town hall.

Jesse presented a list of proposed AED locations. There was a total of 29 units which includes private businesses. Steve spoke on this. They believe the rescue funds can be used for these but Steve will double check.

The Board acknowledged Prescott. He said Bazin Brothers is tentatively scheduled for July 12 to mill and pave Gilsum Mine Rd.

Prescott asked about the road side mowing and would like to use the mowing service they have used in the past as they know the roads well and the price hasn't changed. The Board was fine with this.

Prescott wanted the Board to know that getting all the properties mowed is between 15 and 20 hours a week and they find they are running into overtime. There is currently no overtime line for parks and rec so it's being put on highway overtime. Doing this too much will cause an inaccurate number on overtime. The Board asked if a line item can be added. Charlotte will do this.

Prescott mentioned that the highway department is planning to shut down on the week of July 5th.

NEW BUSINESS: The Board acknowledged Steve. He mentioned that he spoke with a representative from U.S. Cellular that handles government accounts. He discovered that the account we currently have is set up as a consumer instead of a government account. By changing over, this could save the town money and include some free accessories and 25% off on others. She is sending Steve sim cards to install on the phones for emergency responders that will allow them to be able to use their phones when there is a large event.

Charlotte asked the Board for their approval on the Consolidated 2019 abatement of \$2,530. All were fine with this.

Joel said that he plans on scheduling another meeting with Cinde Warmington.

Joel met the Chair of the Conservation Commission. He brought them the survey of Bragg Lane and they would like to be part of a master plan for the concept of what has been previously discussed.

Joel stated that twice before the town has tried to get a sidewalk to serve Vilas from Millot. NHDOT has a program called "Safe Routes to School". It takes about two years but the end result is to get a sidewalk paid for by someone else.

Joel brought up the contested access to Rust Cemetery and that there is a group of volunteers doing a survey. There is no cost to the town to do the design or trail work.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of June 8, 2021: On a motion by Joe, seconded by Joel; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

INFORMATIONAL:

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

On a motion by Joel, seconded by Joe; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.