

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Minutes for Meeting of October 22, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Alan Dustin, Chairman; Rock Wilson; Mary Ann Wolf

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator; Jodi Kercewich, Transfer Station Supervisor; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Bellows; Gordon Kemp; Joe Levesque; Bob McGuire; Marjorie Noonan; Barbara Viegner

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Alan Dustin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: At 6:00 p.m. Alan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed the following: Payroll and Bill manifests; MS-1, PO for racks for the Fire Department; Deputy Forest Fire Warden Appointment Form; Signed the HealthTrust new contract. Mary Ann mentioned that there is a 7.1% increase in premiums and asked if the Board would consider changing the employer/employee contribution from 87%/13% to 80%/20%. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Rock; ***the Board voted to change the contribution for the employer to 80% and employee to 20% beginning in 2020. The motion passed unanimously.***

DISCUSSION: Reviewed and discussed with Steve Murrell the proposed 2020 Police Dept. budget.

Reviewed and discussed with Jodi Kercewich and Bruce Bellows the proposed 2020 Cemetery Budget. Discussion took place on replacing the mower that was stolen using the \$1,946.20 that was received from the insurance company and the rest which is in the budget for new equipment. Jodi presented 3 quotes, the cheapest one being a Columbia Deluxe 42" tractor at Fall Mountain Small Engine in the amount of \$2,499.00. On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Rock; ***the Board voted to purchase the Columbia Deluxe. The motion passed unanimously.***

Reviewed and discussed with Jodi the proposed 2020 Transfer Station Budget. Much discussion took place on increased prices. Jodi said that she had calculated out prices in order to pass on some of the increased costs to Langdon. The amount she arrived at is an additional 5,500.00 a year. Letter to be sent to Langdon

Prescott spoke on the sand and gravel and that Ben from Fuzzy Brothers will keep the same price as last year and wanted to start the process now and we can pay next year. Chris Garland will let us store it. The Board told Prescott to get this in writing that the payment would be due no sooner than March 1st, 2020.

Prescott presented a PO for winter tires for the 2012 Dodge. He said that these are better snow tires and was able to get the state bid price. The PO was signed.

Prescott mentioned that the fire truck was fixed and that Matt Yeatman brought it to Steve's Equipment in Westmoreland. Prescott said the highway department will be putting on the tires.

Alan asked Prescott about the Vilas Dam. Prescott will reach out to Ben at Fuzzy Brothers to see when he could dredge.

Mary Ann mentioned that she heard the state would be replacing the wooden bridge on Comstock Rd in a couple years. There was discussion that this probably meant that the state has listed the bridge to repair but would be a cost share expense.

Mary Ann said that she has some neighbors that have volunteered to perambulate the town lines next year.

Mary Ann brought up the complaint from a neighbor about the dilapidated barn on Mechanic St. and that according to RSA 155B, "Hazardous and Dilapidated Buildings" the Select Board does have the authority to order the owner to correct, raze or remove the building. However, she suggested to send a kind letter to the property owner asking that something be done about it without enforcing an order. Neither Alan or Rock wanted to send a letter or pursue RSA 155B.

Charlotte informed the Board that Steve was fine with having a pow wow next year. Steve spoke briefly on this stating that he had talked with Mr. Bunnell and he had no problem with it and thought it was a good idea. He will be coordinating things with Mr. Bunnell as the time gets closer.

Charlotte mentioned the \$33,003.25 that was received from municipal aid from the state being considered unanticipated revenue. The two ways it can be spent is either on expenses or to lower the tax rate. If the Board wants to spend it, then a public hearing will need to be held to inform the public on what the money will be spent on. On a motion by Rock, seconded by Alan; ***the Board voted to accept and spend the money. The motion passed unanimously.*** The Board asked Charlotte to reach out to the Department heads and ask them to come in next week to discuss spending the funds.

Charlotte updated the Board on the town property to be surveyed. Joe DiBernardo has not had the time and still hopes to be able to get to it back with me this month.

Alan mentioned that there was some granite on Bragg Lane that Barry Bellows was interested in purchasing and if the other two members agreed to sell it to them and for how much. Rock said to see what he will pay for it. Alan will contact Barry to find out. On a motion by Rock, seconded by Mary Ann; ***the Board voted to sell it to Barry if the price was reasonable. The motion passed unanimously.***

Mary Ann spoke briefly about the Ambulance repairs since Jesse wasn't there. She said that repairs over the past 5 year have been minimal and that Jesse is getting prices for repairs currently needed with the electrical system.

Alan asked the Board if they wanted to meet once a week for budgeting purposes. He asked Charlotte what she thought. Charlotte agreed that it would be a good idea. Mary Ann agreed. Rock said he wouldn't be able to attend October 29th or November 26th. On a motion by Alan, seconded by Mary Ann; ***the Board voted to meet once a week. The motion passed.***

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of October 8, 2019; On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Rock; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): On a motion by Alan Dustin, seconded by Mary Ann Wolf; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 7:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Select Board members present were: Alan Dustin, Rock Wilson, Mary Ann Wolf. Also present was Office Administrator, Charlotte Comeau; Transfer Station Supervisor, Jodi Kercewich.

Annual performance reviews for cemetery and transfer station were presented and reviewed. After some discussion raises were negotiated, approved and signed. Brief discussion also took place on Charlotte's self-evaluation.

On a motion by Rock Wilson, seconded by Alan Dustin; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvene public meeting at 8.20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

INFORMATIONAL:

On a motion by Alan Dustin, seconded by Mary Ann Wolf; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

The next meeting of the Select Board is schedule for Tuesday, October 29th 6:00 p.m.