

**Meeting Minutes
Board of Selectmen**

December 15, 2015

Town of Alstead

The Alstead Board of Selectmen met in open session on Tuesday December 15, 2015 at 6:30 at the Municipals Offices. Members present were Joel McCarty, Chris Rietmann, Rock Wilson and 14 residents.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30. Joel announced the meeting would be broadcasted. Minutes were approved with spelling corrections.

Chris and Rock both agreed they would like to see the current purchase order amount lowered significantly. Currently department heads need a purchase order if the amount is \$5,000.00 or more. Chris recommended the select board lower the amount to \$500.00, and include products and services. The department heads would also be responsible for seeking three bids with their purchase order. Joel thought this amount was too low. Jesse Moore questioned why department heads would need 3 bids when they are using the State Bid List and these are the lowest prices available for Municipalities. Rock said the lowest bid may not be the one we go with. Bobbie Wilson asked what happens when there is an emergency and Chris said the department heads need to use their discretion in emergency situations. Joel also said with such a low amount it will slow down the department heads being able to buy what is needed to do their work in a timely fashion.

Chris made a motion to seek three bids to any department heads wanting to spend \$500.00 or more. Rock seconded and motion passed with two selectmen in favor. Motion passed.

The Health Insurance and Article 2 wage adjustments will be discussed in a nonpublic tonight.

It is recommended that the Town changes auditors every 5 to 10 years. We have received two auditor proposals. Joel made a motion to change the Town's auditors, Chris seconded and all selectmen were in favor. Joel will write a letter to Plodzick and Sanderson thanking them for their services.

Joel will talk to David about the salt and sand vendor for the budget and the volume the town will need in 2016.

We have received two proposals for assessors. The staff would prefer to stay with the current company. Joel explained the different payment services the other company offered. Chris and Rock have not had time to review but will review and will decide next week.

Joel reported the monies FEMA gave to the Town for Bell Hill should be returned. Joel got a quote for \$180,000 to fix and the town can't afford to do that at this time. He will remove the warrant article.

Joel reported Mike Jasmin has requested the town to reevaluate the current veteran's exemption, which is \$50.00. Rock made a motion to increase the veteran's tax exemption to \$300.00 and it will go into effect for the 2016 tax season. Chris seconded and all three selectmen agreed. Motion passed.

Joel would like more proposals about the Vilas Dam inspection. Kelly will email Sean Sweeney. The town received a letter of deficiency back in 2012, if the town doesn't address there will large fines.

Jesse Moore reported he and Kelly have contacted Carol at EMS to increase the Medicaid billable rate. There was some discussion about how the town collects money when people owe the ambulance

department. Joel explained the town has never gone after the money. Taxpayers end up absorbing these costs. The question came up how would the town collect unpaid balances on both Alstead residents and out of state citizens. Joel will ask LGC and report back. Jesse told the group they only respond to Alstead calls.

Jesse explained that even though he has paramedics working for him, the Alstead ambulance is not able to perform all treatments that paramedics are licensed to do. He reassured the group that they were other ways to perform life saving techniques. In 6 months he hopes Alstead will meet the criteria to be certified and can perform all necessary duties a paramedic is licensed to do.

Bob Quaglin asked if the town was considering a Town Administrator. Joel said they are still taking that under advisement. Chris would like to see budget reductions and savings and may need budgetary support.

Adjourn at 7:15. All three selectmen agreed to go into a non-public meeting RSA (91-A:3(AC)).