

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Unapproved Minutes for Meeting of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Joel McCarty, Gordon Kemp, Matthew Saxton

**STAFF PRESENT: In person** –Misty Gratacos, Office Administrator, Mary Schoppmeyer, Administrative Consultant; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Steve Murrell, Chief of Police; Jesse Moore, Director of Sanitation, EMS & Grounds; Julie Bacon, Town Clerk & Tax Collector; Bobbie Wilson, Supervisor of the Checklist & Ambulance Lieutenant & Vilas Pool Park Committee Member; Sharon Iozzo, Deputy Town Clerk & Deputy Tax Collector. **Google Meet** –

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person** –Judith Willis, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Karlene Thompson, George Thompson, Martin Drior. **Google Meet** – None.

**GUESTS:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Mr. Kemp reported that he has received a donation for the town of a mini projector. Donated by someone who wished to remain anonymous. The Board graciously accepted.

The Board then wished its sincerest condolences to Mr. Jesse Moore & his family on the passing of his grandmother. Mr. Moore stated that her services will be in Bellows Falls, VT on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Catholic Church at 10:00am.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 2024; On a motion from Mr. Saxton that Mr. Kemp seconded, ***the Board voted unanimously to accept all sets of minutes as submitted.***

Majority of the meeting was spent discussing and agreeing on final ballot language of the Warrant Articles that will be placed in front of voters on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Julie Bacon read the articles one by one. Each article was discussed and votes were taken by the board on their personal recommendations were noted. Mr. Saxton will work on the tax impact of each article and agreed to get the information to Ms. Bacon.

**OLD BUSINESS: Washed-out glass** – Mr. Saxton suggested before we lose David Crosby, we should see if we can have him map where glass was buried all over town; details of the topography and drainage. Maybe then we will have a better understanding of the priorities for culvert upgrades to avoid future washout disasters. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Nothing new to report currently. **Bridges** –Nothing new to report currently. **Dams** –We will talk more about Dams at next week's meeting where we will discuss the 2 (two) firms that presented, their scorecard tallies, and choose a firm. **Town Real Estate** – Nothing new to report currently. **M11 L2 adjacent to Town Hall** –Nothing new to report currently. **Sign trailer agreement** – This has become a warrant article and will be decided on by the voters. **Model T insurance & Memo of Understanding**– The Board has deferred this until after voting on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2024. **East Station progress report** –The Board will follow up with Chief Kercewich when he is in attendance. **Langdon Transfer Station fee** -- Mr. McCarty will follow up on this matter.

Mr. McCarty reported that a letter has been drawn up and will be distributed to department heads tomorrow, requesting that each department closely monitor spending to follow the path of last year's budget (this year's default budget) in case Article 2 does not pass. The board reminded the department heads that any purchase over \$1500 will require an approved purchase order. Mr. McCarty reported that the Hoyle-Tanner reports are in for review. There is a hard copy for each board member. Mr. McCarty encouraged each member of the board to write a small report to be placed in the annual town report.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Department** – Chief Murrell reported 90 calls for service to date. Chief Murrell also reported that he went out to the property on Baine Road where complaints of blocking a driveway/road with snow was reported. Chief Murrell took pictures and inspected the area. Did not see what the complaint was about since the snow he saw was pushed back with more than enough area to travel through, however reminding the complainant that it is a Class VI Road. The Board was pleased with his findings. Chief Murrell reported that a stolen firearm had been recovered

in Providence, RI, and was returned to the owner. **Highway Department** – Road Agent Prescott Trafton reported to the board that he will soon need salt, which will require a purchase order over \$1500. Mr. Trafton spoke of a guardrail with a broken end unit that has been the topic of conflict with the state. He reported that it will be fixed. **Ambulance Department**—Ambulance Chief Jesse Moore reported that the bay door in front of ambulance 2 will be repaired on February 8<sup>th</sup> by Garage Door Rescue. Mr. Moore made the board aware of some training coming up on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds reported that he had received the east Station progress report, however there was no mention of the barrel of chemicals. The Board will follow up. Director Reynolds reported that the Office of Emergency Management had their meeting last evening where they met with Jill from Homeland Security. He reported that the other members in attendance were Police Chief, Steve Murrell; Road Agent, Prescott Trafton; Ambulance Chief, Jesse Moore; Board Member, Gordon Kemp; Police Admin, Penny Gendron; Ambulance crew member, Darren Perlongo. **Supervisors of the Checklist** – Ms. Wilson invited the board chair, Mr. McCarty to take part in the “Meet the Candidate” event on February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall at roughly 5:30pm. Mr. McCarty accepted and asked if the Select Board meeting could add this to the agenda, all agreed. Ms. Wilson also announced that candidate for Acworth Select Board, Ryanne Murrell will be running uncontested.

**BOARD REPORTS – Mr. Kemp:** Nothing to report currently. **Mr. Saxton:** Nothing to report currently. **Mr. McCarty:** Presented a written statement as follows:

Spent Wednesday in Concord with DOT and DES in meetings about a culvert in Acworth, 123a in Alstead, THREE bridges in Alstead, cyanobacteria in Lake Warren, and glass in the woods on Cobb Hill. Met with DES/DOJ liaison re Simmick Enforcement Action. Action item here for me is filing a 91a request.

Returning to Concord on 2/21 for more of the same, plus discussion of rehabilitation of Pine Cliff Rd with the goal of reducing runoff into the Lake.

Completed phase two of the application to EPA via SWRPC to do Phase One Brownfields testing of the Boucher Lot adjacent to Town Hall. Formal presentation of same to SWRPC Brownfields group this week. Glass mapping project needs more work, and a nudge at SWRPC.

Received and reviewed materials from the Timber for Transit program, an initiative of the Northern Borders Regional Commission. Two pre-application deadlines in 2024, March and August. My first zoom call related to this program will be 2/13.

Received, reviewed and discussed the two Engineering Studies from Hoyle Tanner regarding the Bell Hill and Comstock Road Bridges. Selectboard comment and acceptance required.

Received, reviewed and am puzzled by 65mbytes of flood mapping data received from FEMA. I have yet to find anyone in Concord who wants it, or knows where it should go, but I’m not done looking.

Sought and eventually received a quote for repair pieces for the twin bridges on Hill Road. More discussion required, as it’s likely we can do the job with local talent, now that we have some context from the manufacturer.

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Joe Levesque reported that several of the grants that he is working on are well underway. Mr. Levesque asked Chief Murrell is he would join the committee for the sidewalk project. Chief Murrell agreed to answer questions regarding the project. Mr. Levesque reported that the Fall Mountain Regional School District Deliberative Session is being held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Auditorium.

Karlene & George Thompson and Martin Drior asked the board for a resolution to the problem they are having with lights shinning in their windows at night coming from the Highway garage. Mr. Trafton proceeded to talk in length with the Thompsons and Mr. Drior as the meeting room was emptying.

Director Reynolds addressed the board with a concern that a report had not been filed from an incident at the Town Hall a few weeks back. Notice was given and a report was promptly filed.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next regular Select Board meeting:</b>	Tuesday, February 13, 2024 @ 5:00pm, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
<b>2024 Town Meeting Voting Day:</b>	Tuesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, 8 AM to 7 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
<b>FM School Board meeting:</b>	Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School Library (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	TBD – Reschedule in progress
<b>FM Deliberative Session:</b>	Wednesday February 7th, 2024 @ 6:30pm FMRHS Auditorium

**On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:56pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Misty Gratacos  
Office Administrator

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