

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

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

STAFF PRESENT: In person – Richard Beringer, Fire Department; Robert Esslinger, Transfer Station; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant. **Google Meet** – none.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person – Tom & Melisa Fredriksen, Jim Gordon, Rich Nalevanko, Scott Schaedler, Jude Willis. **Google Meet** – none.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and CALL TO ORDER: The pledge was recited and the Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed payroll manifest for the 6/16 payroll (\$ 34,363.80). Signed tax liability manifest for the 6/16 payroll (\$6890.83). Signed the AP manifest (\$ 326,840.72) for the 6/17 payables cycle. Signed one timber cut report warrant and bill (22-009-14-T). Decided how to proceed with Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) bill and warrant for M12 L1.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of June 6, 2023 6 PM meeting; Minutes of June 6, 2023 non-public meeting (reputational). Mr. Kemp requested the following changes: Page 1, staff list: Change “Hans Mayer, Fire ??” to “Hans Mayer, Fire Lieutenant” and “Jesse Moore, Ambulance Lieutenant” to “Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief.” Page 1, Old Business, bottom of page change “list of exceptions” to “list of responsibilities.” Page 2, under Department Reports, Fire report, change “quite” to “quiet.” On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the regular minutes as corrected and the non-public minutes as submitted.***

OLD BUSINESS: Broadband – Nothing new to report. **Bridges** – Mr. McCarty reported that boring has commenced as part of the engineering study of the Hill Road and Comstock Rd over Darby Brook bridges; our emergency services have been notified, but people should please be on the lookout for traffic control devices and drive extra carefully. He clarified the reimbursement sequence for the projects, indicating that according to the agreement we signed, the design phase reimbursements come as a lump sum in 2025, while the construction phase reimbursements are more immediate. This means that the town must pay up front for the design phase and then wait more than a year to be reimbursed for it. There are cash flow implications to this that are being discussed with NHMA economic advisor Katherine Heck. It is possible that an additional Town Meeting will be indicated. More to come on that. Mr. McCarty further reported that the forty-five thousand dollar one-time bridge payment that the Town received last year, which the town voted to add to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, must be un-done at the next Town Meeting and instead handled the same way as ARPA money. There was additional discussion. **Ambulance housing** – Chief Moore indicated that the vehicle is delivered and is now at the graphics shop. The Town Clerk is researching registration items; someone might need to travel to Keene or Concord to get the government plates for it. Representatives from the Fire Department requested reconsideration of putting the antique fire apparatus vehicles in a storage container because of the risk of heat-related damage to seals, leather, and rubber. Mr. McCarty suggested continuing on the current track and meeting with the Fire Department the first week in August. Housing the ambulance at East Station means housing the antiques elsewhere. Chief Moore indicated that there might be some additional time leeway since as soon as the new ambulance becomes active the old ambulance will be scheduled for additional servicing and this might improve logistics. **Land Use Change Tax** – A short discussion took place after which Mr. McCarty observed that the complexities of the issue continue to thwart a quick resolution but that the assessing firm recommends billing as indicated and having the owner appeal the bill.

NEW BUSINESS: Transfer Station – with the resignation of Mr. Hoy, the station once again requires leadership. Mr. Esslinger volunteered to temporarily share leadership duties with Mr. Pitts to keep the station operating smoothly. No term length was discussed for the temporary arrangement. Mr. McCarty asked about an in-department policy whereby transfer station employees don't pay transfer station fees; no such policy is documented anywhere. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted that no one should be allowed to use the transfer station free of charge.*** Mr. Esslinger wondered if the joint trucking arrangement with Walpole would continue, since it was mutually beneficial. It was noted that a recent paper shipment was rejected because it contained too much corrugated cardboard; it was suggested to post a volunteer at the paper recycling station to assist with ensuring that the correct things go in the correct bin. Mr. Esslinger noted that the building needs an addition and the station needs a bobcat for loading materials into containers, because the backhoe is not the appropriate tool for the job. Mr. Kemp suggested doing backhoe work on days when the station is not open to the public, to limit liability issues. Mr. McCarty suggested operating

for a month or so to see how things go and keep all lines of communication open; he thanked Mr. Esslinger for being willing to step in and help; Mr. Esslinger has notes that he will share at an appropriate time. Mr. Nalevanko wondered whether there was a consultant report (yes) and noted that it is often considered customary to hold an exit interview with separation notes when someone resigns. Mr. Saxton indicated that he had a conversation and some notes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: SB OFFICE: Ms. Schoppmeyer reported that she continues to follow up on the in-service withdrawal age change for the employee retirement plan. **FIRE** – Chief Kercewich reported that call volume is at 54 calls and things are fairly quiet. **AMBULANCE** – Chief Moore reported that call volume is at 72 calls. He received a training flyer distributed by the SB Office and he likes what he sees and wants to know if it is free training. The list is impressive. Chief Moore also noted that, to clarify the ask for repurposing the old police cruiser, he is not seeking an additional vehicle for paramedic intercept; just a utility vehicle.

BOARD REPORTS: TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES LIST – Mr. Saxton reported that the Town Clerk provided a list of town-owned properties, of which six are considered saleable. Mr. Saxton summarized the parcels and reported that he added another realtor to the list of those he will ask to bid. He will give all of the realtors a copy of the list and invite them to come talk about them. Mr. McCarty suggested that he invite them to come to the office to get copies of the tax cards for the eligible parcels. Mr. Saxton commended Ms. Bacon for her efforts compiling the list. Further, Mr. Saxton would like to know what the legal costs of selling a piece of property for four hundred dollars (\$400), because it might not make sense to sell it that way. **FIRE PERMIT LINK** – Mr. Kemp asked Chief Kercewich where to find the broken link for fire permits on the town web site; the Office Administrator spoke up and indicated that she already fixed the link. **VILAS POOL** – Mr. Kemp thanked Jim Gordon for his efforts at the pool, including playing the bells several times and about three days of work on the lawn mower. A bell historian/aficionado who inquired of Mr. McCarty about the bell tower offered to provide a report about those bells in exchange for a tour of the tower. **FIRE DEPT ASSN MTG** – Mr. Kemp attended said meeting and reported on progress of discussions about the antique Model T fire engine. The association is considering continuing to own the vehicle and insuring it themselves, versus selling it to the town such that it would be covered by the town policy, as long as the association retains right of first refusal to buy it back should the town decide to sell it. **CABINET SPACE FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION** – Mr. Kemp reported that the commission would like to move their storage space out of the closet currently shared with the Zoning Board, and asked permission to place a cabinet in the corner of the conference room. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, *the Board voted to accept the commission's suggested cabinet placement.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There questions about which bridge on Hill Road is the project bridge; Mr. McCarty clarified the location (near the top of Bell Hill). Mr. McCarty urged people to attend the meeting on August 22nd, which is intended to answer questions about the bridge design as things progress. Chief Moore asked whether the town has a billboard policy, in reference to a large sign that has appeared in East Alstead. The answer was there is an ordinance; Mr. Saxton indicated that people can have a sign on their property, but they cannot erect a sign elsewhere. A short discussion followed and Mr. McCarty requested a photo.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Acworth will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday July 28, 2023, time to be determined. The next Fall Mountain School Board meeting is Monday, June 12th at 6 PM at the high school (second Monday of the month). The next Fall Mountain Budget Committee Meeting is Wednesday, June 21st at 6 PM at the high school (third Wednesday of the month). A public meeting to solicit feedback on the Cold River Water Management Plan will be held Monday June 19 at 10AM at the Town Offices conference room. A public meeting to solicit input from interested parties re: Bridge projects will be held Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6 PM at Town Hall.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:12 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator