

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: **In person:** Chair Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton, Gordon Kemp.

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Rich Beringer, Fire department; Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Scott and Karen Keim; Annie Hess, Bindy Curtis, Jane Sundius, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Jonathan Landry, Michelle Roy, Rich Nalevanko, Judith Willis, Mary Bell. **Google Meet:** Carol Reller, Library Trustee.

CALL TO ORDER: After the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS: Sign four merit pay raises for Vilas Pool staff. Sign one Vilas Pool expenditure. Initial one Scope of Work sheet – an additional page for the PD Grant packet. Discuss the proposed agreement between the Library and the Select Board and sign if accepted.

GUESTS: None.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of August 1, 2023 and August 8, 2023 regular meetings: No changes were requested. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted to accept both sets of minutes as submitted.***

OLD BUSINESS: Library agreement – Mr. Kemp suggested tabling this item until next week as the Library Trustees meet Thursday 8/17 and some changes might be forthcoming. **Washout glass deposits** – Mr. Landry thanked the town for picking up the pile of washout glass and gravel that he accumulated. Mr. Saxton reiterated his vacuum truck research result from last week (2 men, 1 truck, 1 day, 1 dump site for approximately \$5000) and will contact that company for a visit and estimate. **Flood repairs update** – The Road Agent is taking well-deserved vacation time. In his absence Mr. Saxton reported that, having made the major items passable, attention is shifted to lower priority items. The Board acknowledged the Emergency Management director's email report about a new landslide area off of Route 123 near the intersection with Route 12A (not a town road but of possible concern to the town). Pine Cliff Road residents Scott and Karen Keim asked about how they should proceed with regard to a culvert washout that caused some damage to their property. Mr. McCarty suggested a site visit with the Road Agent when he returns from vacation and asked whether they felt there was any urgency (no). They will follow up with the Road Agent. **Broadband update** – Mr. Kemp had nothing to report. **Bridge update** – Mr. McCarty reminded those present of the informational meeting with reps from the engineering firm and NH Department of Transportation scheduled for August 22nd at 6 PM. **Dams** – Mr. McCarty reminded those present of the informational meeting with the Dam Bureau and NH Department of Environmental Services reps, scheduled for August 16th. Mr. Saxton shared an anecdote about the difference between the State House and the NH DES building. **Sale of town property** – Mr. Kemp reported no response from the owner of the Boucher property. There was a short discussion about the attributes of two town properties that might be sold on Bley Road and on Corbin Road. Mr. Saxton will follow up. Mr. Kemp asked Ms. Curtis if she is interested in some town-owned lots that abut her property (possibly). **Village Station lighting** – The Board considered a proposal from SWNH Heating and HVAC for \$805 to fix a dangerous situation with the power entrance to the building. The Board agreed that this is an emergency repair. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted to approve the proposal and have the power entrance to Village Station repaired immediately.*** **Village Station power outlets** – Two quotes for adding additional power outlets to the Town Hall were re-considered. The Elections staff (Supervisors, Town Clerk) requested additional outlets to allow setup of election equipment without running unsafe extension cords that pose a tripping hazard. The quotes are for \$4500 (SWNH - Jack Fuller) and \$3860 (John Allen). Because of the uncertain state of Town finances in the face of the flooding expenses, Supervisor of the Checklist Bobbie Wilson indicated that this work is not an emergency and could be postponed. **Plastic recycling** – Mr. Kemp reiterated his research that indicates that it is more cost effective and environmentally sound to landfill plastic instead of recycling it because there is no longer a market for it. Further discussion included observations about being careful what you

purchase in plastic, and whether continuing to bale it allows landfilled plastics to be reclaimed should a market for it resurface, and comparisons to glass recycling. No conclusions were reached and Mr. Kemp will continue to research.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Department – Chief Murrell reported 645 service calls to date. Chief added that the cage has been removed from the old cruiser, ready for repurposing if that is pursued. The department is preparing its activities for Alstead’s coming Preparedness Day event hosted by Alstead’s Emergency Services teams, to be held on October 7th. There was noticeably increased activity at the department today that Chief could not comment on except to say that an arrest was made thanks to coordination across multiple agencies and a press release would be forthcoming. Chief reiterated that there is no danger to the public. **Ambulance** – Chief Moore reported that as of 12:01 AM tomorrow morning the Alstead Ambulance is a paramedic-authorized service, state inspection still pending. The newly acquired and decorated vehicle was parked outside the building for all to see during the meeting and all were urged to view it on the way out. Alstead now has a soon-to-be-formalized automatic aid agreement with Gilsum now to respond to calls on Gilsum Mine Road because their team is closer; he cited similar agreements in other areas of Alstead with Walpole and Acworth. The department plans to teach about AEDs, CPR, and Stop the Bleed during the Preparedness Day event on October 7th. **Fire Department** – Chief Kercewich reported 70 calls this year, including this weekend’s trees-on-wire call on Gilsum Mine Road. Chief asked for permission to spend less than \$100 to replace the fire prevention sign on Bragg Lane; **the Board approved by concurrence the expenditure to replace the sign.** The department continues to work on correcting punch list items from the safety inspection at East Station. **Transfer station** – Mr. Esslinger asked for a few hours a week of spreadsheet assistance to document incoming data requested by the Board and others. Suggestions for possible helpers were discussed; Ms. Curtis volunteered to assist and will follow up with Mr. Esslinger. Mr. Esslinger then reported that he a rough estimate for repairing the deteriorating 40-yard roll-off container, for between three and four thousand dollars (compared to a replacement price of seventy-five to eighty-four hundred dollars. The Board asked him to look into replacement options at New Hampshire the Beautiful. Finally, Mr. Esslinger urges people to be mindful and cooperative of cones and flag-people who will be supporting new safety policies for moving equipment around when the station is open. **School Board** – There was no school board report.

BOARD REPORTS: Vilas Pool power bill – Mr. Kemp reported that Vilas Pool received an unexplainably high electric bill for three hundred six dollars and fifty cents. After discussion it was decided that Ms. Wilson would investigate to the extent possible but the bill will be paid. Both the pricing and usage are increased. **Planning and Zoning volunteers** – Mr. Kemp notified those present that the Alstead Planning and Zoning boards are both looking for volunteers. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Saxton both provided insight to the nature of those roles, which are appointed by the Select Board. Mr. Kemp also noted that the Conservation Commission needs volunteers as well. Interested Alstead residents were urged to attend meetings for the boards they are interested in to see what’s involved and how things work. Alternatively, they can contact the chair of either board (Planning – Peter Rhoades; Zoning – Dennis Molesky). **Outdated tax and AxisGIS maps** – Mr. Kemp asked Ms. Schoppmeyer to contact the mapping company to arrange a meeting to learn about the mapping process sequence. **Fire Department policies and procedures** – Mr. Kemp suggested an advisory committee to research necessary changes to Fire Department by-laws, policies, and procedures. The rest of the Board concurs with this idea. Mr. Kemp will chair the committee. Mr. Beringer volunteered to join that effort. **Well Hill Co-op meeting** – Mr. McCarty reported that he attended the Co-op’s annual meeting with the Tax Collector to keep the communications lines open. The co-op remains viable and improving albeit in small increments. There is a culvert issue there as well, and that culvert belongs to the co-op.

NEW BUSINESS: Fireworks – Shadowland and other lake area residents asked the Board to consider a permit ordinance governing use of recreational fireworks. Many views were expressed about the impact of frequent unpredictable noise disturbance, the resulting litter on other residents’ properties and in the lake, the effect on pets and wildlife, and the concern of fire risk. The police and fire chiefs weighed in about the difficulties of enforcing such an ordinance and the impact on the rights of the entire town because of an isolated situation in one town area and the fairly infrequent incidence of house fires resulting from recreational fireworks. The Board acknowledged the trauma that recent experiences represent to these residents and thanked them for their input and agreed to continue to listen and work toward a democratic solution. The chief of police agreed to continue the conversation after the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Nalevanko wondered when the next Master Plan update is due from the Planning Board.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, August 29 th , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
FM School Board meeting:	Monday, August 28 th , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
FM Budget Committee meeting:	Wednesday, August 16 th , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.

Informational Warren Dam meeting:	Wednesday, August 16 th , 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
Informational Bridge Projects meeting:	Tuesday, August 22 nd , 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
Community Power presentation:	Tuesday, August 29 th , 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
Alstead Emergency Preparedness Day	Saturday, October 7 th , 2023 from 9-3 on the Green.
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	Wednesday, October 25 th , 2023 @ 4 PM, Acworth.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the public meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator