

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Approved Minutes for Regular Select Board Meeting**  
**October 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

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

**GUESTS:** 2024 Budget presentations: Prescott Trafton, Road Agent.

***Note:** These minutes were transcribed by the Office Administrator, who was absent from the meeting, using a recording that contains many instances of dead air.*

**STAFF: In Person** – Rich Beringer, Fire Department; Ben Kercewich, Fire Department; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet** – None.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person** – Glenn Elsesser, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barbara Viegner, Judith Willis. **Google Meet** – None.

**CALL TO ORDER:** After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM and yielded the floor to Mr. Trafton, who began his budget presentation.

**PRESENTATION:** Mr. Trafton spent an hour and a quarter explaining the details of his 2024 Highway budget, totaling four hundred fifty-eight thousand, three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$458,365), which is an increase of approximately forty thousand dollars over the 2023 budget. The budget lines with increases include wages, striping, roadside mowing, tree work, equipment rental, conference dues & subscriptions, dust control, cold patch, tools, salt & chloride and culverts. There was extended discussion about what highway warrant articles are needed for 2024. The subjects discussed included drainage and paving on Thayer Brook Road; bridge work on Thayer Brook road instead of paving; the technicalities of getting FEMA reimbursements, raising enough money for both things in the same year; hiring a firm to do an engineering study that addresses all of the water crossings on Thayer Brook Road so that the current situation is not repeated, and doing both the engineering study AND spending four to five hundred thousand dollars on paving somewhere in town. The Board asked for numbers on other paving and drainage projects they might consider. The presentation concluded with a discussion about determining whether to replace the grader through a Clean Fleets grant or the 1997 backhoe via a State of New Hampshire program to purchase or lease. Mr. Levesque has grant homework to do; Mr. Trafton has numbers to gather for paving projects; Mr. McCarty will be investigating the engineering study possibilities for Thayer Brook Road. It was suggested that there might be one warrant article for Thayer Brook Road, one for the backhoe, and one for a paving project, and one for the grader Clean Fleets grant that could be written as grant conditional. The Board thanked Mr. Trafton for his presentation.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed the Payroll (\$27,625.42) and Tax Liability (\$5,698.52) manifests for the 10/20 payroll. Signed the Bills Manifest (\$297,255.18) for the 10/17 billing cycle. Signed one Vilas Pool expenditure (power bill, \$64,57). Initialed the change to employee manual from last week re: floating holidays. Signed one purchase order from last week for 40-yd dumpster from Ruggiero, an emergency replacement for our current dumpster that is in an unshippable condition. Considered Chief Paul Bunnell's request to use Millot Green for 2024 Snow Snake Games and Pow Wow events. Mr. McCarty indicated that all these action items on the agenda were signed or otherwise addressed and those in attendance were free to examine them at their leisure.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from October 5, 2023 NPS session re: property negotiation; Minutes from October 11, 2023 NPS re: hiring; Minutes from October 11, 2023 regular meeting. No changes were requested. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that Mr. Kemp seconded, **the Board voted unanimously to accept all sets of minutes as submitted.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Board visited only those items under old business that had relevant information to report. **Washed out glass meeting** – Mr. McCarty reminded those present that the Board and all interested parties would gather at 431 Cobb Hill Road on 10/18/2023 at 10 AM to visit on foot the sites where large amounts of waste glass buried in road beds by the Town of Alstead was washed onto the property of residents in both Alstead and Acworth. **Generator numbers** – Director Reynolds reported that he is waiting to find out the ages of the generators the town currently owns. **East Station exhaust system** – Chief Kercewich provided information about filters that fit the current

exhaust system in East Station. He reported that the gauges indicate that filter replacement is not yet called for. The existing exhaust systems in both fire stations and the Highway Barn are old enough that they should be evaluated for replacement; the Road agent is waiting for the outcome of the insurance walkthrough before deciding to act. Provider PlymoVent offers grant options that will be explored after the walkthrough. The Fire Marshal's office provided 3 additional names to contact about disposing of the unwanted barrel of chemicals; Chief Kercewich is waiting for calls to be returned. **Model T** – FD Association President Mike Kercewich is seeking appraisals to place a value on the vehicle for insurance purposes; work in progress. **Old PD Cruiser** – Mr. McCarty once again raised the question of what to do with the vehicle. Director Reynolds indicated that the recommendation is to sell it. **Upon polling the other Board members and the floor, Mr. McCarty found that the consensus is to sell the vehicle as is.** Chief Murrell is tasked with having the lights, radios, and decals removed and Mr. Elsesser is tasked with posting the vehicle on Municibid. **Town property sales** – The Board asked that this item be divided into two separate items. One is the possible donation of property adjacent to the Town Hall. The other is the sale of two town-owned properties - one on Bley Road and one on Corbin Road - by asking local realtors to bid for the opportunity to list them. Mr. Saxton wanted to clarify whether the two realtors that he has in mind are sufficient; upon brief discussion it was decided that two is enough and Mr. Saxton will proceed with inviting those people to bid.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Elsesser asked about the status of the repairs and painting of the Historical Society steeple, and whether there was a contract. Mr. Saxton reported that the contractor would be able to start at the end of next summer and that no contract was signed yet.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Elsesser asked whether the MS 434-R, due on September 1st, had been submitted yet. Mr. McCarty indicated that that was a question for the Office Administrator, who was absent from the meeting.

There being no further public business, on a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, **Mr. McCarty recessed the public meeting at 7:40 PM to allow the room to clear for two non-public sessions.**

On a motion from Mr. McCarty that Mr. Kemp seconded, the Board voted by roll call (McCarty – Y, Saxton – Y, Kemp – Y) to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: II (a) at 7:44 PM. The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the session before returning to public session.

On a motion from Mr. McCarty that Mr. Kemp seconded, the Board voted to return to public session at 7:57 PM.

On a motion from Mr. Saxton that Mr. Kemp seconded, the Board voted by roll call (McCarty – Y, Saxton – Y, Kemp – Y) to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: II (c) at 7:58 PM. The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the session before returning to public session.

On a motion from Mr. McCarty that Mr. Kemp seconded, the Board voted to return to public session at 8:09 PM.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Kemp that Mr. Saxton seconded, Mr. McCarty adjourned the public meeting at 8:11 PM.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next regular Select Board meeting:</b>	Tuesday, October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>FM School Board meeting:</b>	Monday, November 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>FM Budget Committee meeting:</b>	Wednesday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>MOBIL Bridge solutions meeting</b>	Tuesday, October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	Wednesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 4 PM, Acworth.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator