

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of January 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Ben Hoy, TS Supervisor; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis, and two members of the Lake Warren Association. **Google Meet:** Gordon Kemp (2nd half of the meeting).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed payroll manifests for 12/30/22, 1/13/23; Signed Payroll Tax Liability and Accounts Payable manifests for 12/27/22 and 1/10/23; Signed a tax credit or exemption application for M26 L4C; Signed a nomination for Mr. Levesque as a full member to the Southwest Regional Planning Commission's Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee; Scheduled a public hearing to accept unanticipated funds (45,033.22, SB401 FY 2023 Municipally owned bridges (Wednesday 1/18/23 5 PM); Followed up on Transfer Station Letter of Deficiency; Signed Timber cut intent 22-009-15 T.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes from regular meetings of December 13 and 20, 2022; Budget meeting minutes of December 12, 13, 20, 27, and 29, 2022 were approved at the January 5, 2023 budget meeting.

SELECT BOARD: Mr. McCarty reported that he has scheduled a public meeting with the town's Trust Fund manager for January 31, 2023 at 10 AM at the Town Offices, to answer questions about how the funds are managed; he is reviewing final draft of the 2021 audit report. Glenn Elsesser asked him whether there was any response from NH Land and Water Conservation about participating financially in the Vilas Dam project (no) and whether there was any update on the MOBIL Bridge approval process (no, still need to submit package); and whether the Drewsville bridge permit is about to expire and requires an extension (will investigate). **Mr. Saxton** reported that he assisted a resident with inquiries about the regulations associated with an incinerating toilet with accompanying levity. **Mr. Levesque** reported that the public hearing for the 34- million-dollar school budget is scheduled for Thursday 1/12 at 5:30 PM in the Fall Mountain cafeteria, and that the budget committee worked hard to reduce this year's budget by 1.7% over last year's budget. There was accompanying discussion about which schools had teacher cuts, enrollment trends, class sizes, and encouraging people to attend and participate. Mr. Levesque further noted that another budget meeting is scheduled for Friday, 1/13/23 at 10 AM at the Town Offices. He described some of the decisions that need to be made and Mr. Elsesser provided more information about the damage that occurred to the pumper fire truck. There was more discussion about storing antique fire trucks in East Station.

HIGHWAY: Mr. Trafton reported that one truck requires sander repairs and salt usage is slightly below average.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Murrell reported that all the equipment is in for the new cruiser but there is as yet no cruiser to install it in. The year has started out busy. Last year saw 862 calls.

AMBULANCE: Chief Moore reported that the busy trend continues in 2023 and that a local squad is selling an ambulance and he is hoping to meet with them to see it. There has already been a situation where a second ambulance would have been useful. Mr. McCarty asked about oil testing to analyze the internal state of the crankcase before buying used equipment and making the sale contingent on the result, possibly worth the cost of the test. He also asked whether the Board approved the increased ambulance reimbursement rates to align them with Medicare (yes - the Board agreed by consensus and signed the memo).

TRANSFER STATION: Supervisor Hoy reported that all deficiencies cited in the recent NHDES Letter of Deficiency have been addressed and the soil in the suspect area tested clean. We are waiting for confirmation from Concord that the remediation efforts have been acknowledged. There was extended discussion about waste oil and the regulations associated with using, storing, and transporting it. The new scale is installed, calibrated, and certified and ready for use and a cart solution is in progress. Hubbard is going to pay for baling wire, repair costs for bailer, and 500 lbs. of plastic for TREX. He reiterated that we need the second baler for the program to succeed because of the logistics associated with baling springy plastics.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the town offices. The next budget workshop is scheduled for Friday, January 13, 2023 at the Town Offices. A very short public hearing to accept unanticipated funds is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall and will be followed immediately by the 2023 Budget Hearing. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday January 27th, 2023 at 4:30 PM in Langdon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **Mark Danahy** asked the Board to affirm that Colony Mine Road is a private road to satisfy the surveyor who is mapping a property for a boundary line adjustment. Mr. Saxton will prepare text for an affirmation letter for the administrator to send to the Alstead Planning Board with the necessary statement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 5:55 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – (matters that could affect reputation of someone other than the Board).***

Before exiting the non-public session, the Board reviewed the minutes of the session and signed them.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted to exit the non-public session and return to public session at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to accept the background check for a new ambulance employee.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:01 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator