

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of May 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

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

**STAFF PRESENT: In person:** Jordan Cannon, PB-ZBA Admin; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant. **Google Meet:** None.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person:** Glenn Elsesser, Marge Noonan, Rich Nalevanko, Rebecca & Ethan Schultz, Barb Viegener, Joe Levesque & Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

**GUESTS:** No scheduled guests.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Chair again welcomed Rebecca and Ethan Schultz to our midst.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed the Hoyle Tanner agreement pages for the Hill Road and Comstock Road bridges over Darby Brook. Signed two ambulance trip detail reports indicating the amounts of uncollected payments to write off for 2020 (\$5877.04) and 2021 (\$4253.79). Signed one pay rate sheet (Planning/Zoning Administrator).

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Accept: NPS Minutes of May 2, 2023 – two sets (already signed by the Board). Approve: Minutes of May 2, 2023. No changes were requested. On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.***

**OLD BUSINESS: Fire truck repair** – Chief Kercewich reported that the Engine 3 pump is mostly reassembled and the technician is hoping to test ON Thursday 5/11. Repair cost expected to be greater than estimated but nowhere near the warrant article. Once tested, will evaluate the valves to determine if they need attention. **Broadband** – Mr. McCarty cited a letter received from Consolidated Communications announcing the imminent installation of fiber internet in the Town of Alstead at no cost to the town, supported by grant money. Informational meetings will be held, as yet unscheduled. **Comstock Rd and Hill Rd Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty explained that the documents signed this evening are the agreements between Hoyle Tanner and the town that allows the engineering phase of the project to commence. There are questions about 2022 warrant article 18 (Bridge design) and legal advice will be sought. **Five-Town bulk fuel numbers:** Due 5/26. After a quick review it was suggested to get heating fuel numbers for three years (with temperature information if available) and average them instead of just using one year.

**NEW BUSINESS: Ambulance write-offs for 2020 and 2021** – Mr. McCarty asked Ambulance Chief Moore whether the write-off numbers provided are typical of prior years. The Chief indicated that they are lower than expected.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Emergency management** – Assessment questionnaires are in hand from the fire department and police department; phase I of the assessment is well underway. There is progress toward a temporary ambulance housing solution that will tide us over as we work toward a permanent one. The generator maintenance cycle resulted in multiple items being identified and acted upon – new process is working as desired. Information located by the Admin with regard to the 2018 Safety Committee was helpful; a meeting of the new committee has been scheduled for Wednesday, 5/24 at 6 PM. **Capital improvement plan** – Mr. Elsesser noted that it is too soon to consider which truck to replace next but repairing the 2015 Dodge will improve its re-sale prospects. Mr. Kemp asked Mr. Elsesser to work with Mr. Reynolds to get the generators added to the plan. **Ambulance** – Chief Moore reported that prep work on the new ambulance is completed except for the modem and the drug safe and the vehicle will be delivered to Swanzey for “wrapping” (a graphic decal treatment that is less expensive than painting) by 5/31. Call volume remains high but revenues are also up. **Backhoe damage** – The cab door of the backhoe was accidentally damaged at the Transfer Station. The repair quote is \$2500-\$2700. Neither Mr. Hoy nor Mr. Trafton was present to provide additional detail. The damage will be reported to Primex. **School Board** – Mr. Levesque reported a good meeting on Monday 5/8. Excess fund balance is projected to be between 1.9 to 2.6 million dollars due to positions that could not be filled. The Board decided to get quotes for paving the parking lot, access road, and bus lot, as well as to build a second access road to prevent loss of access

in the event of an access road blockage (such as tree fall). By comparison, with last year's one-million-dollar fund balance the Board put five hundred thousand dollars in capital reserve and returned the rest to the taxpayers. Bids for the work are expected by the June meeting, which will be Monday June 12 (second Monday of each month). Further, Mr. Levesque reported that an impressive seven Fall Mountain students qualified for the National History finals and will represent the school on a trip to Maryland and Washington DC; this is the first time in recent memory that more than one student has qualified for the national history finals. Thirty-three students are attending the Center for Trade Education (CTE) center in Springfield and there is talk of legislation needed to get NH students certified in NH as well as VT upon completion of their training there. The senior class is seeking donations to improve the area known as "Pine Tree Circle" in the parking lot with benches and other accoutrements. **Community Planning** – Mr. Levesque reported that he attended his last Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) meeting as an Alstead representative as he has joined the Board of Directors. He noted that the state of New Hampshire has the second highest electric rates in the United States – second only to Hawaii – and that the Planning Commission believes that every municipality should be looking into community power. A speaker will present on the subject at the June 13 SWRPC Annual Meeting, to be held at 4:30 PM at the Keene Library. Mr. McCarty tasked Mr. Levesque with attending on Alstead's behalf; Mr. Saxton also expressed interest in attending. **Fall Mountain Budget Committee** – Mr. Cannon reported that the next Fall Mountain Budget Committee meeting is Tuesday, May 16 at 6 PM at the high school. Mr. McCarty commended the group for getting an early start on their budget deliberations.

**BOARD REPORTS: Trail work** – Mr. McCarty reported that Bill Blaiklok has volunteered to do some trail maintenance on the Bragg Lane trail that leads toward Vilas Pool and he would like the Planning Board to weigh in. Mr. Kemp observed that the effort should proceed with caution to make sure all abutters are on board. Mr. Kemp will invite Mr. Blaiklok to attend the 5/15 Planning Board meeting. **FEMA transition** - The Board received a letter from NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management indicating that the two July 2021 flood events will be transitioned to FEMA and applications for assistance after this year's March 14 snowstorm are due soonest; Mr. Trafton and Mr. Reynolds are working on that application. **Acworth equipment loan** - Mr. McCarty expressed gratitude to Acworth for loaning us their roller to finish shoulders after grading roads. **Rotate meeting location during summer months** – Mr. Kemp proposed visiting different Alstead locations for summer Select Board meetings and discussion ensued with wonderments about bugs, confusion re: meeting location, and other points. Mr. Kemp will propose locations. **Town Forester** - Mr. Kemp noted that there is no such position and that Mr. Renzelman, who was recently voted into that position, must function instead as an unpaid consultant. **Tri-town Recreation** - Mr. Kemp reported that the organization is no longer interested in maintaining the baseball field, and Mr. Kemp has volunteered to do it for the time being. He notes that there should be a Municipal Records Committee but there are missing pieces; he proposes a meeting to follow up, he will coordinate. **Recording secretary** – Mr. Cannon wondered if there is interest in him serving in that capacity and if so, with what pay. Mr. McCarty asked Mr. Cannon and Ms. Schoppmeyer to follow up. **East Station hot water** – Mr. Saxton wondered if there is a less expensive means of providing hot water for East Station hand washing than a full tank of fuel oil. Hot water at East Station comes off the boiler. **July 4 week office closure** - It was determined that time that week should be reported as PTO.

#### **INFORMATIONAL:**

- The Select Board will hold its annual Tax Deeding meeting on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Town Offices conference room.
- The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 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 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the high school.
- The next Fall Mountain Budget Committee Meeting is Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the high school.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viegener wondered if we are still buying Dodge trucks given their repair record. It was noted that the newly-purchased used ambulance is a Dodge but there is a proactive repair available that we will ensure is done. Mrs. Viegener also wondered whether electricity is really already at 76% of our power budget for 2023 and why that is so high given that rate increases were known.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, *the Board voted by roll call (Mr. McCarty – y; Mr. Saxton – y; Mr. Kemp - y) to enter non-public session at 7:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(c) – reputational.*

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session and return to public session at 8:11 PM.***

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted by roll call (Mr. McCarty– y; Mr. Saxton – y; Mr. Kemp - y) to enter non-public session at 8:13 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(a) –personnel.***

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

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session and return to public session at 8:23 PM.***

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 8:24 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Schoppmeyer".

Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator