

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Leveque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Jodi Kercewich, Cemetery Trustee.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Mark Mastrocinque, Barb Viegner, Marge Noonan, Rich Nalevanko. **Google Meet:** Gordon Kemp (briefly).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed AP and Liability manifests from 6/3 payroll. Signed timber cut reports 21-009-09 T and 22-009-09 T. Signed first issue 2022 Tax Warrant. Signed .gov web domain request per Charland Technologies. Signed 5 Vilas Pool summer expenditures.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of May 12, 2022; Minutes from May 31, 2022. The May 12 meeting was a public meeting for the express purpose of holding a non-public session; no other business was done. The non-public session minutes for May 12 and May 31 are already approved. No changes were requested. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

ADMINISTRATOR: Mary reported a productive visit from Rick Evans of the NH Department of Forest and Lands, who visited our offices this week and introduced a new spreadsheet for rating the timber described on a report of cut. Loggers rarely submit a rating chart with the report of cut and this new worksheet improves the reporting process.

TAX DEEDING RECOMMENDATION: The Tax Collector recommended to the board that the town extend by three months the deadline for the owners of 210 Gilsum Mine Road to remit past due taxes before the town deeds the property. A 3-month Tax Deeding Waiver was included among the items for the Board's signature. After a short discussion that indicated forward progress with the issues at that property, on a motion from Joe that was seconded by Joel **the Board voted unanimously to sign the 3-month waiver.**

There was a tangential discussion about the 1970s, diesel, refining, fuel pricing, and fuel logs, a tidy segue into Prescott's first Highway item report.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Prescott confirmed with town counsel that 1) with our Request for Qualifications indicating that the town reserves the right to reject any qualifications submitted; and 2) having not yet executed the written agreement with the vendor of choice and 3) the 7-day expiration date on the written agreement having passed, the town is within its rights to decide to either postpone or cancel the Gilsum Mine Road paving project this year. On a motion from Matt that was seconded by Joel, **the Board voted unanimously to discontinue the Gilsum Mine paving project until August, when pricing will be re-evaluated.** The vendor (Pike Industries) indicated that we are not the only town to consider this. Prescott then reported that the striping vendor contacted him to see if they could stripe Alstead roads on short notice. The price was right and they wanted to get ahead of the rain, and there was the additional complication of a breakdown but all the main roads were striped. He added that Fuzzy Brothers has completed our sand and gravel crushing for the year and it will be stockpiled by the end of the week. One employee was out for medical reasons which was an eye-opening complication. He suggests considering hiring a part-time resource next year in anticipation of inevitable attrition. There was one complaint about not grading roads. Prescott also suggested that one way to save mowing fuel is to cut down on what we mow, and one place to consider that is by putting fabric and gravel down in the field at Vilas Pool that is often used as overflow parking. Prescott also reviewed the MOBIL bridge project qualifications but found that he couldn't make any particular recommendation. Joel thanked him for his efforts in that regard. In addition, Prescott reported that the vendor mis-quoted the price of the core logs for the Pine Cliff Road erosion mitigation project, the price is not \$504, it is \$5040, just for the logs. The Board suggested sending that quote to Lisa Murphy at the Southwest Regional Planning Commission and asking for her assistance with that. Joe observed that a related project also at Lake Warren would result in material needing to be dumped somewhere, and Lisa Murphy indicated that as part of the matching funds they would pay for us having to truck that material around, and maybe the Pine Cliff materials cost can be included in that matching funding. The Board asked Prescott to report monthly about the fuel situation and problems it will pose going forward.

ZONING BOARD (erroneously stated as Planning Board on the Agenda): A zoning board member has asked to become an alternate and resident Max Zurmuhlen has volunteered to join the board. After some discussion, on a motion from Matt that was seconded by Joel, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Zurmuhlen to the Zoning Board.

FIVE-TOWN SELECT BOARD MEETING: The Charlestown interim Administrative Assistant sent a notice of the date and time of the next meeting and asked if any of the other towns were interested in hosting. After brief discussion the Board agreed to offer to host the meeting on Friday, August 5th, 2022 in the Town Hall space at 9 Main Street and tasked Mary with informing the remaining towns of that offer.

CEMETERY: In response to an inquiry about last week's monument/headstone repair purchase order, Jodi Kercewich described the monument at Alstead Center Cemetery and the headstone at West Cemetery that are in need of fairly expensive repair. There was additional discussion about the perpetual care program and funding at Alstead cemeteries. There were questions about large amounts of perpetual care money that cannot be touched for current cemetery needs, only for care of older cemetery plots. It was agreed that the Trustee of Trust Funds needed to be consulted.

SELECT BOARD: Joel noted that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services sent a letter notifying that no violations were observed at 8 Vilas Road during a May 12th inspection resulting from a complaint about someone changing the direction of the brook there. Joel thanked Rich Nalevanko for his efforts with the Fall Mountain Educational Association and the \$480,000 of scholarship funds awarded to graduating seniors this year. The group offered a round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rich Nalevanko asked for an update on the request for information about the Alstead Senior Housing Project. Matt reported that he did receive a reply from the Assessor but he found it unsatisfactory and plans to follow up. Barb Viegener asked if fuel prices had been locked in this year and Joe indicated that it wasn't possible yet. Joel noted that the school transportation department has already spent their fuel budget with 2 weeks left in the school year. Joe indicates that it's on the next school board meeting agenda. There followed additional expressions of concern about fuel prices and the problems they are posing.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Joe will not attend; he will be at the Southwest Regional Planning Commission meeting.

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) - matters that might adversely affect the reputation of anyone other than those on the Board.***

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

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:13 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) - Consideration or negotiation pending claims or litigation.***

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

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of both non-public sessions as written.***

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 6:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator