

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of September 6, 2022 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, Transfer Station Supervisor; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

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

ACTION ITEMS: Signed the 9/9 payroll manifests for \$33,422.89 gross regular pay and \$4600 gross quarterly stipends; signed the tax liability manifests for a total of \$4953.93. Because of the holiday the bills will be paid tomorrow, so the Accounts Payable manifest will be reviewed and signed next week.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of September 6, 2022: On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, *the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

SELECT BOARD REPORTS: DES Lake Warren Meeting: Mr. Levesque reported that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services held a meeting to explain why they are studying water flow through Lake Warren. 54 people attended and Joe requested a slide packet from the presenter. The Board expressed its thanks to Marge Noonan for facilitating use of the church for the meeting. There was additional discussion about various impressions of the meeting and the turnout. **Enrollment:** Mr. Levesque reported that he still doesn't have Alstead enrollment numbers but the request is made. There was some extended commentary about how it seems hard to get enrollment numbers. **Lake Warren:** Mr. McCarty reported that he once again released water from the dam in support of programs at The Mill, in accordance with the existing Agreement between The Town, the Lake Association and the Mill Hollow Heritage Association; and that he responded to a call about the demolition that has finally begun on the 7 Main St. property. It should be vacant, the cellar-hole filled, tree-free, de-stumped, re-seeded, and mulched by Friday, September 9th. He invited the owner's son to attend a Selectboard meeting in the near future to meet the group and entertain suggestions for negotiation with regard to the town's interest in the property. Mr. Nalevanko asked about whether it would receive an environmental all-clear; Mr. McCarty responded that all we know is the asbestos is mitigated. There was extended discussion about who is doing the work as well as ideas for ways to negotiate the town's interests with the owner and bring the results to the Town warrant in March. Mr. McCarty further reported that Tuesday September 13th is tax deeding day. **Fuel assistance:** Mr. Saxton reported that he continues to gather a great deal of information about state and federal sources of help. A tangent discussion ensued about the cost of parking in Keene and the trend away from coins in the parking meters.

TRANSFER STATION: When asked by Mr. McCarty how the Walpole Recycling Center handles on-site campaigning, Mr. Hoy indicated that he has not encountered that situation there. Mr. McCarty described the solution that the New Hampshire Municipal Association offered, which is that campaigning is allowed but the station staff gets to tell campaigners where they can stand so as not to disrupt operations. Mr. Hoy then reported about his efforts to get the Alstead Transfer Station costs in line and the best opportunity for that is Construction & Demolition debris. He proposes that the town purchase a scale for weighing vehicles before and after dumping, purchase 2 carts, and charge \$.25 per pound of material dumped. The scale would pay for itself in a matter of months. The Board was enthusiastic about the idea. There was prolonged discussion about operational logistics, challenges, options, communications, technologies, and other towns' solutions. During the course of the discussion an alternative portable scale solution was proposed and Mr. Hoy will do a bit more research to keep the proposed costs within budget. He will report his findings in two weeks.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Chief Moore expressed his thanks to the Alstead ambulance and fire departments, Marlow Fire department & police, Keene ambulance and fire department, DiLuzio Ambulance, DART, and UMASS Life Flight for their response and assistance with a horrific accident on Gilsum Mine Road over the weekend. These teams responded and worked to process the scene and get the victims to facilities with impressive speed. Chief also warned that the ambulance

budget is 75% expended, and he discovered that the copier is obsolete and toner for it is no longer available, so a new copier is on the horizon. A lively discussion ensued about the budget implications for next year.

VILAS POOL PARK: Gordon Kemp reported that the park has closed for the season and that it was a great season. The dock has been moved up near the bell tower. The swan boat was slightly disassembled and stored in the boathouse. He indicated that he has canceled the Comcast account in anticipation of using Starlink for 3 months next year. Final shutdown has not been completed because there is still hope that the Moose grant (no news still) will be approved and remaining repairs on the pavilion can be completed during the fall. Mr. Saxton expressed the Board's thanks to Mr. Kemp for all of his work at the park this year. Mr. Kemp made a final note that Marge Noonan has been in contact with Chase's Mill, which has the parts of the old Swan boat. Efforts are afoot to pursue a reprise of that esteemed tradition and he thanked Marge for her efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing further.

INFORMATIONAL: Because of Election Night and the fact that Mr. Levesque will be in Cape Cod on the 13th, there will be no meeting on Election night, so the next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The next 5-Town Selectboard Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 28th at 4:30 p.m., hosted by Walpole.

On a motion from Joel McCarty that was seconded by Matt Saxton, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:15 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)