

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Approved Minutes for 2<sup>nd</sup> Public informational Meeting about MOBIL Bridge Project Options**  
**and Regular Select Board Meeting**  
**October 24, 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:** Hoyle Tanner will present the MOBIL Bridge project solutions for Comstock Road and Hill Road bridges over Darby Brook. 2024 Budget presentation, time permitting: Steve Murrell, Police Chief.

**STAFF:** **In Person** – Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet** – Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** **In person** – Jeanne Brooks, Glenn Elsesser, Jim Gordon, Keith Hanatow, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Laurie Ryan, Joe Ryan, Barbara Viegner, Judith Willis. **Google Meet** – Bindy Curtis, Shelley Steuwe.

**CALL TO ORDER:** After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM, summarized the evening’s agenda, and greeted the guests from Hoyle Tanner. Then he yielded the floor to Josif Bicja and Katelyn Welch to detail the bridge design options.

**PRESENTATION:** Mr. Bicja summarized the bridge projects, the team players (Town of Alstead, NH Dept of Transportation (NHDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)), the meeting goals, and the project phases before turning the floor over to Ms. Welch, who reminded the group of the issues with the existing bridges and the design options for both bridges.

In both cases, complete replacement was determined to be the only feasible choice, so all of the options provided are replacement options.

<b>Comstock Road bridge options</b>	<b>Hill Road bridge options</b>
*30-foot pre-cast concrete arch bridge with NHDOT T-2 railings	*30-foot pre-cast concrete deck beams with NHDOT T-2 railings
30-foot pre-cast concrete deck beams with NHDOT T-2 railings	30-foot Steel I-beam with NHDOT T-2 railings

\*Recommended option

Additional discussion involved exploration of texturing and coloring and graffiti-prevention coatings on the pre-cast arch bridge; also roadbed and railing options, drainage, detours, time frame, and the pros and cons of the recommended designs versus the second-choice options for both bridges. The group consensus was to accept the recommended design for both projects with the addition of paving instead of dirt on the Comstock Road bridge. Preferences can be made later for coloring and anti-graffiti coating. Mr. McCarty thanked Mr. Bicja and Ms. Welch for their presentation, time and travel and suggested a five-minute recess to transition to the regular Board meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Approved the HealthTrust transmittal for 2024 coverage (up 15.6%). Reviewed the 2024 Primex rates.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Chief Murrell outlined his 2024 department budget. There were increases to the wages, overtime, the county prosecutor program, dues & subscriptions, and vehicle repairs lines. Vehicle repairs is increased because Chief is driving a 2017 vehicle that will probably experience an increasing rate of repairs due to age. Dues and subscriptions increases are due to the requested sign trailer maintenance contract, if it cannot be signed in 2023; a bit more homework is needed. The county prosecutor program is experiencing a 37% increase this year to hire an additional prosecutor. Chief explained that he kept money in the budget for hiring; this year it is centered around another part time officer. Chief noted also that the department gets reimbursed for certain types of overtime by the Highway Safety grant so although that line is increased, the expense is reimbursed so it’s a net zero effect for some if not all of that expense. Discussion items included whether the sign trailer maintenance cost should be shared

with the Highway Department or General Government budgets since the trailers are used for a variety town-wide reasons not limited to policing and highways. Mr. Kemp wants to investigate whether the Board can sign the contract because it is committing other boards over multiple years and might need to be a warrant article for the voters. Mr. Elsesser asked when the older cruiser should be replaced and for how much, so that he can update the capital improvement plan. Mr. Nalevanko asked for clarification of the policy development line item.

Chief plans to write two PD warrant articles for 2024; one for body-worn and fleet cameras, storage, and chargers and one for space on the US Cellular tower for space for the Alstead PD communications antenna. Discussion about the camera equipment centered around its expense, whether it's needed, why it's useful, and what our basic coverage for police liability is through Primex (Mr. McCarty will ask that question when Primex visits next week). Chief will bring information about why the camera equipment is necessary to the January Deliberative Session. Discussion about the tower involved the current rental contract term and expiration, cost, whether the Board can sign that contract contingent on the voters' approval in March.

Finally Chief noted that as part of his supply budget he plans to stock up on cartridges for the current model of Taser, which is being discontinued, in order to use the current equipment for as long as possible.

**OLD BUSINESS: Washed-out glass** – The Board reported that they walked the area where waste glass buried in roadbeds by the town washed onto private property. The Board agrees that it has a moral responsibility for the problem with no conclusion about how to fix it. Mr. McCarty spent time in Concord talking to DES, DOT, Dept of Health, and other organizations hoping to more clearly define the way forward with limited success. Mr. McCarty listed three problems to address: 1-How to clean up the glass that is polluting the land in two towns and counties? 2-What to do with the road that the glass washed out of? 3-How to identify all the places where waste glass was buried so that they can be included in the cleanup. The Solid Waste representative indicated that vacuum technology has been useful for cleaning up gravel but wasn't sure about the effectiveness with glass, more investigation is needed. Mrs. Viegner noted that despite agreeing where to put the glass we did clean up, it was not put in the agreed-upon location. There was additional discussion about pulverizing equipment that produces a product that is currently considered safe to use in roads.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chief Murrell urged the public to sign up for Trunk or Treat. In addition, he urged people to pick up copies of a document he provided on the meeting table from the Cheshire County Sheriff's department's Just in Case program, designed to provide information to law enforcement to assist family members or friends who suffer from dementia in the event that they become lost or disoriented. The document can be turned in to the county and information gets disseminated to other agencies if it becomes necessary.

Mr. McCarty reminded those present that the next Select Board meeting will be Wednesday November 1 because of Halloween festivities taking place on October 31.

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 7:50 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 (b) at 7:57 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 8:02 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 8:03 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 8:12 PM.

Mr. Kemp reported that he will set up a meeting with Mr. Hancock on Cobb Hill Road to discuss the beaver dam problem in that area and that he will attempt to secure the attendance of a beaver consultant at that meeting.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from October 17, 2023; Minutes from October 17, 2023 NPS re: compensation; Minutes from October 17, 2023 NPS re: reputational. 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.***

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. McCarty that Mr. Kemp seconded, Mr. McCarty adjourned the public meeting at 8:17 PM.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next regular Select Board meeting:</b>	Wednesday, November 1 <sup>st</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, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	TBD -- reschedule in progress

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator