

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 1, 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: Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed the 11/4 Payroll manifest (\$25,730.15); Signed the 11/2 Accounts Payable manifest (\$42,399.18); Signed the 11/4 Payroll Tax liability manifest (\$5216.89). Tabled the Water System mapping proposal again. Signed 1 Vilas Pool expenditure for pressure washing. Signed 1 Current Use application (M14 L12).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of October 25, 2022: No changes requested. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.***

BOARD REPORTS: Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting: Mr. Levesque reported a worthy meeting and added that a former FEMA rep wants to help the committee form a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT team) and offered suggestions for keeping a CERT team engaged. **Budget:** Mr. McCarty noted that he has been reviewing the budget. **Need for rental housing:** Mr. McCarty noted that he is aware of four local families in immediate need of rental housing and asked the community to advise him of any known availability. **Well Hill:** Progress continues. A crane will be brought in soon to remove four large trees that threaten structures. **Mill Hollow Heritage Association:** The organization wants to renew the Lake Warren water release agreement as written. Waiting on input from the Lake Association. **Sale of 9 Mechanic Street:** Mr. Saxton reported that the survey proceeds on the property to the satisfaction of the buyer. **Building Permits:** Mr. Saxton has reviewed two building permits in the absence of a Zoning Officer. **Transfer Station:** Mr. McCarty reported that the Transfer Station received a less-than-satisfactory inspection report and that 4 of the 5 violations observed are paperwork violations. The supervisor is actively working on correcting all violations. **Public Health:** Mr. McCarty reported that the New Hampshire DES is keeping the harmful algal bloom warning posted on Lake Warren for another week. **MOBIL bridge application process:** Mr. McCarty reported that work continues on submitting the town's request to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for permission to proceed with the Scope and Fee negotiation phase of the qualification-based selection process. **Winter parking ban:** On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to enact and post notice of the annual winter parking ban ordinance (November 1 through April 15).*** **Post-pandemic survey:** Mr. Levesque observed that the New Hampshire Municipal Association has distributed a survey about the post-pandemic economic condition of NH cities and towns, with a response deadline of December 14th. The Board agreed that they would work together to prepare the response. **Zoning officer appointment:** On a motion from Joe that was seconded with glee by Joel, ***the Board voted with 2 in favor and 1 abstaining to appoint Mr. Saxton as Zoning Officer until a replacement can be found.***

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. McCarty reported on behalf of the Fire Chief that Engine 3 suffered a catastrophic transfer case failure on 10/31/22 and is out of service indefinitely. Engine 3 is a 1999 Pierce pumper that resides at East Station; there is another pumper at the Town Station. Repair details to follow soon.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Murrell reported a successful Halloween Trunk or Treat event with 175 children served, and he commended Officer Underwood and PD Admin Penny Gendron for their efforts with that popular program. The Chief noted that the department has responded to 715 calls so far this year, which exceeds the past high of 709 calls. In response to a query from Mr. Saxton, he indicated that there have been more major events this year than usual, as well as a higher volume of responses to items of a lesser nature. Officer Underwood will soon attend a car seat training program that will allow them to provide car seat training to parents, and is also tied to a grant that allows assistance with obtaining car seats for families in need. Chief Murrell will soon attend a training program at the academy about firearms violence prevention.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Chief Moore reported that the squad has exceeded the call volume of its busiest year on record, with two months to go. The chief also expressed gratitude that many light bulbs throughout the Town Hall and Fire Station space were replaced. Mr. McCarty indicated that he reached out to Cheshire County Administrator Chris Coates to ask about the county's plans for ambulances going forward and learn what the town needs to know before committing to the purchase of a new ambulance – a subject that was raised at the last meeting. No answers are yet forthcoming.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The next Five-Town Select Board meeting is scheduled for January 27th, 2023 in Langdon. Mr. Levesque gave a brief overview of the topics discussed at the Five-Town meeting held on October 28th.

VILAS POOL: Gordon Kemp reported that the Road Agent would be opening the Vilas Pool dam this week, and that news regarding the status of the Moose Plate Grant application is expected soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gordon Kemp reported that he has another meeting scheduled with the representative of the owner of the property next door to the Town Hall. He also asked what kind of trees were being removed from Well Hill. Rich Nalevanko asked about the amount of money spent on legal expenses and whether any additional invoices are expected. The answer is that additional invoices are expected. There was additional discussion about the hourly rate charged. On behalf of a resident, Mr. McCarty reported a request to have Comstock Road and Darby Brook Road graded once before winter; the Administrator will pass the request on to the Road Agent. Mr. McCarty also responded to a resident inquiry about a rotting utility pole.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 5:37 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e).***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session and return to public session at 5:47 p.m.***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 5:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator