

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Unapproved Minutes for Meeting of January 29th, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** **In person** –Misty Gratacos, Office Administrator; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Jesse Moore, Director of Sanitation, EMS and Grounds; Bobbie Wilson, Supervisor of the Checklist & Ambulance Lieutenant, Julie Bacon, Town Clerk & Tax Collector; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief. **Google Meet** -- none

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** **In person** –Joe Levesque. **Google Meet** – none

**GUESTS:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 10:31am

**ACTION ITEMS:** Mr. McCarty reported that today’s meeting will focus on proper wording for Warrant Articles, as today is the deadline to post a signed warrant, a signed proposed budget and signed a default budget.

Mr. Kemp reported that he has had several conversations with Jamie Dow, NH Department of Revenue Association (DRA) in regards to the acceptable wording for each of the warrant articles as the warrant articles were discussed one at a time.

As the board and department heads reviewed the drafted budget, Mr. Saxton asked about the Select Board wages being set to \$1. It was explained that this could be amended at the Deliberative Session if the town felt the need.

Many reservations were voiced regarding proposing an operating budget over 2 million dollars. Hopes that the voters will support certain pieces. Mr. McCarty reminded the department heads and the other board members that the obligation of the board is to abide by the rules set forth by the DRA and to propose a budget that is in the best interest of the town.

Mr. Kemp brought forth several questions regarding the chart of account numbers which don’t seem to align with the DRA’s chart of accounts. This discussion will continue.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business was discussed.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** Fire Department: Chief Kercewich reported that he had a quote for the new proposed Brush Truck. \$95,000 was the quote.

**BOARD REPORTS:** Mr. McCarty reported that he will be attending the Lake Warren Association meeting this evening.

Mr. Kemp proposed flipping the room at the Deliberative Session so that anyone arriving late would not disrupt the room and make easier access to the facilities.

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next regular Select Board meeting:</b>	Tuesday, January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 @ 10:00 AM, Town Office, 15 Mechanic St.
<b>2024 Town Meeting Deliberative Session:</b>	February 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024 @ 10 AM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
<b>2024 Town Meeting Voting Day:</b>	Tuesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, 8 AM to 7 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
<b>FM School Board meeting:</b>	Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School Library (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)
<b>FM Budget Committee meeting:</b>	Wednesday, February 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	TBD – Reschedule in progress

There being no further public business, the Board Chair recessed the meeting to allow the public to depart in preparation for a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a).

**NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS:** 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 (1) at 11:29 am, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) (personnel).***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session (1) and return to public session at 11:39 am.***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted by roll call (Mr. McCarty – y; Mr. Saxton – y; Mr. Kemp – y) to enter non-public session at 11:40 am, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) (personnel).***

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session (2) and return to public session at 11:42 am.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board chair recessed the public meeting at 11:43 a.m.,*** to reconvene later today to prepare and sign the Proposed Budget, Default Budget and Proposed warrant articles.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty, seconded by Mr. Kemp, the Select Board public meeting was called back to order at 6:00pm in order to sign the proposed budget, proposed warrant articles and proposed default budget in order to have the Office Admin upload the information to the DRA portal.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:15 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Misty Gratacos  
Office Administrator