

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of April 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

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

STAFF PRESENT: **In person** – Ben Hoy, Transfer Station Consultant; Jodi Kercewich, Cemetery Trustee; Jessie Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant and Supervisor of the Checklist. **Google Meet** – None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person** – Jordan Cannon, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Peter Renzelman, Joe Ruggiero, Judith Willis. **Google Meet** – None.

GUEST: Peter Renzelman, NH-licensed forester

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

ACTION ITEMS: Signed the 4/21 payroll manifest (\$27893.83) and tax liability manifest (\$5646.94). Signed 4/18 Payables manifest (\$309,148.85). Signed two forest fire training bills. Signed three tax credit applications (M12L2, M28L5, M10L21A). Signed one Land Use Change Tax bill and one Land Use Change Tax warrant for M21 L9 (Camp Brook Rd). Signed one abatement request (M3L4). Signed one Vilas Pool expenditure (power). Signed pay rate sheets for the Cemetery, Executive, Fire Department, Library, Planning/Zoning, Police Department, TC, TX, and Transfer Station.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of April 11, 2023: Mr. Nalevanko noted that he and Mr. Elsesser were missing from the list of public attendees. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.***

OLD BUSINESS: **Fire truck repair** - Mr. McCarty reported that repairs begin Monday 4/24 and the specialist will be on site all week. An interim report will be provided. **Planning & Zoning** – Mr. Saxton reported that he consulted with Mr. Molesky and signed another building permit. After serving for 17 years, Planning/Zoning Administrator Melanie Marsden will step down in June and efforts are under way to secure a replacement. An interested candidate is known and the hiring process is under way. **Elections/Supervisor of the Checklist** – Nothing to report. **Police Department** – Chief Murrell reported that the generator for the municipal offices is now appropriately exercising itself on Tuesday mornings at 10:30; the new cruiser had some mechanical issues with newly installed equipment that have been resolved; 40 of 100 department policies have been reviewed and revised with about 60 still to go; another weapon-related incident at the high school revealed ways that the emergency response communications failed and efforts are under way to identify and address the problems. **Emergency management** – Mr. Reynolds submitted to the board and interested parties a draft of a mission and vision statement and assessment questionnaire for the Alstead Office of Emergency Management (OEM). In addition, Jack Fuller of SWNH Electric & HVAC services dropped off a proposal for generator maintenance to the Select Board’s office. All of these things will be discussed at the public OEM Meeting Thursday April 20, 2023 at the Town Offices. **Ambulance** – Chief Moore reported that the cardiac monitor for the new ambulance arrived. In addition, the Chief is evaluating an opportunity for creating Alstead “department stores” at no cost to the town with an organization that produces logo-imprinted goods such as sweatshirts, hats, coffee mugs, and more. Different town departments (such as ambulance, fire, Vilas Pool, library...) could choose to do fund raisers through these stores. Logo artwork in an electronic form is needed and the Chief will share samples when they arrive. **Cemetery** – Trustee Kercewich reported that spring maintenance has begun. **Trust Funds** – Trustee Kercewich reported status quo on the town trust funds. **Transfer Station** – Consultant Hoy re-introduced Joe Ruggiero of Ruggiero Trash Removal who was present to review the current contract. On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted to continue the current contract as signed in September 2022 through September 2023, and to revisit it one month before the expiration date.*** Mr. McCarty thanked Mr. Ruggiero for his efforts on Alstead’s behalf. Mr. Hoy further noted that the Weighmaster scale is running well and a staff member needs to get certified as a Weighmaster, which is \$160 for the initial training course and \$50 to renew annually. **Vilas Pool** – Committee Chair Bobbie Wilson reported that Vilas Pool would be opening on Thursday June 1, with the Vilas School Semi-Formal event following on Friday June 2. From then on, the pool will be open Wednesday - Sunday from 11 AM to 7 PM. Additional events are booked for the Leaf Charter school graduation and two weddings. The Committee will re-hire Louis Lemay as Park Host, and plans to hire an assistant park host as well. The committee has six scheduled interviews with young people to serve as attendants. Bellows Construction is expected to begin working on the pavilion in May; Mr.

Kemp expects to have a contract to sign at next week's meeting. The committee expects the Road Agent to open the dam within the next couple of weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: Timber cut – Guest Peter Renzelman presented information and answered questions about a controversial timber cut (M52 L2) in the Lily Pond area of Alstead Center. He noted that the report surpassed the estimates on the intent but that no supplemental intent was filed, which affects the owner's right to apply for an abatement if they disagree with the tax. There was prolonged exploration of the process for determining the timber tax and discussion of the concerns. Mr. Kemp agreed to walk through the billing process with the Admin; Mr. Renzelman offered to advise if needed. **Remote participation of Select Board members at meetings** – Mr. McCarty expects to travel this summer and asked if the Board is willing to have him participate in meetings remotely. It was noted that an in-person quorum must be present in order to hold a meeting this way. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board voted unanimously that any board member should be allowed to participate remotely as long as a quorum is present in person.** **Library trustee alternates:** The Library Trustees requested in writing that the Board appoint two alternates. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, **the Board voted unanimously to appoint Joseph Levesque and Jeff Smull as alternate Library Trustees for a term of one year, through March 2024.**

BOARD REPORTS: DOT Projects - Mr. McCarty reported that he will meet in Concord with DOT representatives about the bridge and Route 123A construction projects. **Bennett Road decision** – Mr. McCarty reported that the Court denied the plaintiff's request to reconsider the decision in the Bennet Road case. **Tri-Town Recreation** – Mr. Kemp reported that Tri-Town wants to mow and care for the baseball field; he believes there should be a memo of understanding for insurance liability reasons. He expressed the Board's gratitude for their willingness to care for the field. **Highway Truck** – Mr. Kemp disagrees with trading the existing truck and proposes buying a truck with a lower price tag instead. On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board voted to trade the existing truck; the motion passed 2:1.** **Emailing** – Mr. Kemp requested that department heads be reminded to use Bcc when emailing the full Board, to avoid creating a situation that can be considered an illegal meeting. He will write a policy for consideration at next week's meeting. **Rights of Way** – Mr. Kemp observed that rights of way could be a problem with the bridge projects and he noted that the state has a lot of information about town roads that we can take advantage of. **Municipal records committee** – Mr. Kemp noted that we are supposed to have such a committee to manage the disposition and disposal of records. **Site visit** – Mr. Kemp reported that the Planning Board will have a site visit to the Pratt Road location associated with a subdivision application that is under consideration. The public may participate. **Part-time holiday pay** – Mr. Kemp asked Chief Murrell to present his proposal for holiday pay for part time workers who work an average of 15 hours per week during the year, as a way of giving a bit back to the part time employees who work hard for the town. The Chief obliged and a lengthy discussion ensued. The Board is not ready to make a motion so the item was tabled for future consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Cemetery access – Ms. Kercewich asked if there was any progress made with regard to being able to access Rust Cemetery; Mr. McCarty indicated that no real progress has been made, that there is a fifty-foot town-owned right-of-way to that cemetery but it is in the wrong place; he will give Ms. Kercewich a phone number to follow up. **Fall Mountain Budget Committee** – Jordan Cannon... **Caldwell Pond property** – Marge Noonan asked whether the town is going to sell the property that the Town had surveyed on Caldwell Pond Road. On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board voted unanimously to sell the property.** Additional discussion took place about how to go about selling it, given that is a buildable lot with frontage on a class six road, with all the complications that accompany that status. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to list the property with a realtor for a market-oriented price. **Secure campus** – Mr. Levesque indicated that he working on a committee to investigate a secure campus policy in response to the recent event at the school. Mr. Levesque added that Alyssa Bascom is chair of the Fall Mountain School Board this year. Mr. McCarty thanked him for his continued efforts on the School Board.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The next Five-Town Select Board meeting is Friday, April 21 at 4:30 PM at the Walpole Town Hall.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator