

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

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

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Robert Esslinger, Acting Transfer Station Supervisor; Penny Gendron, PD Admin; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant, Vilas Pool Committee Chair, Supervisor of the Checklist.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Rich Nalevanko, Scott Schaedler.

GUESTS: Penny Gendron re: NH Office of Highway Safety Grant award

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and CALL TO ORDER: The Pledge was recited and the Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS: Reviewed and signed the PD Grant award documents (\$5400 awarded); Discussed two purchase orders - PB/ZBA laptop (\$1563) and PD laptop (\$2558); Signed five (5) Vilas Pool expenditures (\$33,142.10); Signed two (2) abatement applications (AB 2023-003 - M12L27 \$751.52; AB 2024-004 - M23L11 \$142.91).

PD GRANT: Ms. Gendron explained the \$5400 highway safety grant, much the same as last year, for fiscal year October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The department performs work details paid as overtime that are reimbursed through the grant. The Chair sought questions or objections from the floor; none were received. There was no further discussion and the documents were signed and witnessed.

PURCHASE ORDERS: PD laptop - Chief Murrell explained that his 2023 budget does not include a new computer, but his five-year-old laptop is beginning to behave unpredictably so he reached out to the IT team, which recommended replacements and provided a quote. Chief hopes to avoid ordering until next year but thought it prudent to explore the options and thinks this year's budget can handle it should it become necessary. The Board agreed by consensus to sign the purchase order. **PB/ZBA laptop** - The Admin explained that this laptop is included the PB/ZBA budget for this year and had not yet been ordered; the new PB/ZBA admin will need it as the former admin has been using a personal device and data needs to be transferred. The cost of acquiring and configuring the machine is below the budgeted amount, but the cost of a Microsoft Office 365 license on the town plan was recommended by the IT team and added in, taking the total price over the 1500 temporary limit by sixty-three dollars (\$63). There was no further discussion and the Board agreed by consensus to sign the purchase order.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of June 13, 2023; Minutes of June 19, 2023 meeting to present and explain the Cold River Instream Flow Study Report draft. [Mr. Saxton noted a comma in a monetary figure in the action items that should be a period but upon investigating the error the Admin determined that the error is in the Agenda, not the minutes so no change was requested to the minutes.] On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, **the Board voted unanimously to approve both sets of minutes as written. The motion passed with two in favor and one abstention.**

OLD BUSINESS: Broadband – Gordon shared an anecdote about seeing Consolidated around installing something and hoping it was the beginning phases of the broadband project, but it turned out they were installing fiberoptic cable on the Alstead Center cell tower to support T-Mobile equipment. **Bridges** – nothing new to report; Mr. McCarty sent an inquiry to the NHMA financial advisor and awaits a response. **Vilas Park and Dam** – Mr. McCarty noted that Alstead resident Kate Buckman, a marine biologist with the Connecticut River Conservancy was present at the meeting and eager to convene a group of people who are interested in the water movement infrastructure at Vilas Pool Park. **Ambulance housing** – The container arrives Friday June 23 and the Road Agent will be available to receive it. **Realtors to handle sale of town properties** – Mr. Saxton noted that in studying the list of properties that might be sold, it occurred to him that two of them might be reasonable candidates for a land swap for the Boucher property next door to the town hall. There was a bit more discussion about the options. He provided the information to Mr. Kemp who will follow up on the idea. **Five-town Fuel bids** – Three bids were forwarded by Mr. Beam; feedback is requested by Monday. HB Energy does not offer diesel and their prices are higher. Dead River Fuel oil 2.85; propane 2.10; diesel 2.895. Irving - Fuel oil 2.76, Propane 1.31, Diesel 2.91. One company has a clause indicating that if you don't consume what you order you pay a penalty on the balance. Chief Murrell suggested that the generator tanks should be exempt

from any penalty since you can't predict when those might get consumed. There was additional discussion. A public Five-Town meeting has been called Monday 6/26 at 3 PM in Langdon for the Five-Town Select Board Members to consider these bids.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: MissionSquare retirement – The Admin reported that the necessary addendum for the retirement plan is submitted and executed and all should now be in order with regard to the in-service distribution age limit change from 70.5 to 62. **POLICE** – Chief Murrell reported that police radios were reprogrammed and while both radios accepted the programming, one of the radios is too old to scan the State Police radio frequency successfully. Chief mentioned that Troop C has a new Commander, Lt. Vince Greco, formerly a Troop D (Concord) K-9 handler and sergeant. He further observed that 7 cars were stopped on Gilsum Mine Road the first couple of days of the temporary Gilsum Mine speed limit. Warnings were issued. Call volume is at 497 calls to date. Mr. McCarty requested some context for call volume numbers periodically, for comparison's sake. **FIRE:** Chief Kercewich reported that the fire department is experiencing the same radio problem that Chief Murrell reported. Mr. McCarty summarized it as a technical shortfall caused by a bureaucratic decision made elsewhere, the solution of which will cost the town tens of thousands of dollars. Emergency services are in the analysis phase, to be followed by the pricing phase. This could constitute an emergency that will require an additional town meeting to address. More information to follow. Chief reported that call volume is at 55 calls. **Ambulance** – Chief Moore reported that the hospital will inspect the town Fire Station on 7/12 for security as part of paramedic licensing. If we pass that the state will come and check 2-3 weeks later. The new ambulance vehicle should be in house by first week of July, but not licensed until first week of August. It will go in service when we become paramedic certified. The vehicle will be housed at East Station while staff becomes driver-qualified, radio issues are resolved to the extent possible, and supplies are purchased. Chief will have a list of all supplies he intends to purchase for next meeting. Chief Moore reported seventy-six calls to date this year, three this week. He reiterated his desire to equip the old police cruiser and suggests that a newer radio be installed in that vehicle as a means of making a fully capable radio available to all teams. More to solve and more to come. **EM** – Mr. Reynolds reported that the Fire, Highway, and Ambulance assessment reports are in and these are useful for priority planning. There is a lack of communication from the NH Homeland Security representative and he plans to continue attempting to follow up on that. He reported a successful connection with the Bridge engineering team who was seeking historic data about flooding at those bridges. In addition, Mr. Reynolds reported that the availability of used equipment has declined sharply in recent months. Numbers for repurposing the Dodge 5500 as a brush truck are under development. The plan is to repurpose in a way that allows the body to be installed on a new chassis later. Working to secure as much donated labor as possible. There was further discussion about disabled emission control systems, the storage of the antique model T fire engine, public display of the antique fire equipment, alarm system at the fire station, the lack of security cameras at East Station, smoke & CO detectors. The Safety Committee completed inspection of the Town Office building and are preparing to inspect the next building soon. Mr. McCarty requested a paragraph explaining the radio programming problem, why it is happening, and why it came as a surprise that he can attempt to carry forward to a political solution. **Transfer Station:** Mr. Esslinger reported that the baler required maintenance and that resulted in the technician also having a look at the Langdon compactor, which is declining and might require attention in the near future. It's beneficial to have two compactors running at the same time. There was a prolonged discussion about materials generated at the station, the C&D and compactor usage, weigh station particulars, pricing, staffing, profit & loss factors, and whether any Transfer Station equipment is included in the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Esslinger will re-instate the monthly TS staff meeting to facilitate efficient scheduling, cross training, and review of changing laws and procedures. He invited a select board member to attend that meeting and Mr. Saxton volunteered to attend. Mr. McCarty asked him to bring some analysis and pricing recommendations to the next meeting.

BOARD REPORTS: Cold River Instream Flow Study report draft meeting – Mr. McCarty summarized the meeting, noted that it was not well attended but those present were enthusiastic about the effort, and explained that the report will remain a draft for a couple of years. A copy of the draft plan is available on the web site. The plan is intended to reflect how the state will support downstream biology. A public hearing will be held in the fall that will include a progress report and give interested parties an opportunity to question and comment. **School schedule:** Mr. McCarty reported that schools will be closed until July 5th, when summer school begins. Summer School lasts through the end of July. **Delinquent taxes** – Mr. Kemp mentioned that the Tax Collector is thrilled to report progress with a resident who has finally agreed to apply for grant assistance. She will work with him on the application because the deadline approaches. He reiterated to Mr. Esslinger his request for transfer station data. **Portable restroom on Millot Green** – Mr. Saxton requested that the Board consider putting one on the green to help alleviate some recent public hygiene mayhem perpetrated at the Library and the Town Offices. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, **the Board voted to order a portable restroom to be placed on the green for the summer, within range of the security cameras.** **Warren Dam** – Mr. McCarty reported that on the plus side, the 2018 Lake Warren dam Letter of Deficiency has been closed. On the minus side, the dam has been reclassified as a high hazard dam. The immediate action plan is that the emergency action plan notification list and flow chart be updated. Mr. Reynolds noted that in the course of working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan he learned that the reclassification might qualify the dam for grant assistance of more

substance than the previous classification. There is a lengthy work plan that begins this year and extends to 2025. Mr. Saxton agreed to read the packet of information on behalf of the Board. **PB/ZBA post-exit organization work request** – The outgoing planning & zoning administrator would like to do some work creating a master list and organizing and filing records. The Admin requested some numbers (expected hours and rate) but does not have the information yet so the item was tabled pending receipt of the information. **Suggested change of SB meeting night** – after discussion there was no interest in changing the Select Board meeting night, so the meeting will continue to be held on Tuesday nights. **Library Trustees** - Mr. Kemp and Mr. Saxton reported that the Library trustees are forming a subcommittee to work on formulating a proposed agreement between the Library and the Town. More to come at a later date. **Vilas Pool Moose Plate project** – Mr. Kemp reported that the work on the pavilion is completed and an invoice is in hand. The twenty-thousand-dollar Moose Plate grant covers most of the expense, with another nine-thousand and change being covered by the Vilas Pool trust fund income. So far, the committee has received half of the grant funds. Mr. Kemp is working on another application, which is due tomorrow, Friday 6/23. The purpose of that application is to fund refurbishment of the snack shack. The Board and the public in attendance enthusiastically endorsed the project, and on a motion made by Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, **the Board voted unanimously to continue with the application.** Mr. Nalevanko commented that the snack shack contributes to building community spirit and encourages utilization of the park. Mr. Esslinger recalled that his first date with his wife was back when she was working at the snack shack in the late 60s or early 70s. Mr. Reynolds noted that the shack desperately needs repair. The group agreed that the shack dates back to the mid-50s. Others observed that while many municipal parks limit access to residents only, Vilas Pool Park is open to anyone and that makes it unique and a treasure, especially since everyone loves snacks. Mr. Schaedler noted that as a new resident, he's much more inclined to stop in if there are snacks to be had!

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall, 9 Main Street. The Fall Mountain School Board next meets on Monday July 10, 2023 at the high school (2nd Monday of each month). The Fall Mountain Budget Committee meets next on Tuesday, July 18th, 2023 (third Tuesday of each month). The next Five-Town Select Board Meeting is Monday, June 26th, 2023 at 3 PM in Langdon to discuss the bulk fuel bids. A public meeting to gather input and answer questions about the Alstead MOBIL bridge projects will be held Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6 PM at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing further.

There being no more business to conduct, on a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:59 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator