

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of January 24, 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; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Penny Gendron, PD Administrator.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Glenn Elsetter, Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None - technical difficulties prevented starting a meeting this date.

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

ACTION ITEMS: Signed Payroll, Tax Liability, and Accounts Payable manifests for 1/24 bills and 1/27 payroll. Signed 1 Vilas Pool Park expenditure (power). Signed the 2021 Audit Representation Letter to complete the 2021 Audit. Discussed the question of whether a motion can be made at the Deliberative to add funds to the operating budget that were previously included in a draft article that is no longer on the slate of articles proposed at the Deliberative Session. Mr. McCarty consulted the Moderator on the subject. He reported that the answer is yes, providing that the subject of the motion is consistent with the content of an article that was discussed on the record during the Public Hearing. Discussed the fact that the warrant articles need the Board's recommendation notations and tax impact notations.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of 10 AM Budget Meetings of January 5, 13, 18, 2023. Minutes of 5 PM Regular Meeting of January 10, 2023. Minutes of 5 PM Public Hearing to Accept Unanticipated Funds of January 18. Minutes of 5:05 PM 2023 Budget Hearing of January 18; Minutes of 1 January 10 Executive Session (already approved). The Admin noted that some questions were highlighted in the January 18 10 AM minutes and in the January 18 5:05 PM minutes. After a short discussion it was decided that the sections in the 10 AM minutes are sufficient as written so the highlighting can be removed. In the 5:05 PM minutes, it was decided that the earlier discussion about the rules for raising a topic for discussion during the Deliberative Session addressed the question associated with Article 13, so the question text and highlighting could be removed; and the question about Article 18 was answered over the passage of time and the text could stand as written so the highlighting can be removed. There was discussion of the final cost of living increase number for the proposed 2023 budget (\$46,170) and about the appropriate language for that warrant article. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve the 1/18 10 AM and 1/18 5:05 PM minutes as corrected, and to approve the remaining sets of minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

OLD BUSINESS - BOARD: Additional veteran tax credit articles: The Assessors strongly recommend two articles to re-adopt our two existing veteran tax credits because of changes made via House Bill 1667. Mr. McCarty checked with the Moderator, who feels that these articles cannot be added because new monetary articles are not allowed after the Budget Hearing. **Merit raises** were suggested at the Public Hearing; however, Mr. Levesque suggests that it is too late in the process to develop those numbers and suggested tabling merit raises until next year. There was discussion about how to fairly handle the situation for department heads that were interested in putting forth numbers; no solution was reached. **Tax impact info for warrant articles:** Mr. Saxton will develop that information and provide it to the Admin. **Vilas Pool rehab funding:** Mr. McCarty reported that representatives of the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) responded to his inquiry about federal funding sources for Vilas Pool rehabilitation; they suggest setting up meetings with the Department of Transportation; more to come. **MOBIL Bridges:** Mr. McCarty reported that Alstead has been assigned a new project manager for the two MOBIL project bridges, who will be making a site visit in the first week of February. Anyone wishing to attend should let him know. He further noted that the permit for the Drewsville bridge project will expire in 2024 and he has begun the process for getting an extension.

NEW BUSINESS - DEPARTMENTS: Broadband Committee: Mr. Kemp noted that he is sure that a decision has been made about which organization won the broadband Request for Proposal process but the information won't be made public until 5-10 days before the next Governor's council meeting. Mr. McCarty suggested that the group offer their appreciation to Mr. Kemp for his efforts culminating with the successful awarding of the \$20,000 Moose Plate Grant, to be used to remediate the Vilas Pool Pavilion water damage. A round of applause was offered. [The room was cold and Chief Moore left to investigate; he returned and reported that the emergency shutoff for the building had been tripped.] **Ambulance:** Chief Moore provided the board with an ambulance revenue for 2023 based on billing at a higher paramedic service rate, with a projected net increase of \$18,000.

Chief Moore asked whether a used ambulance body mounted on a new chassis would be considered a new ambulance or a used ambulance; the consensus is used. The Chief also reported that for 3 hours on 1/24 there was a weather-related system glitch that caused a mutual aid dispatch communication outage. While there is redundancy in the mutual aid system whereby other dispatch agencies cover that outage, those agencies don't have a way to radio dispatch this area. Chief Moore suggests follow-up with the Emergency Management team that is reviewing the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He further reported that the storm resulted in a different dispatch error (not related to the outage) and the result was a too-long delay for the ambulance response to a serious medical emergency. The outcome was positive but the delay was concerning and could have affected the outcome. Multiple other emergency teams and organizations gave their kudos to Alstead Highway Department for their excellent handling of Alstead roads during the storm. Mr. McCarty likewise noted positive feedback from a resident about the roads.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the town hall. Deliberative Session will be held Saturday February 4th, 2023 at 10 AM at Town Hall. Langdon will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday January 27th, 2023 at 4:30 PM in the Town Hall at 9 Main Street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Elsesser noted that there appear to be unusual numbers in the draft MS-636; the Admin noted that it is a work in progress. He further asked whether the propane outdoor heaters purchased for use during 2020 Town Meeting gatherings that were held outdoors due to COVID were bought with ARPA funds; consensus is that they were not, so there should be no reason they cannot be sold. There was additional discussion about how to calculate the tax impact for warrant articles. There was a very lengthy discussion about the articles that are expected to be moved into the budget from the floor during Deliberative Session, the technicalities associated with budgeting, and the information needs for those formulating the motion from the floor. The Admin was charged with providing the updated spreadsheet to Mr. Elsesser and Mr. Kemp.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:17 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator