

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** In person: Matthew Saxton, Gordon Kemp. **Absent:** Joel McCarty

**STAFF PRESENT:** In person: Rich Beringer, Fire department; Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.  
**Google Meet:** None.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** In person: Tom Dowling, Jim Gordon, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Bob Quaglin, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis, and others. **Google Meet:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. In Mr. McCarty's absence, Mr. Saxton called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed 1 timber intent (52-2B); Signed a timber tax bill for 2022 operation 22-009-08-T. Signed the payroll manifest (\$ 30,776.98) and tax liability manifest (\$ 6,258.82) for the 8/11 payroll. Signed the Payables manifest (\$ 508,609.77) for the 8/8 billing cycle.

**GUESTS:** Arlene Crowell, Cheshire County Communications re: lease with U.S. Cellular for Cobb Hill Tower. Ms. Crowell explained that the county provides radio assistive equipment for municipal emergency services. Because the current 10-foot antenna needs an upgrade, and we need permission from U.S. Cellular to change the equipment, she reviewed the lease agreement with U.S. Cellular that governs the presence of town equipment on the tower. The agreement expires in 2027. The desired upgrade is to replace the 10-foot antenna with a longer antenna, which would address blind spots. The county doesn't want towns to have to pay rent; the town pays no rent under the current agreement. When contacted U.S. Cellular indicated that replacing the equipment would result in rent of \$175 per month if the new equipment is bigger than what is currently there. Ms. Crowell recommends reviewing leases for other towns (for example, Hinsdale) to identify what seems reasonable because it might be wise to negotiate a new long-term contract for a reasonable rent before the current agreement expires. There was additional discussion about whether the current Board is allowed to commit future Boards to a long-term contract outside of a Town Meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Crowell for her visit and she departed.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of August 1, 2023 regular meeting: Voting on the minutes was postponed until next week due to the absence of the Board Chair and the Office Administrator.

**OLD BUSINESS: Washout glass deposits** – Mr. Saxton reported that he investigated vacuum trucks and found a company that would charge about \$5000 for two men, one truck, and one day of work providing there is a site where the truck can be emptied afterwards. There was speculation about other options and discussion about limiting the liability associated with the town doing work on private property. The Road Crew did pick up the pile that the landowner assembled. **Flood update** – Nothing to report. **Broadband update** – Nothing to report. **Bridge update** – Nothing to report, except to remind those present of the informational meeting scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Dams** – Nothing to report except to remind those present of the informational meeting scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>. There was additional discussion about what kind of additional information the town has about the original dam construction project, who the players were, who else in town might have knowledge of the original project, and whether the Dam Bureau has any records about the original project. The question was raised about a deadline cited in the reclassification notice, and Mr. Saxton stated that the deadline was for our response to the notice and that the meeting serves as our response. **Sale of town property** – Neither Mr. Kemp nor Mr. Saxton had anything to report on this topic. **Fire Department by-laws** – tabled until 8/15. **Village Station lighting** – Mr. Kemp reached out to Jack Fuller, who indicated that he expects to attend to the service entrance problem in the coming week.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Department** – Chief Murrell reported 631 service calls to date. The newer radio in the older cruiser was pulled and installed in Chief's cruiser and will be reprogrammed this week. The older radio that was uninstalled will be reserved until it is determined whether it will be useful in another vehicle despite the fact that it cannot be reprogrammed. Chief and the Road Agent are working to correct language in the general parking ordinance that implies that parking along town streets is not allowed at any time, because that restriction is intended only for winter time. A draft of the revised policy is imminent. Finally, Chief indicated that an Emergency Management meeting for the Fall Mountain Regional School District that was originally scheduled for 8/9 is rescheduled to 8/22 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at the SAU 60 building in Langdon; he will report on those activities at a future meeting. **Fire Department** – Chief Kercewich reported 66 calls this year. **Ambulance** – Chief Moore reported 96 service calls to date and one "Ambulance Tourist," which he defined as a non-resident who sought Alstead services because they were perceived to be superior. The new ambulance vehicle graphics work is complete and the

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vehicle is back at the Bangor dealer to repair an unsatisfactory oil leak. **Vilas Pool Park** – Ms. Wilson reported that the park will re-open to the public on Wednesday 8/9 and that scheduled events at the Pavilion are taking place as planned. The playground and beach are still closed pending cleanup; they are considering a contractor for the work but for now they have staff and shovels. Ms. Wilson expressed gratitude to those who have stopped by and contributed to the donation box. **Transfer station** – Mr. Esslinger reported that the team has discussed a safety policy although the Road Agent has not been available to work on that project; work in progress, so they are using temporary safety guidelines for now and operating machinery when the station is not busy. He is following up on identifying someone mentioned to him who has contributed to Transfer Station policy in the past to seek their input. Closing temporarily while equipment is moved has led to backups outside the gate. He continues to research policies at other stations. Weather is a complicating factor as well as some items must be handled when it is not inclement. Mr. Esslinger continues to gather information about income sources, pricing, baling time to analyze both efficiency and economy. He noted that load sharing with Walpole has not been happening and is looking into that. He invited the Board to a staff meeting on Thursday evening 8/10 from 4-6 PM. Finally, Mr. Esslinger reported that he noticed structural problems with the roll-up containers and has contacted someone to evaluate and quote repairs. The spare roll-up container is missing and they are looking into its whereabouts. Mr. Levesque will investigate grant opportunities for the Transfer Station. **School Board** – Mr. Levesque reminded those present that the Board was on vacation in July and this month’s meeting is Monday 8/14, so he has nothing to report.

**BOARD REPORTS: Moose Plate grant for Vilas Pool Park** – Ms. Wilson asked about the status of the Moose Plate grant; Mr. Kemp indicated that his report on the current grant is complete and he is waiting on a cancelled check image from the Treasurer to finalize that report. He also indicated that he won’t hear about a result for the new application until Fall. **Show-up time** – Mr. Kemp observed that he researched a labor law requiring that if you call a worker in you have to pay them for a minimum of two hours even if they work for less than that. He learned that municipal employees are exempt from that law. Ms. Wilson noted that when the Department of Labor came to talk to the Vilas Pool Committee, they were told that because they are a separate entity from the town the two-hour rule DOES apply to them, even though their payroll is processed through the town.

**NEW BUSINESS: Funding ambulance needs** – Mr. Kemp provided the results of his research about a revolving fund to allow the ambulance team immediate access to their revenue monies to assist with the increased expenses associated with being a paramedic squad. This will be considered for a 2024 warrant article. **Plastic recycling** – Mr. Kemp cited research he has been doing about plastic recycling that suggests that it might be more environmentally responsible and cost effective to landfill those materials, since there is no longer a market for them. More research and discussion are needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Nalevanko asked about the status of an electric vehicle charging station in town and whether the town’s emergency services are equipped to handle the kinds of emergencies that might happen at such stations. There was additional discussion about the topic with the recognition that a lot more information is needed.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next regular Select Board meeting:</b>	Tuesday, August 15th 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>FM School Board meeting:</b>	Monday, September 11th 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>FM Budget Committee meeting:</b>	Wednesday, August 16th 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>Informational Warren Dam meeting:</b>	Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>Informational Bridge Projects meeting:</b>	Tuesday, August 22nd 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 @ 4 PM, Acworth.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, **the public meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator