

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 23, 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: Ben Hoy, Transfer Station Supervisor; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEMS: Sign 5 Vilas Pool expenditures; sign 1 bills manifest. Because this was the first payroll handled by the new payroll service, the new procedures and documentation are in flux and the payroll manifest and liability manifest signatures will wait until next week while the admin figures out which reports from the vendor should replace the reports previously generated from Quickbooks Payroll.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of August 16, 2022. Gordon Kemp requested that in the Broadband report, the phrase “their RFP” be changed to “the State’s RFP.” No other changes were requested. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve the public minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.***

SELECT BOARD: Accounts Payable: The total Accounts Payable this week was \$236,585.69, of which about \$204,000 was our monthly school contribution. **School Board update:** Mr. Levesque reported that the School Board plans to approve purchase of the Stop the Bleed kits but has not yet determined how to fund the purchase. **AFG Grant for Radios:** Mr. Levesque reported that he communicated with the Emergency Management Director regarding applying for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for funding for radio equipment. However, there can only be one AFG grant per town, and currently Alstead applies for that grant to replace the self-contained breathing equipment that the fire department uses. (Mr. Levesque noted that Alstead has never been awarded those funds.) **Lake Warren:** Mr. McCarty reported that some water was released from the Lake Warren dam in support of a program at the mill, to no observable effect on the lake water level. He also reported that he personally made some stop logs for the dam and they were installed, then modified slightly to diminish a leak, to the satisfaction of all concerned. In addition, Mr. McCarty noted that representatives of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) plan to spend some time on the lake taking depth measurements. Finally, he noted that the last Lake Association meeting of the year will take place at the mill on September 1st at 9 a.m. AND the NHDES would like to have an informational meeting on September 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the East Alstead church. The state would like the town to produce a postcard notifying the public of the meeting for maximum attendance. There was additional discussion about who should pay for the postcard. **Election law:** Mr. McCarty reported that the state has made 52 changes to state election law. The state presented workshops across the state to inform all of the moderators about the changes. There will be another workshop in Newport and he urged the supervisors of the checklist to attend. Mr. McCarty noted with approval that the law about electioneering clothing has been amended to apply only to clothing with a message relevant to the current election. **Well Hill:** There is a rule that requires trailers to be seated on a concrete pad OR on a base that is designed by a state-licensed engineer or architect – the latter leaving room for a workaround given the current challenge of getting concrete. **Demolition:** A demolition permit has been issued to the owner of the property next door to the Town Hall, which is slated for demolition on September 9th. There was some additional discussion about the fact that the town would like to acquire that property; any plan about that must go before the voters in March. **Tax maps:** Mr. Saxton reported that the set of updated tax maps that the town recently received were of a size that did not fit in the drawers of the tax map cabinet in the town offices lobby. He contacted the mapping company and they agreed to send a full set of resized maps. **Unanticipated funds:** Mr. McCarty reminded those present that a special meeting is scheduled and posted for Tuesday, August 30th at 5 p.m. at the town hall, for the town to vote on whether to accept \$81,424.87 in unanticipated Highway Block Grant funds. The special meeting will be followed immediately by the regular Select Board meeting. **Budget time:** Mr. McCarty reminded the group that it is time to begin developing next year’s budget and he is happy to share a cup of coffee with anyone who wants to discuss budget-related initiatives. **Fundraiser:** Bensonwood Woodworking is holding its 12th annual fundraiser for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf on Saturday October 1 at 3 p.m. at the Pratt Road facility. Admission is a donation to the food shelf. **Bulk purchase of fuel oil:** Mr. Levesque reported that the school district

is looking into arranging for multiple participants to purchase highway diesel fuel, #2 heating oil, and gasoline. Charlestown and Alstead are interested in participating. **Starlink:** Mr. McCarty reported that he confirmed that Starlink internet equipment could be purchased with ARPA funds.

AMBULANCE: Fall Mountain District employee training: Chief Moore reported that the Ambulance team would be providing training to all School District employees at the FMRSD Health & Wellness Fair at the high school on Monday 8/29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., including hands-only CPR and Stop the Bleed training for any staff member that wants it. **Radio equipment:** In response to the discussion about the AFG grant being unavailable for the purchase of radio equipment, Chief Moore suggested that we look into buying used radios at a much lower cost as replacements for our older radios when they fail. There might be cost effective alternatives on usedradios.com. The Board suggested that he submit a proposal for consideration during the coming budget season. **Ham radio network:** Chief Moore reported that the radio repeaters will be installed Thursday. In addition, he reported that the Cheshire County Sheriff's office donated a 60-foot tower to the ham radio club to replace the dilapidated 90-foot tower that is being torn down. There was additional discussion about the internet equipment that is currently on the existing tower and a contact person to discuss how that equipment needs to be handled and whether the tower is tall enough to talk to other towers in the area. The club has volunteered to guide people through getting their ham radio license at an educational session, to be scheduled. He indicated that he has moved his personal ham radio repeater to an improved spot.

TRANSFER STATION: Supervisor Ben Hoy reported that he recently attended the Recycling Partnership national convention. He commended Keefe Harrison, CEO of the partnership, for providing him with a scholarship to attend the event without charge. He made many connections. The partnership is working with Alstead on a grant to help acquire equipment that would increase its recycling capability and tonnages. In addition, Mr. Hoy reports that he has ordered uniform shirts for the Transfer Station staff. Mr. McCarty asked Mr. Hoy about the volume of Langdon's participation at the Transfer Station. Mr. Hoy agreed to research the number. Mr. Hoy expressed his gratitude to Cold River Materials for donating two truckloads of material to assist with expanding the station's loading dock. He noted that the concrete blocks he wanted to use will be more expensive than desired so he is trying to use materials they already have on site. Mr. McCarty suggested that he touch base with Fuzzy Brothers about concrete blocks.

VILAS POOL PARK: Gordon Kemp reported profound success using the sign trailers to advertise the final free lunch Sunday event at Vilas Pool Park.

BROADBAND: Mr. Kemp indicated that he has discussed with the Emergency Management Director the coordination of Starlink internet account creation. Additional observations about where to store the units were shared.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The next Five-Town Select Board meeting will be held on Friday October 28th, 2022 at 4:30 PM in Walpole.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Enrollment: Rich Nalevanko asked about this year's preliminary enrollment figures for the school district. Mr. Levesque will get the numbers. The official numbers come out on October 31st. There was continued discussion of historic enrollment trends. Gordon Kemp suggested that the sign trailers be employed to advertise the lake meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: None.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chair entertained a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***and the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator