

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board Public Hearing
Minutes for Meeting of January 16th, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

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

STAFF PRESENT: In person –Misty Gratacos, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Director of Transfer Station, EMS & Grounds; Steve Reynolds, Director of JLMC & Emergency Management; Bobbie Wilson, Supervisor of the Checklist & Ambulance Lieutenant; Susan Norlander, Moderator & Assistant Chair Shedd Porter Memorial Library. **Google Meet** –

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person – Joe Levesque, Judith Willis, Barb Viegenger, Glenn Elsesser, Marge Noonan. **Google Meet** – None.

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Susan Norlander, Moderator & Assistant Chair, Shedd Porter Memorial Library spoke on why these meetings leading up to the Deliberative Session and March voting is so important and to remind everyone that only items discussed in the Public Hearing can be brought forth in March to the voters. Susan also made residents aware of “.”how they would make amendments to the warrant articles at the Deliberative Session.”

Mr. Kemp tasked the Admin with adding an agenda item to the next board meeting. Tax Collector/Town Clerk Julie Bacon had requested a warrant article to allow the Tax Collectors office to accept pre-payment on taxes. Mr. Kemp did some quick research and determined that this could also be approved by a board vote. The Admin will add this to the agenda for the meeting on January 17th.

Proposed warrant article discussions began by the Board reading the proposed warrant articles one at a time, allowing the public to comment. Discussions about proposed article #03, board will add “reimbursement going to Capital Reserve.”

Proposed article #04 raised conversation and people were made aware of what a Town Meeting would look like. The Board also made the public aware that in order to rescind SB2, 3/5th majority vote is required and a hearing would also need to take place. The public raised concerns regarding the Town Meeting voting process.

Proposed article #05, wording changed to “Cobb Hill apron” and will take out Corbin Roads.

Mr. Elsesser voiced concern regarding proposed article #06 regarding the Ambulance Revolving Fund.

Throughout the reading, proposed articles #07, #08, #11 and #12 were removed from the list of warrant articles.

Residents raised concern regarding article #10, that it will drain the Capital Reserve fund. The Board did make a change to the wording to include “non lapsing”, and to the amounts (\$150,000 from taxation and \$32,000 from Capital Reserve.

Regarding proposed article #13, it was recommended that we involve the Lake Warren Association, Mr. McCarty will attend one of their meetings.

Proposed article #14, public was made aware that there is “possible reimbursement once studies have been done”, also wording for H & H will be spelled out (Hydrologic & Hydraulic).

Proposed article #15 was discussed. Questions were asked about where these culverts are located. The Road Agent made everyone aware that the culverts are (1) on South Woods Rd., (1) North Rd., and (2) on Thayer Brook Rd.

Director of Sanitation, EMS & Grounds, Mr. Moore discussed the Transfer Station Safety Upgrades that are needed in proposed article #16. Mr. Moore was tasked with getting those quotes as soon as possible.

Proposed article #17, wording to be changed to “One-ton truck to replace 2012 Dodge truck”, as the truck we currently have is continuously breaking down.

Proposed article #18, wording to be added “Fire Department” Turnout Gear.

Proposed article #19, wording to be added “Fire Department” and (SCBA) “Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus”.

Proposed article #20, wording will change to “Fire Department New Brush Truck”.

Proposed article #21, wording changed to “Electrical upgrades to Town Hall/ Village Fire Station. Director Moore will be acting as the contact person for quotes.

Proposed article #22, wording changed to “Lighting upgrades for Town Hall/Village Fire Station”.

Proposed article #24, due to the multi-year contract, the wording changed to include “annual costs for 2025 & 2026 will be included in the operating budget”.

Proposed articles #25,26,27,28,29,30, 31 and 32 will all be included into 1 article “Add to Capital Reserve”.

Proposed article #33, wording changed to “Create Backup Generator(S) Capital Reserve Fund”. The board reminded the public that this will require an agent or office to be named and that this will require a public hearing.

Further discussion regarding other proposed articles, changing names of previous articles and the possibility of a warrant article that would give the board permission to borrow against grants or obtaining (NAG) Notes in Anticipation of Grants.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, January 17 th , 2024 @ 10:00 AM, Town Office, 15 Mechanic St.
2024 Town Meeting Deliberative Session:	Saturday, February 3 rd , 2024 @ 10 AM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
2024 Town Meeting Voting Day:	Tuesday, March 12 th , 2024, 8 AM to 7 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
FM School Board meeting:	Monday, February 12 th , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School Library (2 nd Monday)
FM Budget Committee meeting:	Wednesday, January 17 th , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (3 rd Wednesday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress
FM Deliberative Session:	Wednesday February 7 th , 2024, time TBD.

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Misty Gratacos
Office Administrator