

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of March 21, 2023 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; Steve Reynolds, Director of Emergency Management; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet** – No Google meeting this date.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person** - Jordan Cannon, Gordon Kemp, Jude Willis. **Google Meet** – n/a.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE and CALL TO ORDER: The pledge was recited and the Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed manifest for 3/24 payroll. Signed manifest for 3/24 payroll tax liability. Signed 3/21 payables manifest. Signed one supplemental timber cut intent 22-009-15 T. Signed one Vilas Pool expenditure (power bill). Signed one current use application (M10 L2, M10 L2B).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of March 7, 2023: No changes requested. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, *the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS: Easter Egg Hunt – after a short discussion, **the Board agreed by consensus** to approve the request made by Lisa Brehio for this year's Easter Egg Hunt at Millot Green, to take place on April 8, 2023 from 10 AM – 11 AM. **Second Signatory** – The Treasurer recommends that one board member be a second signatory so that if the Treasurer is unavailable someone else is able to sign a check. **The Board agreed by consensus** to table this item until after the election on March 28. **Pay raises for non-board stipends** - The Office Admin needs to know whether pay increases were applied to the non-board stipends when calculating the proposed budget, in order to process the next payroll on 4/3. No answer was forthcoming during the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Transfer station contracts – The Board discussed the status of changes made to the cost sharing agreement with Hubbard and the baler contract with TRES, pertinent to TRES recycling plastic bags collected from Hubbard and from the Alstead community. The Board agreed by consensus to task the Office Admin with sending the revised documents to Mr. Hoy for presentation to Hubbard and TRES, and offered to provide copies to any member of the community with an interest in reviewing same.

BOARD REPORTS: Zoning – Mr. Saxton reported that confusion regarding an accessory structure that a resident wants to build is resolved. A short discussion of the zoning requirements for accessory buildings ensued. **School board** – Mr. Levesque reported that 1) the School Board signed off on the 2023 calendar and that negotiations continue with the superintendent candidate; 2) a Vilas School social studies teacher took a group of kids on a very successful American-Heritage-Tour-like trip (since AHT was discontinued by YMCA); 3) One of the high school's student council reps to the School Board won a local conversational French competition and will advance to finals in Massachusetts, competing for an impressive scholarship. **Southwest Regional Planning Commission:** Mr. Levesque reported that he learned at the SWRPC meeting that a state law that was passed governing requirements for workforce housing (formerly low-income housing) is currently advisory only and not yet enforceable; however, there may be future implications for Alstead. **CPR cards** – Mr. McCarty asked Chief Moore whether any of the CPR class attendees had received the email that would get them their CPR certifications. Chief Moore suggested that people check their spam folders. **Fire truck repair** – Mr. McCarty reported that two sources of legal advice confirmed that the fire department capital reserve fund was formed as a vehicle for purchasing fire trucks and the damaged pumper cannot be repaired using those funds.

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT: Chief Moore reported the usual levels of activity, successfully handled despite last week's snowstorm complications. There was some additional discussion about where the prospective second ambulance is (parked in Frenchville, Quebec undergoing general maintenance). Mr. McCarty inspired some levity regarding an invoice in the accounts payable stack he was reviewing for a canister of nitrous oxide purchased for ambulance use.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Hazard Mitigation Plan - Emergency Management director Steve Reynolds reported that the latest iteration of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is completed and submitted. **Snowstorm** - Mr. Reynolds reported that

the town came through generally unscathed. Road Agent Trafton reported that he completed reports that can be submitted to help determine whether the storm should be declared a reimbursable event; other first responder departments (PD, Fire, Ambulance) should supply him with their information so that a complete picture is available. **System failures** – Mr. Reynolds reported further on some communications outages and generator failures that occurred during the storm and hindered first responders. Mr. Reynolds specifically commended Mr. Jack Fuller, who came out in the weather to repair a bad valve in the municipal building generator to restore function. There followed extended discussion about ways to address those failures and prevent recurrence.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: 2nd truck failure – Road Agent Trafton reported that the 2012 Dodge went down during the storm with a brake line failure. Despite being down two trucks and one driver, with a multitude of power line, communications, and tree fall challenges, the department made it through the storm. **1st truck failure** – the 2015 Dodge engine diagnostic indicates the need for a new motor to the tune of between thirteen to sixteen thousand dollars. There followed a discussion of multiple options, whether personnel or vehicular. Either way, the implications in the current budget climate are disheartening. The Board expressed their collective thanks to the Road Agent for thinking laterally. Mr. Trafton concluded with an optimistic view about mud season and a plan to start summer hours (four ten-hour days) in April to capitalize on the daylight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Because Mr. Levesque is not running for another term, those present thanked Mr. Levesque for his service on the Board.

INFORMATIONAL: The **next regular meeting** of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. **Town Meeting Voting Day** is Tuesday, March 28th, 2023 from 8 AM to 7 PM at the Town Hall, 9 Main Street; no Select Board meeting that day. The **next 5-Town Select Board** meeting is Friday, April 21, 2023 at 4:30 PM in Walpole.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:13 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator