

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Budget Meeting of January 5, 2023 at 10:00 AM
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant. Later: Prescott Trafton, Road Agent.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Glenn Elsesser, Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Mary Ann Wolf. **Google Meet:** Gordon Kemp (2nd half of the meeting).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and CALL TO ORDER: 10:10 AM

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of SB Regular Meeting of December 13, 2022; Minutes of SB Regular Meeting of December 20, 2022; Minutes of Budget Meeting December 12, 2022; Minutes of Budget Meeting December 13, 2022; Minutes of Budget Meeting December 20, 2022; Minutes of Budget Meeting December 27, 2022; Minutes of Budget Meeting December 29, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve all sets of minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

The group went through each of Ms. Wolf's 17 suggested adjustment points and decided how to address each one.

On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Levesque, ***the Board voted 2:0 to reduce the Select Board stipends to \$1 (one dollar) for 2023, with Mr. Saxton abstaining.***

There was extended discussion of the 3% cap and the impact of the decisions on that number. It was suggested that the warrant article for the Historical Society steeple painting be non-lapsing because contractual limitations prevent the vendor from scheduling the work until 2024. Additional funding options for the job were debated. Mr. Elsesser distributed his latest version of his Capital Improvement Plan and outlined his suggested changes. Mr. Levesque noted that this year, warrant articles can contain the tax impact of the article. There was extended discussion of the quotes for repairing the damaged Engine 3 pump and the alternative options, as well as the cost of replacing the aged air pacs. There was extended discussion of concerns about adding money into Capital Reserve Funds in a highly inflationary environment; whether 0.9% interest rate bonds are still available; general finances and investment trends. There was discussion of the fund balance and the \$300,000 in paving warrant article money that was approved but not spent in 2022. (Mr. Saxton departed for another appointment; a quorum remained.)

The Budget Hearing was moved one day from 1/17 to 1/18 because of proximity to the Civil Rights Day holiday. Ambulance Chief Moore described his efforts to implement a Medicaid-billable Community Paramedicine Program by 2024 and the increase in ambulance revenue such a program could generate, helping the ambulance program continue to pay for itself and offering more options for affordable healthcare to the community. There was some discussion of offering a \$200 tax credit to individuals who get CPR-certified and maintain the certification.

Ms. Wolf suggested restoring \$1200 back into the Police hiring budget. Ms. Wilson suggested removing 1 laptop from the proposed Elections budget.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday January 27th, 2023 at 4:30 PM in Langdon. The Board will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday January 18th at 10 AM at the Town Offices, and the Alstead Budget Hearing will take place on Wednesday, January 18th at 5 PM at the Town Hall.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: On a motion made by Mr. Levesque and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 12:35 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator