

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board Emergency Meeting**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 13, 2023 at 11:15 a.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** **In person** - Matthew Saxton, Gordon Kemp. **Conference Call** - Joel McCarty. Because Mr. McCarty attended remotely, Mr. Saxton ran the meeting.

**GUEST:** District 2 Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington

**STAFF PRESENT:** **In person:** Tina Nash, Highway Admin; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent.

**PUBLIC:** Julie Bacon, resident of Thayer Brook Road. (Ms. Bacon is also the Alstead Town Clerk and Tax Collector but was attending this meeting as a resident.)

**PURPOSE:** To enlist Ms. Warmington's assistance with 2021 FEMA reimbursement holdup in order to release approximately four hundred thousand dollars in funds; and to further discuss the short- and long-term temporary remediation options for a washed-out culvert on Thayer Brook Road in order to restore safe resident, emergency service, and household infrastructure access.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Saxton called the Select Board meeting to order at 11:25 AM and welcomed Ms. Warmington.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** No minutes were presented for approval at this meeting.

**FEMA REIMBURSEMENT DELAYS:** Road Agent Trafton summarized the FEMA problem and answered to Ms. Warmington's questions about the nature of the issue (language-related delays complicating successful reimbursement of 2021 flood event expenses), the organizations involved (FEMA, NHDES, US Army Corps of Engineers or USACE) and people assigned to our project. Ms. Nash provided a copy of the 6/13/23 packet submitted to FEMA, NHDES, and USACE, indicating that all agencies except NHDES have acknowledged receipt of the submission. A resolution is considered urgent because our remaining fund balance is on the low side, we have other cash flow demands associated with MOBIL bridge projects in progress (summarized by Mr. McCarty), and we now face new damage from the July 11 flooding needing immediate repair. Ms. Warmington told the group that goal #1 is to get the FEMA money delivered ASAP, and also explained recent legislation offering low- or no-interest loans to municipalities experiencing cash flow problems while waiting for grant reimbursement processing to complete. If the recent event is classified as a federal disaster, Alstead will be able to pursue a loan application. Additional information was exchanged or arranged. Mr. McCarty wondered whether the reimbursement schedule for the design phase of the MOBIL bridge projects might also be expedited. Ms. Warmington will contact the DOT Commissioner and reach out when she has answers. She agreed to look into the MOBIL Bridge project reimbursement schedule. Ms. Warmington asked about the status of Vilas Pool Park after the flooding. Mr. Kemp indicated that the road was once again damaged. As for the park itself, some cleanup is necessary and some equipment was lost or damaged, but there are no plans to close the park for the season and the committed hopes to re-open next week. There being no further questions about the FEMA reimbursement issue, the Board expressed its heartfelt gratitude for Ms. Warmington's visit and her efforts, and Ms. Warmington departed.

**THAYER BROOK ROAD REMEDIATION:** The Road Agent reported that he met with a DOT engineer this morning at Thayer Brook Road. When asked, he indicated that he has received all supplies requested from NH DOT. He reported that Mr. Hollar from Cold River Bridges has a line on a culvert that is the same capacity as the failed Thayer Brook culvert with a price of fifteen thousand dollars, and this possibility was added to the list of short-term temporary options to consider. There was additional discussion about the possibility that the Town of Acworth could decide not to fix their end of Thayer Brook Road and the implications of that choice; about the need for any long-term temporary solution to accommodate snow plow traffic; and how long before the emergency permits fall out of the emergency window. Mr. Saxton wondered about the Army Corps of Engineers as a source of culverts or other solutions. There was additional discussion about whether to cooperate with Acworth to put fill and safety barriers on their Forest Road section. Ms. Bacon indicated that she contacted her neighbors on Thayer Brook Road and urged them to avoid the Acworth end of the road for safety reasons. Mr. McCarty asked about the emergency permit status and Mr. Trafton indicated that the original window is 72 hours but he is looking to extend that; Mr. McCarty suggested copying Ms. Warmington on that request. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to install the fifteen-thousand-dollar equivalent-sized culvert as a short-term temporary measure while exploring the long-***

**term temporary options.** Mr. Kemp will communicate with the Thayer Brook Road residents who are affected by the washouts to make sure they know this is a short-term temporary option as opposed to a long-term temporary option and there is a risk that the equivalent-sized culvert would not survive a high-volume event should one occur in the coming days. The Board agreed that it would like to explore the option of **not opening that road** at another meeting. The immediate goals addressed, the Road Agent and Highway Admin departed to start working on implementing the short-term temporary solution.

**OTHER EMERGENCY BUSINESS: Warren Dam stop logs** - Mr. McCarty suggested that the team of Susan Norlander (dam keys) and Bob Brown (process knowledge) be contacted and requested to remove one stop log from the dam, and to consult as needed to determine the right time to replace the stop log. Mr. Saxton agreed to contact the team and to contact and inform the Lake Warren Association leadership about this work. Mr. McCarty will communicate with Rock Wilson about the dam as well. Ms. Schoppmeyer was directed to post the water release on the Town web site. **Resident inquiry about paving glass washing into property** - Mr. Kemp agreed to meet with the resident, visit the location, and report back to the Board with information and recommendations. **Vacation interrupt** - Mr. McCarty indicated that he would return to Alstead if his fellow Board members felt it was necessary. Mr. Saxton expressed the Board's gratitude for Mr. McCarty's offer and appreciation for his repeated remote availability following this week's flooding; both he and Mr. Kemp indicated that they saw no need for him to interrupt his trip as long as he can continue to be available remotely if needed.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall, 9 Main Street. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday August 5th, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the Town Hall at 9 Main Street. The Fall Mountain School Board next meets on Monday, August 14th, 2023 at the high school (2nd Monday of the month). The Fall Mountain Budget Committee next meets on Wednesday July 19th at 6 PM at the high school (3rd Wednesday of the month). The next Five-Town Select Board Meeting is Friday, July 28th, 2023, time TBD, hosted by Acworth. A public meeting to solicit input from interested parties about the Hill Rd and Comstock Rd Bridge projects will be held Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6 PM at the Town Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No further comments or questions were posed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** There were no executive sessions.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator