**March 29, 2022TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Select Board**

**Approved Minutes for Meeting of March 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, chair; Joel McCarty; Matt Saxton**

**STAFF PRESENT: In person:**  Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief;Steve Reynolds,Emergency management; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin. **Google Meet:** None.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** **In person:** Sarah Webb& Joyce Campbell-Counts, Conservation Commission;Gordon Kemp, Barbara Viegener, Marjorie Noonan, Glenn Elsesser, Rich Nalevanko, Jude Willis, others. **Google Meet:** None.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**GUESTS:** Sarah Webb and Joyce Campbell-Counts of the Conservation Commission presented their plan for a festival on Millot Green. The festival is designed to educate the community about the importance of wetlands and isscheduled for July 9 with a rain date of July 10. More information will be forthcoming. Joel asked whether the commission was asking the taxpayers for funds for the event. Sarah answered that the event is funded by the Conservation Commission. Joel asked where Conservation Commission funds come from. The Commission’s budget is donations & memorials, bequests, and a small annual portion of land use change tax receipts. There was additional discussion of Spooner Flats and other Alstead wetland areas. The board expressed their enthusiasm for the project and thanked the Commission for their time and efforts.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed employee pay rate sheets, one for new transfer station employee; Signed Payroll and liability manifests; signed planning and zoning board appointment sheets.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of March 22, 2022: 4 changes requested: 1 – Add “AED” before the word “units” under Ambulance report; 2 – change “her” to “here” in the public comment related to Joe’s observation about steeple repair; and 3 – Under Emergency Management, change the 75/20 ratio to 75/25; and 4- Under Select Board, change the “Bell Hill Rd.” reference to “the Bell Hill section of Hill Rd”. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.***

**OLD BUSINESS:** New Transfer Station employee has started. Zoning Board appointments are as listed in the document signed at this meeting. Payroll service: We have quotes from Payroll Matters and from ADP. Mary will enumerate how much it costs to do payroll the way we’re doing it now and the impact on the Office Administrator position. There was additional discussion about how the payroll function has been handled historically.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Steve Reynolds reported that the emergency contact list that Charlotte created after the July floods requires updating and he provided a copy. Mary will update and redistribute the list. He also reported that he was able to confirm that Mary Ann did send the acknowledgment letter to the Bureau of Dams. He described the additional items in the deficiency letter that still need addressing and the efforts that are in progress to address them. He reached out to our FEMA contact about muddy roads and confirmed that if the affected areas were in places that were damaged during the flooding, then FEMA funds could be spent to mitigate that but if not, then they would need to see historical damage to aid in a benefit/cost analysis for the justification of FEMA. So there is a chance for some help but it means more work to justify it. Steve commended the level of cooperation between Alstead’s departments. There was additional discussion about mud season and road closures.

**AMBULANCE SQUAD:** Jesse reported that there is a five hundred million bill in front of the US Legislature for rural EMS access. The money is intended for staffing non-Fire Department-provided ambulance services in rural communities, for supporting a different funding model for Medicare patients, and for funding no-transport calls. Joe is willing to look at the requirements for applying for that funding. Jesse thanked those who attended Dr. Suozzi’s presentation at last week’s Wellness Committee meeting. He hopes to accomplish the staff training within the next week.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Onthe Fire Chief’s behalf, Mary reported that the Fire Department has begun handing out the new pagers.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Fire Chief Steve Murrell briefly demonstrated the new AED units, some of which were finally delivered last week. Each unit comes with an opportunity to extend the warranty upon registration, from 5 to 7 years. Steve also provided information for those who wish to purchase their own AED unit privately. There was additional discussion about the AED units, batteries, pads, training, obtaining the maintenance supplies, and an app you can get for your cell phone that shows where mounted AED units are.

**SELECT BOARD:** Joe reported that there are no developments in the Bennett Road negotiations. Joel reported that we have begun advertising for consultants to help us analyze, design, specify, and permit our two MOBIL bridge projects. We will put up an NHMA classified ad and classified ads in the Sentinel and the Shopper newspapers. Matt reported that the board continues to look at the Therrien warrant article issues. Joel reported that he met with Southwest Community Services and the developer for the senior housing project, who will visit at the 4/19 meeting. SWCS indicated that the market has changed and nobody is willing to build another project like Paper Mill Village because the demographics do not support it. He has also attended meetings with the Well Hill Coop about taxation. Some coop residents are not meeting their property tax obligations and there is a tax deeding meeting on Wednesday 3/30 to discuss what to do about that. There was an extended discussion about tax deeding issues specific to Well Hill Coop. In addition, Joel reported that the Governor announced the availability 100 million dollars of ARPA funds that he wants to spend on owner-occupied workforce housing in small communities. 60 million of those dollars are supposed to go to small towns. Joel plans to pursue more information about the program because it seems like a good idea to grow housing options on the young family side. He reached out to Bensonwood to discuss further. Joel also reported that Fall Mountain has once again formed a budget committee. Alstead’s representative on the committed is Dr. Jenifer Marchesi. Joel reached out to her and offered the Board’s support of her endeavors on the committee. In addition, Joel reported that NHDOT has announced that they’re going to pave a piece of 123 this summer. Finally, some progress is being made with regard to the non-compliant building and driveway on Walpole Valley Rd. Jesse pointed out that 911 does not recognize the address that this property is using and some followup might be required.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Barb Viegener asked about the 11,000 in the road striping account and Transfer Station SWD Cardboard Recycling amount. Mary is tasked with getting explanations for those items. Another question was whether the new Transfer Station employee was hired as the supervisor. Joe responded that no, we are waiting to hire a supervisor until we receive the final report from the Transfer Station consultant. Rich Nalevanko asked if there was any additional information about the senior/handicap housing project and Joel responded that he has invited the developer to come speak to us on the 19th to help answer questions. Gordon Kemp reported that the FMRHS JROTC club is going to help with Vilas Pool cleanup work again this year. He reported that the Vilas Pool committee is meeting every Thursday at 1 PM at the Town Offices. There was additional discussion about cleanup needs at Vilas Pool. Gordon also reminded everyone that summer employees are needed for Vilas Pool. Rich Nalevanko wondered if there was any response to the Cease & Desist order associated with the trailer on Gilsum Mine Road. The answer is there has been no response so far. Glenn Elsesser asked if there was any news on the solar array project. Joel noted that he received confirmation that 100% of Alstead’s power is already green, because it comes from falling water in Bellows Falls. It is not clear what the impact of that information is on the solar project. There was additional discussion about multi-year projects of that nature.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. There was additional discussion about the possibility of a new meeting time.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe: Y; Joel: Y; Matt: Y) to enter non-public session at 7:04 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, II(m) – consideration of whether to disclose sealed non-public minutes due to a change in circumstances.***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 7:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to unseal the minutes of the 9/20/2018 non-public session. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board*** ***voted to unseal the minutes of the 9/18/2018 non-public session. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 7:16 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)