

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: **In person:** Matthew Saxton, Gordon Kemp. **Conference call:** Joel McCarty.

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Adam Vose, Assistant Ambulance Chief; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant. **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Jonathan Landry, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis, and two members of the Lake Warren Association, including Lisa Tusveld, Vice President. **Google Meet:** None.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Saxton called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM because Mr. McCarty, who is traveling, planned to attend remotely but had not yet called in.

ACTION ITEMS: In reviewing the action items, Mr. Saxton noted that one item regarding His and Her Farm needed to be forwarded to the Town of Acworth instead of being considered by this board. Signed already-approved minutes for the non-public session of the June 29th, 2023 meeting. Signed two Vilas Pool expenditures (Plumber, Liberty Utilities).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of June 11, 2023 regular meeting. Minutes of June 12, 2023 emergency meeting re: flooding. Minutes of June 13, 2023 emergency meeting re: flooding. On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board members present voted unanimously to approve all sets of minutes as written.***

OLD BUSINESS: Storm update - Mr. Saxton summarized the effects of a second round of heavy rains on Sunday, July 16th resulted in some additional damage to areas already affected by the July 12 event. **Washed out glass** - Mr. Kemp circled back to Mr. Landry's glass problem and will reach out to Primex and NHMA about that problem to see what answers he can get.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Highway - Mr. Trafton reported that Cobb Hill Road, Thayer Brook Road, and North Road were all affected. On Cobb Hill Road, large amounts of waste glass that was approved for use in roadbeds by a previous Alstead Select Board washed out into private property, woodland, and brook areas along with the corresponding 3-to-4-foot drainage layer. The Road Agent and the Board acknowledged this as a serious problem that is currently without a solution. The plan for North Road is to install a second culvert of equal size alongside the existing culvert to double the capacity in that area. After inspecting Thayer Brook Road this morning, NHDOT found it unsafe and ordered the road closed on the Acworth end. There was speculation about whether the Acworth end of Thayer Brook Road would be re-opened. One long-term temporary solution is estimated at four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000); others are being considered. Mr. Trafton provided the Board with a quote. Gilsum Mine Road withstood the deluges well and paving was delayed but is in progress. He praised Pike, the paving contractor, for their efforts with the paving work and their additional trucking assistance with flood remediation. Many residents along Gilsum Mine have expressed frustration with difficulty getting out of their driveways because of the height of the new pavement compared to their driveway. The road crew is working feverishly to not only address washouts and make roads passable, but also to get driveway aprons in place so that people can get out. There was additional discussion about the 2021 flood FEMA reimbursement money that is held up by NHDES; a visit to Alstead by Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington on Wednesday July 13th is hoped to result in an expedited resolution to that problem. Mr. Saxton thanked Mr. Trafton and his crew for their hard work addressing all these issues and Mr. Trafton departed for another meeting.

Emergency Management - Director Reynolds noted that public safety issues on Thayer Brook Road are addressed for the time being. Thayer Brook Road is on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Director Reynolds has asked Homeland Security to advise when the next round of hazard mitigation grants are expected to become available so that grant money can be applied for. The Cobb Hill landslide above the Clark Farm is also on the hazard mitigation plan list. The Emergency Management team and the road crews assembled to monitor things through the storm period on Sunday 7/16 and stood down at about 3 PM. He noted that he got 500 sandbags delivered that Sunday, and there are an additional 1000

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at village station. Their condition will be evaluated and the intent is to place 500 at the Highway barn and 500 at East Station. If necessary, sand can be delivered and volunteers can fill the bags if it is determined that they will be needed. There will be an OEM meeting on Thursday 7/27; he has asked the team to review the mitigation list and select the top 3 items and suggest which ones to bring to a grant writing effort. **Safety Committee** - The inspection of East Station was carried out and a list of action items made. The furnace needs servicing and emergency lights are dead. Mr. Saxton thanked the director for his work. **Police department** - Chief Murrell reported 574 calls to date. There were a few flood assistance calls and a couple of evacuation assistance calls. There has been a large amount of administrative work and RSA 91-A requests, communications tower issues such as better internet access for the equipment up there. Mr. Kemp has been following up on some of those items. Chief supplied information about a support contract for the sign trailers for the Board to review, for discussion at next week's meeting. Chief commended Mr. Levesque for his efforts researching ARPA funding. **Ambulance** - Chief Moore indicated that the inspection of the fire station and ambulance was rescheduled to 7/27 to give time to address additional security measures. The new-to-us ambulance vehicle should be delivered here in time for the inspection. Chief noted that the electrical contractor was investigating the lighting issues at Village Station; the problem does not appear to be the light fixtures themselves, but the service into the building. The light on top of the building was fixed. Investigation continues. The ambulance has responded to about 80 calls year to date. A quote was received for the cardiac monitor for the new vehicle, it is budgeted money and can be paid when invoiced. **Fire department** - Chief Kercewich reported that the team has responded to 62 calls YTD. He noted that he is getting quotes for some new equipment and repairs that are needed, and there are some organization dues that will need to be paid. **Transfer station** - Mr. Esslinger reported that the blueberry harvest has made his availability to the Transfer Station a challenge; he is working to avoid complications with loading the corrugated recycling, which must be kept dry. He reported that the station received a loan of a bobcat, charging for transport only, to use for loading the trailer. There have been many questions about hazardous waste collection in Keene and whether Alstead residents can take their liquid hazardous waste there and get reimbursed. There was extended discussion and the matter was tabled for further research. **Vilas Pool** - The person who was going to help with cleanup fell through and a permit is necessary so cleanup will commence once the permit is received and the park will open once cleanup is completed. Booked private events will be allowed to the extent possible. **Admin** - Our Town Hall rental agreement indicates that Primex offers TULIP coverage for people renting the hall for one-day events where alcohol will be served, or events with some other risk factor is involved (grilling, for example). Primex no longer offers TULIP coverage so people have to get their own TULIP coverage policy for such events. The form is being revised to let people know that they must secure a one-day event policy from their insurance agent that names the town and its agents as additional insured.

BOARD REPORTS: Bridges - Mr. McCarty indicated that nothing would happen with a Note in Anticipation of a Grant (NAG) until he returns. The Board then discussed how much of the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars that townspeople voted should be withdrawn from the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund to pay for engineering and permitting. On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to withdraw the full two hundred fifty thousand dollars from Bridge capital reserve and put it in the checking account.*** The Office Admin will prepare a letter to the Trustee of Trust Funds for signing next week. **Land swap** - Mr. Kemp reported that he visited the two plots of land suggested to Mr. Boucher in exchange for the property next door to Town Hall. Mr. Boucher would like to meet with the Board to discuss the two plots. **East Station action item list** - Mr. Kemp presented his list of items for immediate attention. He noted that because of the flooding the town's financial situation has changed since these discussions began and some items will end up on a warrant article next year. An extensive discussion followed; it was determined that some items have already been taken care of, some items can be taken care of immediately, some items are going on the Safety Committee list, and some items need quotes to determine a cost for adding to a warrant article for next year's town meeting. Some regular maintenance items should be put on a checklist and followed up on regularly and tracked at regular meetings. Mr. McCarty pointed out, and the group agreed, that these items are in the prudent interests of the town, so department heads should include that time in annual budgeting so that people can be paid for their time. Mr. McCarty attempted to arrange for Primex's risk management rep to visit but it was delayed by flooding and vacation plans; Mr. Reynolds will touch base with Primex on that visit. **Complete**

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streets - The Board received a notice about the availability of funding for Complete Streets planning; this might be something to pursue

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The Fall Mountain School Board next meets on Monday, August 14th, 2023 at the high school (2nd Monday of each month). The Fall Mountain Budget Committee next meets on Wednesday August 16th, 2023 at 6 PM at the high school (3rd Wednesday of each month). The next Five-Town Select Board meeting, originally scheduled for July 21st in Acworth, is in the process of being rescheduled due to the need for member towns to attend to flooding damage; the new date will be announced when determined. A public meeting to solicit input from and share information with interested parties re: the MOBIL Bridge projects will be held Tuesday August 22, 2023 at 6 PM at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Levesque asked when the 25-mph speed limit would be lifted on Gilsum Mine Road. Chief indicated that it would be rescinded when the gravel is covered and paving is complete. Mr. Nalevanko suggested that a list be assembled of townspeople who can offer short term housing in the event that shelter is needed on an emergency basis, as neighbor helping neighbor. The Emergency Management Director indicated that emergency shelter options would be discussed at the next OEM meeting. Mr. Landry reiterated his distress over the glass deposited on his land during the flooding. Mr. Kemp indicated that he would reach out after exploring a couple of information sources about what can be done.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***Mr. Saxton adjourned the public meeting at 7:50 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator