

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Unapproved Minutes for Meeting of April 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Chair; Matthew Saxton, Vice Chair; Gordon Kemp.

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Rich Beringer, Fire Department; Jesse Moore, EMS/Parks/Waste; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Recording Secretary Pro Tem. **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Rod Bouchard, Jonathan Landry, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Jude Willis, Joe Levesque. **Google Meet:** None.

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair invited everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: <list from Sharon of items in the to-be-signed folder – requested 4/24/24 via pm email>

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: No minutes were presented for approval at this meeting. Minutes for 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/12, 4/16, and this 4/23 meetings need to be completed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Washed-out glass – Mr. Jonathan Landry, who owns property on Cobb Hill Road that is one location of glass washout asked for a status update of the cleanup effort. McCarty reported that he recently visited the site, obtained GPS coordinates for the affected area, and provided them to his contact at Southwest Region Planning Commission. Mr. McCarty also noted that he spoke with Charlie Haines, who also owns property affected by washed out glass, and looked for more washed-out glass on Haines property. Current efforts are to map the areas where broken glass has been washed into private property. Mr. Landry suggested also mapping where glass was put into the roads before that knowledge is lost. Discussion continued about the time frame for the mapping effort, reiteration of possible solutions and funding support, and mutual aid agreements with other highway departments who have equipment Alstead might borrow in exchange for return services. The outcome of the discussion was that Mr. Bouchard, who has contacts at Cheshire County, will provide contact information of someone who might be willing to consult. Data for multiple contacts was exchanged with an agreement that Mr. McCarty would pursue and touch base with Mr. Landry next week. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Mr. McCarty reported that he asked the Road Agent to review the Engineering proposal for the bypass so that he is familiar with the project parameters for his application for FEMA support for that project. He needs to reiterate to the vendor that the proposed fee must be a firm number because it is a special warrant article that limits the amount that can be spent. **Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty reported that he has received many pages of interim reporting from the Engineering firm that the Board must review and respond to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) by next week and, if his counterparts concur, he will review that report on the Board's behalf. **The Board agreed by consensus that Mr. McCarty will review and respond to the engineering report.** In addition, Mr. McCarty reported that during today's visit to Concord he learned that the town can get a jump start on the urgently-needed Drewsville Road bridge project by waiving the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process and engaging the same engineering firm we are using now for the Comstock Road and Hill Road MOBIL bridge projects. To that end, he asked those present for feedback on the performance of the current engineering firm Hoyle Tanner. No objections were raised. *On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, the Board voted unanimously to write a letter to Ms. Julie Avenant at NHDOT proposing that Alstead waive the Qualifications Based Selection process on the Drewsville Road bridge project in favor of engaging Hoyle Tanner for the Engineering phase of said project.* **Dams** – Mr. McCarty reported that he met with Steve Doyon at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Dam Bureau. Alstead has received a scope and fee document from DuBois & King which he sent to the state Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for approval, which he subsequently received. DuBois and King also need to be reminded that this project is a special warrant article with a set price. Additional approvals might be sought but the Board expects to sign the document next week. **Simmeck property** – Mr. McCarty reported that during his Concord visit today he met with another NHDES representative about the ongoing accumulation of equipment and material on this property, the deterioration of which is suspected of being environmentally undesirable. The results of the meeting were discouraging however the representative did agree to provide contact information for the person who can design an outflow water quality test of water leaving that property. **Cyanobacteria** – Mr. McCarty also met with Watershed Management people who introduced him to a funding source for a project to mitigate stormwater/road runoff that affects the water quality of Lake Warren. Mr. McCarty has an application to pursue said funding and plans to meet with people at Southwest Region Planning Commission to see if they can assist with the application. NHDES people will be

attending the next Lake Warren Association meeting. There was additional discussion of other mitigation solutions, including closing the road to through traffic, breaching the dam, and traffic control devices. **Sale of town-owned properties** – Mr. Saxton reported that there are two offers for the Caldwell Pond property. He shared Realtor Mary Johnson’s summary of the two offers with the group and the pros and cons of both offers were discussed. *On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the second offer.* The other property on the North Road was discussed, and Mr. Kemp reiterated the fact that at the last meeting the Board voted to return that property to the market as is with full disclosure and no warranty since the Board did not feel confident that modern acreage records are correct and the pins in place speak for themselves. A bit more discussion took place about how the property came into the town’s possession. **Property M11 L2 status (abuts Town Hall)** – Mr. Kemp reported no progress. **Model T MOU** – Mr. McCarty reported that he has received half of what he needs for the memo of understanding and has informed the president of the Fire Department Association about remaining requirements; he is confident that the memo will be completed soon and will continue to work to that end.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: EMS/Parks/Waste – Chief Moore reported that he is pursuing answers about a mysterious cancelled paramedic charge at the Cheshire County EMS Chiefs meeting this evening (4/23) and he will report back in future with an explanation. He further reported that AEDs have been installed at the store and its staff trained and one at the 3rd Church with training scheduled for 5/5. One AED is left and if anyone wants to install that one and train for use they should reach out to him. Chief Moore further reported that the EMS team will provide a kids’ program at the Library on July 5 with CPR training and Stop the Alien Bleed training (complete with green blood). The EMS team will host evening and Saturday AM CPR classes at the Library over the summer, with the goal of training 315 adults in the community, achieving platinum status as a cardiac-survivability heart safe community. The status opens doors to recognition in the form of street signs, grant funding and opportunities. This is an 18-step program of which Alstead has completed 17 steps. At the Transfer Station, Chief Moore reported that the staff will be wearing uniforms with safety reflection that will make employees easily recognizable (within budget). In addition, Chief announced that he has offered the Supervisor/Foreman position at the Transfer Station to Mark Pitts, who has proven himself more than worthy. For Parks, Chief Moore requested permission to use the backhoe and a Transfer Station operator to effect improvements on the infield of the baseball diamond, in honor of Tri-Town cleanup day. **The board readily agreed by consensus to grant permission for the infield improvement.** Chief Moore began to report about NRRRA ordinance boilerplate but decided to defer that report to another time due to his need to travel to another meeting imminently. Mr. Nalevanko asked about increasing the ability to charge for ambulance services; Mr. McCarty suggested deferring that report to another time as well given Chief Moore’s need to depart. **Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds reported that he contacted Clean Harbor, the company that Chief Kercewich contacted about removal of the chemical barrel from East station, and within one day had obtained a contract and written estimate for \$959.21 to remove the barrel of chemicals from East Station. No objections were offered and Mr. McCarty signed the estimate so that the removal can be scheduled. Director Reynolds reported further that the turnout gear inventory is completed and of 21 coats, 7 are outdated; of 20 pants, 8 are outdated. These results beg three questions – 1-are those issued to people who are showing up? 2 - If yes, how many are showing up with outdated gear? and 3 – are people with outdated gear going into burning structures? Mr. Beringer responded that people who have outdated gear know that they have outdated gear and do not enter burning buildings, per documented Fire Department policy. **School Board and Grants** – Mr. Levesque had nothing to report.

There being no further public business, the Board recessed briefly at 6 PM to allow the room to clear for two non-public sessions.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, April 30 th , 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 45 Mechanic St.
Next FM School Board meeting:	Monday, May 13 th , 2024 @ 5:00 PM, High School (2 nd Monday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: On a motion made by Mr McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, *the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Matt – Y; Gordon– y) to enter non-public session at 6:05 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(b).*

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty, *the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:30 p.m.*

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, *the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Matt – Y; Gordon– y) to enter non-public session at 6:34 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(c).*

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, *the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session and return to public session at 7:34 p.m.*

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:35 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Recording Secretary pro tem

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