

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Minutes for Meeting of January 9th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Gordon Kemp, Matthew Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person –Misty Gratacos, Office Administrator, Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (outgoing); Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Ben Kercewich, Fire Department (arrived late). **Google Meet** – Bobbie Wilson, Supervisor of the Checklist & Ambulance Lieutenant

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person –Judith Willis, Barbara Viegner, Marge Noonan, Joe Levesque. **Google Meet** – Bindy Curtis

GUESTS: Charles Johnston & Hannah Pasquall, DuBois & King Inc.

CALL TO ORDER: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Reviewed & signed payroll manifest (\$27,564.95), reviewed & signed bill manifest (\$17,081), reviewed & signed tax liability manifest (\$5,267.17), reviewed and signed two (2) timber cut requests.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of January 3, 2024. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that Mr. Saxton seconded, ***the Board voted unanimously to accept minutes as submitted.***

Presentation: An informative, in-depth, in person presentation by Charles Johnston, PE (Project Engineer) of DuBois & King Inc. regarding the Lake Warren & Vilas Pool dams. Mr. Johnston talked about the types of procedures and products that could be used to fix the spillover/breaching issues that both dams have had in the past. He discussed the extensive experience his company has and other comparison projects that they have completed. He answered questions from the audience and the Board. Suggestions of several engineering ideas were mentioned that included creating different types of spillways to divert water when larger storms happen, also the possibility of incorporating culverts to assist in water diversion. Further discussion of the appropriate types of analysis needed, phases of the projects (gather information/reporting, design/layout and construction), and scheduling timelines were heard. There was mention of some very vague numbers of what each phase could cost (approximates only). Mr. Johnston did state that there is a lot of funding available for the removal of dams, however not a lot of funding available for fixing/repairing them. Brief questions from the audience were answered by Mr. Johnston. The Board thanked Mr. Johnston & Ms. Pasquall for their time and explained that we will be hearing from another firm soon. We will notify them of any decisions. Audience members were asked to utilize the scoring sheets that had been provided to them in their meeting packets.

At this time, the meeting was recessed for five (5) minutes to allow Mr. Johnston and Ms. Pasquall to depart and for the audience to rate the firms presentation on their scoresheets.

OLD BUSINESS: Washed-out glass – Mr. McCarty reported that the SWRPC meeting did not take place, leaving him with more questions unanswered. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Nothing new to report at this time. **Broadband** – Mr. Kemp reported that the community question and answer meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30th, 2024 at the Board meeting and hopes to have a good audience. **Bridges – Nothing new to report at this time.** **Town Real Estate** –Mr. McCarty reported that he had signed some documents on 1/8. **M11 L2 adjacent to Town Hall** –Mr. McCarty reported that he has completed the application for phase one testing is currently under review. **Fire Dept Bylaws, policies, & procedures** – Mr. Kemp reported that these are a work in progress, more to come for review & approval. **Village Station Lighting & overhead door update** -- Nothing new to report at this time. **Sign trailer agreement** – Deferred to later in 2024. **Model T insurance & Memo of Understanding**–Nothing new to report and deferred to later in the year. **East Station progress report** – Chief Kercewich still has yet to have a date for the barrel of chemicals that need removal from the East Station. **Langdon Transfer Station fee** – Mr. McCarty reported he has sent the calculations to Langdon for review. A response is anticipated shortly. **Beaver Dam mitigation** – Mr. Kemp had no additional information at this time.

Department Reports: Administrative Department – Mrs. Gratacos is settling in nicely with Ms. Schoppmeyer now working only as an Administrative Consultant. Mrs. Gratacos has completed her first payroll and payables cycle on her

own for the boards review. **Fire Department** – Chief Kercewich reports that they are working on the punch list from the safety audit. Does not have a date for the pickup of the barrel of chemicals yet, but everything else is “pretty quiet”. **Highway Department** – Mr. Trafton reported that the Highway Department is preparing for the next storm. They have had to order another load of salt to stay on top of things. **Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds reported that he has received feedback from the Health Officer regarding Bragg Lane, outstanding items on the safety audit will need to be addressed. The Admin stated that Robert “Junie” Esslinger has received a copy of those outstanding items and will be asked to email a report to Director Reynolds to keep him aware of the status.

BOARD REPORTS – Mr. Kemp: Fire Department - Mr. Kemp reported that he has met with the Fire Department members on January 8th to review the bylaws and policies that had revised. On a motion made by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Saxton ***the Board voted unanimously to accept these policies as submitted.*** **Mr. Saxton** – Nothing to report this week. **Mr. McCarty** – Mr. McCarty reported that no Library support has been received from Langdon for budget year 2023. Mr. McCarty has inquired (twice). Mr. McCarty reminded the audience of the next Budget Workshop for January 10th, 10:00am at the Town Offices.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, January 17 th , 2024 @ 10:00 AM, Town Office, 15 Mechanic St.
2024 Budget Hearing:	Tuesday, January 16 th , 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
2024 Town Meeting Deliberative Session:	February 3 rd , 2024 @ 10 AM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
2024 Town Meeting Voting Day:	Tuesday, March 12 th , 2024, 8 AM to 7 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
FM School Board meeting:	Monday, January 8 th , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School Library (2 nd Monday)
FM Budget Committee meeting:	Wednesday, December 27 th , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School (3 rd Wednesday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress
FM Budget Hearing:	Wednesday, January 10 th , 2024 @ 5:30pm, High School Library
FM Deliberative Session:	Wednesday February 7th, 2024, time TBD.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Misty Gratacos
Office Administrator