

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton.

**STAFF PRESENT: In person:** Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Barbara Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person:** Ben Howard, Laurence Howard, Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis, and Bill Williams.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**GUESTS:** Steve Blake - to describe the location of town wells. Mr. Blake was unable to attend at the last minute so that discussion was tabled until next week.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Sign the 8/12 Payroll and Liabilities manifests; Sign the 8/9 Bills manifest; Appoint Republican inspectors of elections; Sign Police Detail Policy if approved; sign 1 Vilas Pool expenditure; sign 1 abatement request.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of August 2, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, *the Board voted to approve the public minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS: Appoint Inspectors of Elections:** Open questions from last week regarding the reasons for the Board appointing the Republican inspectors were cleared up. On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, *the Board voted to appointed the following people, submitted by the Moderator and confirmed as registered Republicans willing to serve: Holly Gay, Louis Lemay, Marge Noonan, and Joanne Wildes.*

**SELECT BOARD: 5-Town Meeting summary:** Mr. Levesque reported well-attended meeting with representatives from all 5 towns, with discussions covering coordinating capital improvement projects (paving etc.), cross-town notices on town websites, sharing of heavy equipment/mutual effort, sharing of knowledge re: broadband projects, sharing of truckloads of recycled materials, and bulk purchasing of gasoline and diesel fuel. Next meeting is 10/28 in Walpole. **Electric vehicle charging station:** Mr. Levesque reported that he shared an idea with Mark Mastrocinque whereby some of the money donated for the project be set aside to cover costs such as ongoing maintenance, insurance, fire suppression if deemed necessary, and credit card fees. Joel noted that the donor offered an escrow arrangement for decommissioning at end of useful life. Tangent discussions about battery fires and disposal of obsolete equipment were indulged. **Dept. of Transportation letter:** Highway block grant for 2022-2023 will be \$96,578. The letter also covered calculations associated with class V and class VI road and per-resident amounts. **Cheshire County Supplemental Budget:** The board shared with those present notice of a meeting to receive public comment on the 2022 supplemental county budget. **Library roof:** Mr. Saxton reported that he spoke with Keith Hanatow of Melanson Roofing about regular periodic maintenance of the library roof and what else might be done without threatening the existing historic building status or imposing excessive cost. Mr. Hanatow will submit a proposal for roofing possibilities and maintenance schedule. **Lake Warren Dam release:** Mr. McCarty reported that the water release test at Lake Warren went perfectly with very little apparent effect on water level; a report will be provided soon and published on the web site. There was initially a lot of concern from local residents that was diffused over the duration of the test. There was an additional conversation about creating a public swimming access at the lake that the Board plans to follow up on. **Bridge engineer selection:** Mr. McCarty reported that he has a volunteer in mind to help with engineer selection for planning and construction of the two bridges that qualify for the MOBIL bridge project. Members of the public offered some additional suggestions for him to consider. **9 Mechanic St:** Bill Williams asked what needs to happen next with regard to proceeding. Mr. Saxton indicated that he walked the proposed adjustments with Ms. Heidorn and the next step is for the building owner to hire a surveyor to map the property as they envision it. After that they will figure out the water question. **Solar cabinets for AEDs:** Mr. McCarty reported that the UK company that makes solar cabinets for AED units finally responded to his 6-month-old inquiry and has provided specifications and information, which he will share with anyone interested. **Grant approved:** Mr. Levesque reported that the grant team that was waiting for the paid receipt for the radio repeaters that haven't been delivered yet gave up and are sending us the money anyway. **Well Hill:** Mr. McCarty reported that he facilitated a meeting between the Community Loan Fund, New Hampshire Resident-Owned Co-op Association, and Southwest Community Services regarding Well Hill Co-op's build-out plans. He has no outcome information but he does know of an intention by CLF to move a local homeless family into a new site with new service

by October 1st. Southwestern Community Services has a privately funded community action fund that they sometimes use to move a project forward with subsequent reimbursement. **11 Main Street:** The owner of the neighboring burned-out property wants permission to park cars currently on that lot in the Town Hall lot, for inspection by parties interested in purchasing them. The general consensus is not in favor of parking them on town property. The preference is that the owner remove the cars from the collapsing building and park them on that property for viewing. **Fireworks:** Mr. McCarty reported about some fireworks-related strife in a Lake Warren neighborhood. He reminded the group of a previous similar complaint in another neighborhood that was resolved by the Police Department facilitating a neighborhood meeting, and urged a similar effort to be employed in this new case. **Homestead Rd culvert:** Mr. McCarty noted that an enormous culvert was being installed on Homestead Road and invited people to find an alternate route in their travels where possible.

**DEPARTMENTS: ADMIN:** *Payroll transition* - Mr. Saxton asked for a status report on the payroll service process. The Office Admin reported that data has been provided to the service, called Payroll Matters, such that the company has all 2022 payroll information to date and the next payroll should be handled by the service. More info to follow. *.GOV migration* - The Office Admin reported that the IT team continues to make progress transitioning our IT infrastructure from a .org domain to a .gov domain. When the transition is complete, all of the current .org resources will automatically forward or redirect to the corresponding .gov resource (web site, email addresses, and so on) and we will enjoy increased cybersecurity measures. **EM Radio project:** Ambulance Chief Moore reported on an exciting new development with the radio project whereby a cell phone can now be configured to communicate, through a connected radio, with another similarly-configured cell phone. The new repeaters are integral to this capability, which provides another layer of redundancy to the emergency communication system. The repeaters will hopefully be delivered by the end of the month and he would like to use the new electronic sign trailers to advertise a session with the ham radio club to help the public sign up on the government web site. **PD:** Chief Steve Murrell explained his new Police Detail Policy, designed to explain the terms under which Alstead officers serve on contractor-paid highway details and the expected rate of pay. The Board approved the policy by consensus and signed it.

**AMBULANCE:** Chief Moore would like to meet with the Board next month about Ambulance finances. Although things have slowed down, he is concerned about running short budget-wise this year. The Board thanked him for bringing the issue to their attention.

**BROADBAND:** Gordon Kemp suggested that the town consider purchasing Starlink internet service equipment as redundant internet service that can be used as needed, or on an emergency basis with backup power. Starlink now offers a \$135-per-month service option that can be turned on and off in 1-month increments. He suggested that this service might be useful for Vilas Pool, instead of paying for year-round service there when we only need it 3 months out of the year. Gordon uses the \$110-per-month residential service and is very satisfied with it. He noted that payment is by credit card only. The Board agreed to look into the idea.

**VILAS POOL PARK:** Gordon Kemp invited everyone to the next installment of Sunday fun at the park, including free hot dogs and something fun for the kids.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The next Five-Town Select Board meeting will be held on Friday October 28, 2022 at 4:30 PM, hosted by Walpole.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Rich Nalevanko commented that he attended the Stoddard Select Board meeting and sat through a presentation about their Transfer Station, and noted that the report included data about surrounding towns, including Alstead and Langdon. He suggested that the data presented might be useful to us in terms of negotiating our contract with Langdon and that our Transfer Station supervisor in particular might want to look at it.

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 7:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator