

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of March 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matt Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** none.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Glenn Elsesser, Penny Gendron, Gordon Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Jude Willis. **Google Meet:** None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

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

ACTION ITEMS: Signed a land use change warrant, non-public minutes sheets from 3/15, the Easter Egg Hunt email, and more employee paysheets.

GUESTS: **Dr. Jude Nuru of Revision Energy (informational: solar array project)** presented information about Revision Energy, a firm that brings interested investors to municipal renewable energy projects. Dr. Nuru provided two handouts, which Mary will post on the Alstead website (look on the Resources selection menu) along with a URL for more information about Revision Energy. Projects similar to the one Alstead is considering are in progress in Keene, Hanover, Lebanon, and Manchester. The board thanked Dr. Nuru for his time.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of March 15, 2022, Minutes of March 8, 2022, and Non-public session Minutes of March 15: Matt Saxton asked that the March 15 minutes be changed to correct the spelling of “ex officio;” to reflect the fact that Ellen Chase was appointed to fill a Planning Board vacancy; and that Justin Falango and David Konesko were reappointed to the Planning Board. No other changes were requested. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joe, ***the Board voted to approve the March 15 minutes as amended and the March 8 and March 15 Non-public minutes as written. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 abstaining due to absence.***

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Jesse reported that the ambulance broke down twice last week and was repaired both times. Currently averaging 2 calls per day, a rate more applicable to July than March. There is an increasing incidence of multiple calls at the same time; we might need to keep that in mind to examine how to cover that increasing trend. 80% of the year’s calls are between November 1 and April 1, and consist primarily of elderly falls, domestic violence, and cardiac arrest events. The squad expects higher than usual expenses this year so is ordering only mandatory supplies. Jesse complimented the squad and is pleased to report that more people are getting certified. The southern region has added more classes, making it easier than before to get training. Jesse reported that Dr. Jim Suozzi is presenting at the Wellness Committee Meeting on Wednesday 3/23 at 6 PM. He noted further that cold storage of the AED units is not as tricky as first thought and that the concerns are more about battery life than damage to the unit. Joel asked for more information to provide to Revision Energy since the manufacturer of the photovoltaic cabinets for AEDs has become inaccessible.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Steve Reynolds reported that the whole state is experiencing unusual mud conditions and worked with Prescott to inform people via Facebook. He investigated whether aid funds can be used to help but the mud does not appear to be in storm-damaged places so the funds can’t be used. He is looking into FEMA and Homeland Security sources. Steve and Prescott are communicating with intent to mitigate emergency vehicle access to the affected locations should it be necessary. Steve also reported that he is working on the letter that the town must send to the state dam authorities to acknowledge the notification they sent by the April 1 deadline. Joe noted that Gordon was asking when the dam gate could be opened in order to drain the basin and do annual cleanout of debris. Prescott thinks middle to end of April and noted the good news that the FEMA/town funding percentages for the dam repairs have changed from 75/25 to 90/10.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Prescott reported that consistent with the state, many of Alstead’s dirt roads are experiencing a higher-than-usual amount of mud. Consumption of materials used for mitigation is way up and that there have been some problems getting the right kind of crushed stone. Stockpiled supplies are depleted rapidly. Offroad mud enthusiasts

are causing some damage. The crew went to summer hours since the light supported that, allowing them to spend more time addressing problems. Compounding those issues is the fact that some equipment is awaiting repair and parts are hard to find. There was additional discussion including several stories of people helping other people out of mucky adventures. The board thanked Prescott for working with Steve to get information out to affected residents via Facebook and commended him and his team for their hard work addressing the problems.

SELECT BOARD: Joel reported about additional good news for bridge repair funding, in that Alstead has been approved for 80% federal funding for design specification and permitting work and 100% federal funding for construction work on 2 bridges – Comstock Road and Bell Hill section of Hill Road. We need to organize and put a request for services and proposals out on the municipal association site to let the people who can do this work know that we have funding for it. Joel also reported that there was a possibility of sponsoring a visit from a mobile vaccine van and he will look into that possibility.

There was an inconclusive discussion about whether to hold an exit interview with a terminated employee.

ADMIN: Mary reported that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned for 10 or 11 AM on the Saturday before Easter and that the next step has been taken toward enabling our ability to upload more accurate property data from Avitar to the web.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Glenn Elsesser asked whether the Selectboard meeting will continue to be at 5:00 PM as it's a bit difficult to make that time. There was additional discussion and the result was to leave it at 5:00 pm for now. Someone wondered whether there was a plan for burning retired flags on Flag Day. Joe noted that he disposes of his flag at the American Legion. Glenn indicated that he is almost finished with the repair estimate for the fire truck. He also asked whether there is a list of all the places in town that need some capital improvement and whether there is any eligibility for grant money. Joe noted that a church in the town he came here from struck a deal with a cell phone company that rebuilt its steeple in exchange for putting a cell tower in it, and that maybe this was an option to pursue. Joe has had some conversations with Bruce Bellows about grants and those conversations need to be continued. Glenn asked whether any more information is available about the taxation of the senior/handicapped housing project and Joel indicated that he had nothing to share right now; more to come on that.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. An additional selectboard meeting is planned on Wednesday, March 30 at 10:15 AM at the Town Offices to discuss the tax deeding process with the Tax Collector.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator