

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Unapproved Minutes for Meeting of June 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Chair, Gordon Kemp, and Joe Levesque.

STAFF PRESENT: Misty Gratacos, Town Office Administrator; Jesse Moore, Director of EMS, Sanitation & Grounds; Michael Kerczewich, Fire Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Barbara Viegener, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis; Glenn Elsesser, Jeanne Brooks, Charlie Pratt, Jonathan Landry.

Google Meets:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM and then proceeded with leading the agenda-based discussion.

GUESTS:

ACTION ITEMS: The Board reviewed and signed the Bills Manifest (\$278,129.26) and several Timber Intent bills and approvals for Vilas Pool purchases.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 6/10 meeting minutes were reviewed, amended, and approved as amended by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Washed-out glass** – No updates.
- B. Thayer Brook bypass** – No updates.
- C. Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty reports receiving our DES wetlands permit after 3 rejections. The stage has been set for the next two permits. The paperwork has gone off to the Army Corps of Engineers, and the turnaround is expected to be less than two weeks. The projected project advertisement will be at the end of June.
- D. Dams** – No updates.
- E. Status of property at M11 L2 (abuts Town Hall)** – Mr. Kemp suggests removing this item from our agenda due to deadlock. The board concurs and votes unanimously to remove.
- F. Fire Dept Policies** – Policies are complete and will be distributed

- G. Pine Cliff Rd info/updates** – No updates.
- H. 210 Gilsum Mine Road land merger talks** – Mr. Kemp reports that he no longer believes merging these pieces of property is a good idea. He says he wants to wait one more week before taking further action.
- I. Complete Streets Information** – No updates.
- J. Newell Pond Property** – No updates.
- K. Library Key** – No updates.
- L. Highway Garage mold situation** – Mr. McCarty says he will follow up with Sonia regarding this.
- M. Town-owned property at 52 Mechanic St** – Mr. Kemp reached out to the state regarding demolition - he discovered that you need an asbestos inspection before this. For the asbestos inspection, he received various pricing from 3 different individuals. The board has agreed to reach out to John Brewster, from True North Home Inspections LLC, who proposed a \$350 plus samples for the property. Additionally, the board has decided to hold a public hearing at the town hall on July 22, at 5 PM, to hear public feedback on this property and 2 others.

N. Department & Board

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS: On Wednesday, June 18th, executive counselor Karen Liot Hill and the commissioner of the DOT are coming to Alstead for a field review. Mr. Kemp will meet with her.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department –

- Chief Kercewich has a quote for a proposal to spend \$4,500 (labor and materials included) to remove damage and rotted exterior, door trim, replace broken pieces of vinyl siding, and caulk and repaint the new exterior door for East Alstead fire station repairs. The board moves to sign and get the ball rolling on the quote.
- Mr. Trafton reports that we have finally received the soil sample for gravel. M&W Soils Engineering's sample leads Mr. Trafton to believe we shouldn't change a thing.
- Mr. Trafton reports that they will be closed on the 4th of July week, starting June 30th.

Town Office Administrator –

- Mrs. Gratacos reports that the Select Board Administrative Office will be closed from June 25th to 30th, which is on the town calendar and website. Ms. Iozzo will be there two of those days answering phones, taking messages, doing paperwork, and such.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

Director Moore reports that:

- Ambulance – At about 118 calls to date. Last year, they were only at 82 calls, which was the busiest year they ever had. Director Moore reports that this year, the prediction for the number of calls is 232. Mr. McCarty stated that the demand for ambulance services is growing faster than the Select Board and the voters anticipated. Due to this, he requests that Director Moore bring additional data, such as the Medicaid/CMS prediction data on ambulance call volume growth, to the board for budgeting purposes. Director Moore took ambulance two to Josh from Shamrock Diesel, where advanced diagnosis was run, leading to a belief that the issue could be within a sensor in the emission system. Next week, on Monday, June 23rd, at 6 pm, there will be an ambulance committee meeting.
- Parks – Director Moore says that there has been trouble mowing due to the amount of rain. He wants a soil sample of the green to discover why we are not getting the quality of grass we should be getting.
- Transfer Station – Mr. Levesque requests that a price list be put on the town website stating the cost of getting rid of various items to alleviate public uncertainty on pricing. The cemeteries will start using the dump truck on Wednesday, June 18th.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp –

- He talked to Barry Bellows from Bellows Construction Incorporated regarding the modifications to be made in the lobby.
- He has the first rough drafts of a policy and application for public use of town-owned spaces, including the town hall, Bragg Lane pavilion, Bragg Lane field, Millot Green, and the horse ring.

Mr. McCarty –

- Reports that he will spend time digesting the follow-up about the private driveway off Griffin Hill Road.
- He has completed the independent government estimate for 17 weeks at \$210,901 in the Hill Road Darby Brooke construction engineering phase. The board moves to authorize Mr. McCarty to complete what needs to be done regarding this.

Mr. Levesque –

- Reports that he is working on the transportation information regarding the Walpole Withdrawal Committee.
- Regarding the town website, he wants the public to have more accessible information regarding items such as the quarterly reports and the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- Regarding news about the library, they received a summer reading grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Additionally, they received a 2025-2026 rural library grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation, where they get children's books, storytelling sessions with professional authors, book giveaways for local kids, and much more.

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION/S: RSA 91-A:3, II (c)

On a motion made by Mr. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Joe – y; Gordon – y) to enter non-public at 6:30 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c).***

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 7:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Mr. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Kemp ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:03 PM.***

Important Upcoming Events/Meetings

Date/Time	Subject	Location	Notes
June 24 at 5:00 pm	Selectboard Meeting	Town Offices; 15 Mechanic Street	
June 23 at 5:30 pm	FMRSD School Board Meeting	High School Library	

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Mitchell

Interim Recording Secretary