

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board Emergency Meeting**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 12, 2023 at 11:15 a.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** **In person** - Matthew Saxton, Gordon Kemp. **Google Meet** - Joel McCarty. Because Mr. McCarty attended remotely, Mr. Saxton ran the meeting.

**STAFF PRESENT:** **In person:** Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent.

**PUBLIC:** Julie Bacon, resident of Thayer Brook Road. (Ms. Bacon is also the Alstead Town Clerk and Tax Collector but was attending this meeting as a resident.)

**PURPOSE:** To discuss proposal from Cold River Bridges to place a rental temporary span over the washed-out culvert on Thayer Brook Road to address the access needs of six stranded households on that road and re-enable access by emergency service and household infrastructure vehicles such as fuel oil and propane delivery.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** **In person:** Julie Bacon, Thayer Brook Road resident

**GUESTS:** By Phone - Jimmy Hollar, Cold River Bridges; Mary Beth Purcell, Director of Claims, Primex

**CALL TO ORDER:** When all parties were gathered, Mr. Saxton called the Select Board meeting to order at 11:30 AM. Mr. McCarty joined the meeting remotely at 11:37 once technical difficulties were resolved.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** No minutes were presented for approval at this meeting.

**PROPOSAL FROM COLD RIVER BRIDGES:** Proposal is to place a rental 60-foot temporary bridge for \$72,500 – which includes three months of rent, transport to site, removal of existing culvert, temporary abutments, and jersey barriers. Town to furnish trucking, materials (gravel, stone fill, concrete blocks, jersey barriers) FOB jobsite, permits, engineering, and testing. Rent beyond three months is five thousand dollars per month.

**DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed the terms of the proposal on the table and debated other alternatives, such as installing a culvert or purchasing a temporary bridge instead of renting, or moving an existing owned temporary bridge (span length unknown) from another site, in order to restore residential and service access. Factors such as town liability for in-house engineering, availability of much-in-demand materials in the face of regional demand, renting versus purchasing, and the FEMA reimbursement backlog were discussed. Each Board member expressed dissatisfaction with spending the quoted sum of money plus ongoing rental, with no asset ownership resulting. The state policy regarding emergency replacements being equal to or better than the damaged original capacity was noted. Spoke with Mr. Hollar at Cold River Bridges by cell phone about the possibility of purchasing a temporary bridge instead of renting. Mr. Hollar noted that the temporary bridge in the proposal needs to remain a rental but he would work up pricing for making one that meets our needs. Mr. McCarty suggested that we get an extension to the time frame on our emergency permit. The question arose about how much liability the town assumes by doing its own engineering on the temporary bridge installation; spoke with Mary Beth Purcell at Primex by cell phone, who indicated that engineering oversight would be required. Discussion about other options included using a temporary bridge that we already own from the Bell Hill site (appropriateness of length to be determined) and sourcing an equivalent-or-better culvert (availability will be a challenge given heightened regional demand). Mr. Trafton suggested an emergency purchase of waste concrete blocks, fifty at fifty dollars each plus shipping for a total of \$4300. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board voted unanimously to purchase 50 waste blocks.** Discussion concluded with no decision on the temporary solution; the Road Agent will connect with Mr. Hollar at Cold River Bridges for purchase price information.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall, 9 Main Street. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday August 5th, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the Town Hall at 9 Main Street. The Fall Mountain School Board next meets on Monday, August 14th, 2023 at the high school (2nd Monday of the month). The Fall Mountain Budget Committee next meets on Wednesday July 19th at 6 PM at the high school (3rd Wednesday of the month). The next Five-Town Select Board Meeting is Friday, July 28th, 2023, time TBD, hosted by Acworth. A public meeting to solicit input from interested parties about the Hill Rd and Comstock Rd Bridge projects will be held Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6 PM at the Town Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No further comments or questions were posed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** There were no executive sessions.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Schoppmeyer".

Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator