

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Budget Meeting of January 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Town Offices, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Levesque; Joel McCarty; Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Julie Bacon, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Jodi Kercewich, Cemetery Trustee; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Lieutenant; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Adam Vose, Assistant Ambulance Chief; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant. **Google Meet:** none.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Glenn Elsesser, Gordon Kemp. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Finalize the 2023 budget.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: No minutes were moved and voted at this meeting.

BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION: Today's goals: Mr. Levesque reported that the current version of the proposed budget is \$11040.35 over the cap; today's task is to determine where to make cuts. Mr. Elsesser raised his concern that Alstead's 2014 Warrant Article #21 might be unlawfully restrictive. There was additional discussion of the current economic & financial climate and inflation. **Computer estimates:** Mr. Levesque reported that the quotes for the 4 needed computers came in lower than preliminary estimates (3 election machines, estimated at \$6000, quoted at \$3354; and 1 planning machine estimated at \$2200, quoted at \$1728). It was suggested to return to asking for 3 machines instead of 2 given that is how many are actually needed. It was further suggested that we order the computers now, since they are needed for imminent election work. There was some discomfort with the idea given that the budget has not yet been voted on. Mr. McCarty sent an email to NHMA legal to ask the question. **Free fire truck:** A town in Delaware is giving away a functioning fire truck for the tax write-off. The Board wants to discuss the idea with Chief Kercewich. **Municipal fees:** Ms. Bacon wondered when these fees were last raised and who can do that. There was discussion about how to determine whether that is an option. **Adjustments:** Mr. Saxton suggested that the General Government Maintenance and Repair account be lowered by \$6K and the Gravel account be lowered from 45K to 40K. Upon doing that, Mr. Levesque reported a satisfactory result of about \$800 under the cap. **Colony Mine Rd:** Mr. Saxton provided the Administrator with a letter affirming that Colony Mine Rd is a private road and has never been a public road. The letter was requested by the owner a property with frontage on that road and who has applied for a subdivision. There was additional discussion of the rights of way for the cell tower and fuel tank access. The board signed the letter and the Administrator will provide it to the Planning Board. **Transfer station fee for Langdon:** The Langdon Admin requested this year's fee for Langdon to use the Alstead Transfer Station. It was suggested that the fee be 35% of the actual 2022 expenses based on Langdon's population. The resulting value was \$62,300. *On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, **the Board voted 2:1 to charge Langdon a fee of \$62,300 for 2023 Transfer Station use. Mr. Levesque preferred last year's \$45,000 fee.***

Final budget resulting from this work session: \$1,692,538.66 - which is \$677.65 below the cap. The Administrator will work on a Warrant Articles draft for the public hearing.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, 9 Main Street. The School Board Deliberative Session will be held Thursday 2/9 at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. in the Fall Mountain auditorium. The next 5-town Select Board hearing is Friday, January 27th at 4:30 PM in Langdon.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, **the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 10:55 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator