

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Unapproved Minutes for Meeting of April 9, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Chair; Gordon Kemp. Absent: Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Richard Beringer, Fire Department; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Transfer Station, Ambulance, & Parks; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Recording Secretary pro tem.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Joe Levesque, Dave Smith, Shelley Steuwe, Judith Willis.

GUESTS: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM and turned the floor over to Mr. Kemp who led the agenda-based discussion.

ACTION ITEMS: Sign one Vilas Pool expense (power bill) and two timber cut intents. Sign one form to authorize temporary removal of the town-owned North Road property from the market.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Washed-out glass – Nothing new to report. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Mr. Kemp reported that the necessary hydraulic and hydrologic engineering proposals from Stephens Engineering are in hand and the Board needs time to review the submission and evaluating whether they meet the warrant article need. **Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty reported that an April 17th meeting will take place at the town offices with the Timber in Transit program to discuss the red-listed Bell Hill temporary bridge set. He added that the Alstead application for project funds has passed the phase one review and proceeded to the Phase 2 review. **Sale of town-owned properties** – Realtor Mary Johnson, who has listed the North Rd. town-owned property for sale, submitted a form to temporarily remove the listing pending resolution of a lot-size discrepancy after an interested party brought the discrepancy to her attention. Mr. McCarty signed the form and the Board plans to ask Mr. Saxton to follow up on the discrepancy research. **Dams** – Mr. McCarty agreed to serve as the town’s contact for the Vilas Pool dam project. **Abutting Town Hall property** – Mr. Kemp had nothing new to report but plans to re-establish contact with the owners. **Model T MOU** – Mr. McCarty reported progress and an exchange of language with the Fire Department Association under the advice of Primex’s risk management team. **East Station chemical barrel** – Chief Kercewich reported no success with his efforts to contact Clean Harbor, who originally indicated willingness to help us dispose of this chemical. The Board asked him to redouble his efforts. **Langdon Transfer Station and Library fees** – The Board noted that the Office Admin indicates that Langdon has been billed for this year’s fees. **Retirement conversation** – The update scheduled for this week is moved to next week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Highway – In an email to the Board, the Road Agent reported that he is dealing with an ongoing issue, the winter weight limit is officially lifted from Alstead roads, and grading of Pratt and Corbin roads would begin next week. His email further noted and that the International dump truck is in Manchester undergoing a transmission repair and promised an update next week. **Police Department** – Chief Murrell reported that they have discovered a serious wood-insect problem in the downstairs bathroom and will work with the Office Admin to contact our existing pest control contractor for immediate consultation. He suggests that regular service be undertaken and costs be sought to that end from our current pest control vendor. The Chief then reported that the department has responded to 331 calls year to date. Next, Chief reported that the Communications Tower agreement submitted to the County has been approved but the submission to US Cellular has no response so far, and the Town’s attorney fees have been submitted to the County for payment. Finally, Chief observed that the old cruiser has been delivered to the buyer and payment received pending replacement of the misplaced title, and the town experienced no solar eclipse traffic problems while watchers assembled on the green to witness the spectacle. **Fire Department** – Chief Kercewich reported 34 call responses to date and noted that the revised Safety policy was reviewed at the April 8th FD Association training meeting, and indicated that training completion reports and signature pages are being assembled for submission to the town. Chief Kercewich noted that he is obtaining prices for the VFA grant and the department is working on the turnout gear inventory. **Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks** – Mr. Moore reported that with the improving weather he has begun tidying up winter debris on the green and town office areas. He noted that the ambulance team has responded to 50 calls so far this year and they are still working to figure out the revolving ambulance fund that was approved at Town

Meeting. The Transfer Station team is working to develop data points to count and track and expects to have a decent data set soon. Mr. Moore also reported that he has reviewed the updated town Safety policy with the Transfer Station and Ambulance teams and signature pages will be submitted to the Office Admin. He noted that it is time to complete the annual mandatory first responder mental health training and that he has requested that the State make the course easier to find. Finally, he noted that two vendors are demoing two separate solution packages for improved local emergency communications with newer technology with positive feedback so far; evaluation continues. **Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds reported that the Joint Loss Management (JLMC, aka Safety) Committee will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday April 11 at 1 PM, when they will review the new safety policy. The Director asked about the status of the revised personnel manual and was told that the document was revised, then lost, then found, and is now undergoing additional revision with hope of completion this week. When the Director asked whether there was any update about the situation where incorrect advice given to a property owner resulted in the inappropriate removal of trees from the Warren Dam area, he was informed that there is nothing new to report. When the Director asked whether the extra rescue tool had been placed on Municibid yet, the answer was no and efforts would be redoubled this week. The Director reiterated that first responder department chiefs should ensure that the mandatory mental health training is completed by all team members the necessary completion certificates filed at the town offices. By consensus, the Board decided to set a completion deadline of June 15th. Chief Murrell noted that the Police Department has a corresponding mandatory mental health training component as well. Finally, the Director asked Chief Kercewich whether repairs to Engine 1 have been scheduled; Chief reported that the work would be scheduled when the vendor reports that the parts have been received. **School Board** – Mr. Levesque reported with good humor that the only thing he could report from the previous evening’s lengthy meeting is that School Board meetings would now begin at 5:30 PM instead of 6 PM on the designated evenings. The rest of the meeting covered lawsuit topics that could not be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. McCarty reported that he has scheduled the Community Solar presentation for Tuesday, May 7th at 5 PM, and that he has proposed to the five town boards that Alstead host the next Five-Town Select Board Meeting on Friday May 10th; he awaits responses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: When the Board reminded everyone that the Office Administrator would be on vacation the week of April 21st; Mr. Levesque reiterated that he would like to obtain the invoices and check stubs for the items paid for with ARPA funds before that time so he can complete the necessary reporting. Mr. Nalevanko observed that the Agenda link on the website has not been working lately; the Board concurs that it should work and requested that the Office Admin resume efforts to post the agenda by end of day on Monday afternoons before Tuesday evening meetings. It was noted that this duty might fall to the new Recording Secretary in future.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, April 16 th , 2024 @5 :00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Next FM School Board meeting:	Monday, May 13, 2024 @ 5:30 PM, High School (2 nd Monday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Gordon– y; Matt – absent) to enter non-public session at 5:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(c) – hiring of a town employee.***

Before exiting the non-public session, the Board reviewed the minutes of the session and signed them.

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Gordon, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:01 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Recording Secretary pro tem