

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of January 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person - Ben Hoy, Transfer Station Supervisor; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Stephen Reynolds, Director of Emergency Management; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person - Jordan Cannon, Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Jude Willis.

GUESTS: via Google Meet: Joe Sangermano, Southwestern Mutual Aid re: 38-minute outage on 1/24

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

ACTION ITEMS: Signed the contract with Trex Decking for the baler and sign the contract with Hubbard for the electric work and the baling wire. Scheduled public hearing for the tax cap articles (one meeting, two hearings - one for each article) for Tuesday 2/14/23 at beginning of regular Board meeting. Arranged for sign trailers for Deliberative Session announcement. Signed 1 All Veteran's Tax Credit application and response form (M45 L6).

Gordon Kemp pointed out a mistake in the agenda that caused the Board to sign the Trex and Hubbard contracts before opening discussion on them. The Board agreed and gave him a copy to review for discussion later in the meeting. When asked the Admin confirmed that the DPW team had been contacted to set up the Town Hall for Deliberative Session. Chief Murrell confirmed that the sign trailers have been programmed and positioned to inform of Deliberative Session. The Board agreed to schedule the required public hearings for the tax cap warrant articles for the beginning of the Tuesday February 14 regular Board meeting. Mr. Kemp was also tasked with reviewing a communication from Comcast.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of January 31, 2023: Two changes requested – correct time in minutes header from 5:00 PM to 10:00 AM; correct time under CALL TO ORDER to 10:00 instead of 11:00. Minutes of January 24, 2023: No changes requested. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve the 1/24 minutes as written; the motion passed unanimously.*** On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve the 1/31 minutes as corrected; the motion passed 2-1 with Mr. Levesque abstaining due to absence.***

BOARD REPORTS: Utility appraiser: Mr. Levesque reported that our utility appraiser, Brian Fogg, inquired about whether we wished to continue the services of Brian D. Fogg, LLC in 2023 under the terms of the existing 2020 contract. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted unanimously to continue using the services of Brian D. Fogg, LLC.*** **Update re: Veterans Tax Credit warrant articles:** Mr. Levesque reported that as of the previous meeting we had removed the two re-adoption warrant articles recommended by our Assessors, which the Moderator believed were not allowed because we learned of them after our 2023 Budget Hearing. Further investigation and legal consultation revealed that the articles are allowed because they are non-monetary. The Select Board may add non-monetary warrant articles to the warrant up until the day the warrant is posted. An article is considered non-monetary if it does not raise and appropriate funds. **5-Town Selectboard Meeting:** Mr. McCarty reported that the main topic of discussion at the 5-town meeting was bulk fuel purchasing. Charlestown, Alstead, and Langdon and the school district are interested, with a deadline of May for individual needs reporting. He learned that Alstead ordered road salt that was accidentally delivered to Acworth and reparations were made. **Retirement:** Mr. McCarty lamented that long-time Highway worker David Crosby does in fact intend to retire for real this year and the town hopes to create ongoing opportunities for Mr. Crosby to share institutional knowledge, much of which involves culverts. **Bridge project walkthrough:** Mr. McCarty reported that the bridge project walkthrough with the new DOT project manager originally scheduled for 2/1 has been rescheduled to 10 AM on 2/7; any who wish to join are welcome. **Capital Reserve/Trust fund meeting:** The Board hosted a Q&A session with representatives from Three Bearings, which manages all Alstead private and cemetery trust funds and public capital reserve funds. Many questions were answered; Joel will be doing some additional follow-up on statutory questions, and the Admin will send to Three Bearings annually information about our Capital Improvement Plan and our yearly warrant articles. A Trustee of Trust Funds position is opening for election this year and someone is stepping forward to run for it. There was additional discussion of risk tolerance as pertaining to

stewardship of town funds and the fact that some town trust funds (such as Vilas Pool Trust) are managed by other management firms, and perhaps similar meetings are in order.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Director Reynolds, Ambulance Chief Moore, and Joe Sangermano from Southwest Mutual Aid explained the reasons behind the 38-minute mutual aid communications failure on 1/24. The summary is both the primary and secondary backups failed. Corrections have been implemented and the hazard mitigation plan is being updated with contingency contact information to allow direct communication during any such outage in future. No Alstead calls occurred during the outage that went unaddressed. Mutual Aid tests the backup systems twice per day at 9 AM and 9 PM. The Board thanked all teams for their collective efforts and Mr. Sangermano left the meeting.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Chief Moore reported about an exciting new miniature AED device that has been beta tested in PA and approved by FDA. It operates on the same communications network as emergency pagers, it notifies trained people who carry it of a nearby need for CPR intervention and provides directions to the location. They cost approximately the same as the AEDs we bought for our emergency vehicles. There was additional discussion of the timing and scheduling AED, CPR, and First Aid training for Alstead transfer station and office personnel. Chief Moore is following up with school administration to add CPR training as mandatory for graduation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Murrell reported that he expects to reach or surpass last year's January call volume, consumed mostly with small dispute-oriented interactions with a couple of more serious events. Active shooter training for school bus drivers was rescheduled from January 23rd to March 24th due to a snow day.

TRANSFER STATION: Supervisor Hoy expressed his thanks to the Board for working with him to make the plastic bag recycling program happen with help from TRES and Hubbard. Mr. Levesque suggested adding some language to the Transfer Station web site page to describe what kind of plastic bags are collectible under the program and Mr. Hoy agreed to send information to the Admin for publishing. Separating baled plastics will dramatically increase the plastic revenue potential and help pay for the additional baler much faster. (Co-mingled plastic bales fetch a much lower price compared to separated bales.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Kemp lamented that the TS/TRES/Hubbard program was not discussed further before deciding to sign the contracts. Mr. Nalevanko suggested that the agreements might call for outside legal review and asked for the planned implementation date (2/13/23). Mr. McCarty indicated that there is no hurry to sign; he asked them to list their specific questions and schedule a discussion on the agenda for a future meeting. There was additional discussion about the electrical requirements. Having reviewed the Comcast communication given him at the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Kemp reported that it was generally insignificant but noted with some humor that they collect olfactory data on their clients – the speculation was through home management sensors that monitor for carbon monoxide or gas leakage.

INFORMATIONAL: The Board Chair noted these upcoming meetings:

- The next regular Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- Town Meeting Deliberative Session is Saturday, February 4th, 2023 at 10 AM at the Town Hall, 9 Main Street.
- Town Meeting Voting Day is Tuesday March 14th, 2023 from 8 AM to 7 PM at Town Hall, 9 Main Street.
- The next Five-Town Select Board meeting is Friday April 21, 2023 at 4:30 PM in Walpole.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:15 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)