

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of March 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, Matt Saxton. **Absent:** Joel McCarty.

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Penny Gendron, Police Department; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gordon Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barbara Viegner, Judith Willis.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER: Joe Levesque called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. New board-related business was tabled until Joel could be present.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed new pay rate sheets for employees. Signed 2 intents to cut timber. Signed letter of deposit to Capital Reserve Funds. Signed Pow Wow ceremonial fire permission letter. Signed MS232, 2022 investment policy, and the GIS batch uploader tool software agreement. Signed one land use change tax application and warrant. Signed two Veteran's Tax Credit applications.

MINUTES: Because this is the first meeting of the new board after elections and Joel was absent, approval of the March 8th meeting's minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Joe opened the floor for department reports.

HIGHWAY DEPT: Prescott expressed concern about rising fuel costs. He projects 2022 expenditures of about \$80,000 at current prices, and notes that his budget for this year is around \$50,000. The highway team is implementing conservation measures such as refraining from idling. **Mary** was tasked with contacting the state to see if there are any relief programs planned for NH municipalities to assist with fuel costs, since it seems likely many will exceed their budgets this year.

Prescott provided a request for bids for the Gilsum Mine Road reclaiming and resurfacing project. **Mary** is tasked with posting the request on the web site. There was additional discussion about the potential need to cut the scope of the project due to the rising cost of petroleum-related materials such as asphalt. Prescott noted that when bids come in, the board can decide whether to adjust project scope.

Prescott also reported that we won the bidding for the backhoe-mounted sweeper that the Town of New Hampton put up for auction. The cost was \$2022.73 plus the 9% auctioneer fee of \$182.05 (\$2204.78). It does need new brushes. **Mary** is tasked with writing a check with next week's bills.

Prescott hopes to buy line striping and line paint if able to get it (there have been supply chain problems).

AMBULANCE: Jesse reported that Dr. Suozzi will present to the Wellness Committee at the Town Hall on Wednesday March 23 at 6 PM. He also noted that Monadnock Regional has expressed interest in being part of our AED project and that we should receive our indoor and vehicle-mounted AED units next week. CPR and AED operation classes are being scheduled for town employees and the general public. The Wellness Committee has additional ideas re: EMS prevention with the idea that it might be as effective as fire prevention awareness has been. Marge Noonan suggested that we all talk up the Wellness committee on social media.

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POLICE: Steve reported that the new cruiser that was approved has been ordered. The dealer hopes to submit the order May 5th. He noted that call volume is increasing with the warmer weather. Jesse noted that ambulance calls are at the 25% mark for the year so far, and ambulance calls decrease as the temps rise.

Steve requested that we revisit the discussion about how to pay for the two new sign trailers at next week's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS: *On a motion from Matt that was seconded by Joe*, the board voted to appoint Gordon Kemp as member ex officio to the Planning Board from the selectman's office; and to appoint Ellen Chase to fill a vacancy; and to re-appoint incumbents Justin Falango (a municipal architect), and David Konesko (civil engineer). The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.

ZONING BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Joe reported that the zoning board has enough regular members and David Konesko is an alternate. There could be two more alternates. Matt indicated that Gordon could also be appointed to the Planning Board but in this case no motion was made and no vote occurred.

Matt also reported that the planning board has reservations about the lot created by the recent approval of the warrant article that discontinues the road across from Chartier Lane. The lot would no longer be buildable because it would have no road frontage. Further study is needed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: Rich Nalevanko again raised the question of how the property tax for the elderly and handicapped housing is calculated, and extensive discussion ensued. More information is desired from the assessors about how the tax is calculated.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS:

On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Matt, the board voted by roll call (Joe: Y; Matt: Y; Joel: Absent) to enter non-public session at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c). The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.

On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Matt, the board voted to return to public session at 6:06 p.m. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.

On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Matt, the board voted by roll call (Joe: Y; Matt: Y; Joel: Absent) to enter non-public session at 6:07 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a). The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.

On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Matt, the board voted to return to public session at 6:10 p.m. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.

Public session resumed at 6:11 p.m.

Matt reminded Mary to include a budget report at future meetings and asked for the letter to the Dam Bureau that is due on 4/1 be added to the March 22 agenda.

On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Matt, the board voted to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.