

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

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

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Junie Esslinger, Interim Transfer Station Supervisor; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Reynolds, Director of Emergency Management; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Glenn Elsesser, Jim Gordon, Joe Levesque & Judith Willis, Daniel Kurz, Mark Mastrocinque, Alexander Nalevanko, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner. **Google Meet:** None.

GUESTS: none

CALL TO ORDER: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed the Five-Town bulk fuel purchase agreements (Heating Oil \$2.711; Propane \$1.336; Diesel – daily plus \$0.336). Signed two timber cut intents (23-009-06-T for M46 L5; 23-009-07-T for M46 L6). Signed three Vilas Pool expenditures (G. Kemp CC reimbursement \$929.26; B. Wilson CC reimbursement \$307.40; Plumber \$870.70). Signed five approved Current Use applications to be recorded (M12 L16; M14 L12; M54 L4; M30 L57A-M30 L57) and one denied Current Use application (M34 L8). Signed the 6/30 payroll manifest (\$28,203.32) and tax liability manifest (\$5705.49). Signed the 6/27 accounts payable manifest (\$308,230.09). Signed one Land Use Change Tax abatement (M12 L1) and one denied abatement application (M34 L8).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of June 22, 2023: The following changes were requested - 1) In the Broadband report under Old Business on page 1, change “installing T-Mobile equipment” to “installing fiber-optic cable to support T-Mobile equipment;” and 2) in the EM report under Department Reports on page 2, change “regional planning commission” to “NH Homeland Security representative.” On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the public minutes as corrected.***

OLD BUSINESS: Broadband - Mr. Kemp indicated that there is nothing new to report. **Bridges** - Mr. McCarty summarized his recent awareness of the reimbursement process for the MOBIL bridge projects. The town must write checks for 100% of the design phase, to be reimbursed in 2025. To address the cash flow issues that this introduces Mr. McCarty has met with Mascoma Bank to discuss a Note in Anticipation of a Grant (NAG), which is similar to a line of credit and requires one interest payment per year. Questions were fielded about whether the interest payment is reimbursed (no), the interest rate (unknown), the reimbursement rate of the construction phase compared to the design phase (monthly), and whether the Board can enter into a multi-year loan agreement (seeking legal and municipal feedback). **Ambulance housing** - Chief Moore reported that the new vehicle remains in the hands of the graphics shop. **Realty assistance with selling town properties** - Mr. Saxton reported that he offered two parcels to Mr. Kemp to use in negotiating a swap for the Boucher property next to Town Hall; nothing further on the subject. **Five-town bulk fuel purchase emergency meeting** - Mr. Saxton gave an overview of the meeting and reported that the consensus was for towns to sign the agreements and return to Mr. Beam on Friday morning. Heating oil price is \$2.711; Propane \$1.336; Diesel (daily Argus diesel spot price plus \$0.336). **Moose plate grant:** Mr. Kemp indicated that this item can be removed from the agenda.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Admin - Ms. Schoppmeyer reported that the change to the retirement plan withdrawal age is complete and the desiring recipient will complete his transaction shortly. In addition, all were reminded that the Town Offices will close for the week of the July 4th holiday. **Supervisors of the Checklist** - Ms. Wilson reported that Supervisors and Town Clerks received notice from the state that when people change their addresses through the post office, the Post Office will report to the State and the State will send a report to the Supervisors to keep the roles updated. **Vilas Pool** - Despite being out of the water and tied down, Noel the Swan Boat went over the dam after recent heavy rains. Current appearances indicate destruction, the committee plans to investigate the possibility of an insurance claim. **Fire** - Quiet week. On the inspection of fire extinguishers - the untagged extinguisher in Town Office is a Halon device, which is illegal to refill; the advice from the inspection firm is to keep it, use it if needed, and once used dispose of it. Mr. McCarty wants to seek advice from Primex on how to handle that extinguisher, rather than consulting with someone who sells the devices. **Ambulance** - Chief Moore expressed thanks to the person who changed out the fluorescent light bulbs in the Fire Station but observed that unfortunately,

all of the ballasts have since burned out, so now there is no lighting. There was discussion of engaging Mr. Levesque to work with Mr. Esslinger to seek grant assistance from the power company to change out the lighting in the fire station to current energy-efficient lighting. Chief further reported that efforts are underway to bring the new paramedic service into compliance with drug storage requirements, which will add security mechanisms to station entryways and facilities, and the new ambulance. To assist with the expense of this for the new ambulance, which is not covered by the warrant article, Chief would like to use ambulance donations to pay half the expense of equipping the vehicle and submitted an agent-to-expend letter to the Board to give the ambulance officers permission to expend donated funds as necessary to accomplish the needed compliance. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, **the Board voted to split the cost of equipping the new ambulance for secure drug storage between the town and private ambulance donations.** In answer to a question from Mr. Levesque about DiLuzio versus Cheshire County Ambulance for mutual aid service, Chief replied that by becoming a paramedic service the Alstead Ambulance team itself becomes able to offer those services not only to the town, but also to other entities that need it, and no longer needs to contract for those services. Finally, Chief Moore reported that Medicare has approved billing for unseen treatment with refusal of transportation. 40% of calls involve refusal of transport. This is new to Medicare; 83% of our billables is Medicare. Alstead would therefore be able to bill Medicare for base rate. The question is, should we ask our billing company to change to accommodate this new billing capability? We would have to bill everyone the same way. Food for thought, seeking public feedback. Chief reported that the new Ambulance should be graphically complete by the beginning of July and in service by the beginning of August. **Emergency Management** - Director Reynolds reported that the Safety Committee (aka Joint Loss Management Committee) inspected the Town Offices; there are items that need addressing, cost TBD. Primary items are exit lighting and a Knox rapid entry box for keys for Fire Dept entry. Mr. McCarty would like Primex to take the information and produce a prioritized action list to front end any budget requests to be made in the fall. Ms. Viegner asked if ARPA funds could be used to address some of these issues. Mr. Kemp pointed out that even if ARPA funds can be used, these are things that should have been budgeted for and addressed in the usual way. Mr. Levesque noted that the Highway Department and Police Department had raised to him the question of whether the extended warranty for the sign trailers, which were purchased with ARPA money, could also be purchased with ARPA money and his research indicates that it can. Mr. Levesque will follow up with the Road Agent and Police Chief for that dollar amount and ask that an appropriate request be made to the Board. Director Reynolds continued his report by noting that the Lake Warren emergency activation flowchart has been updated and he will investigate who needs to receive that update. He has re-established contact with NH Homeland Security. On the problematic radio re-programming, Chief Murrell is drafting a document for Mr. McCarty to follow up on. Director Reynolds learned that the PD determined that the radio in the older cruiser is newer and can be successfully re-programmed, so that radio will be installed in Chief's cruiser. The director hopes to schedule community event for late September early October. The Director's portable radio will also be reprogrammed. Numbers for refurbishing the Dodge as a brush truck are almost complete and ready for presentation. Director visited East Station and requested a non-public session at the end of this meeting. **Transfer station** - Baled aluminum cans were shipped; exploring what our shipping contacts are. Corrugated bales are ready to go, working to establish a means of loading a trailer box with those bales. Looking into cost of renting equipment suitable for use on our loading dock. The Board thanked Mr. Esslinger for the progress being made. **Capital Improvement Plan** - Mr. Elssesser asked that department heads update the pricing for the vehicles to be replaced in preparation for discussion so that the plan can be updated. Generators need to be added to the plan. Inflation has raised prices substantially.

SELECT BOARD: Warren Pond Dam - Mr. Saxton summarized the reclassification of Warren Dam from significant to high hazard. The discharge capacity of the dam will not pass the requirements for a high hazard dam. The Board discussed whether to appeal the reclassification and whether to engage the services of a dam engineer. There was speculation about whether ARPA money could be used to pay for hiring the consultant. The remaining Board members will read the document and attempt to determine what needs to be done to appeal, and request information that justifies the reclassification. **Paper Recycling** - Mr. Saxton reported that a recent mixed paper shipment was rejected because there was too much corrugated paper in it, and subsequently landfilled at \$100 per ton. A request has been made for volunteers to staff the mixed paper bin to help re-educate people about what they're dumping and where. **LUCT abatement** - The Board discussed whether to grant an abatement of a land use change tax that involved an acreage error that is nobody's fault. After posing the question to statewide assessing colleagues, they pointed to text in the Current Use Handbook that indicates that unintentional errors should not trigger a land use change tax. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board voted unanimously to abate the land use change tax for M12 L1 that was assessed due to an unintentional measurement error.** **PB/ZBA additional hours request** - Mr. McCarty reported that the outgoing planning and zoning administrator requested to be paid for 60 hours of additional work to organize and file and to create a master list, in the amount of nine hundred seventy-two dollars (\$972). On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, **the Board voted with two in favor and one abstaining to pay the outgoing administrator for sixty (60) hours of additional work.**

SCHOOL BOARD: Mr. Levesque reported that the School Board unanimously voted to encumber budget surplus funds to build a second access road and pave existing access roadway and parking, versus returning the surplus to the taxpayers.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th, 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, July 10, 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: On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted by roll call (Mr. McCarty – y; Mr. Saxton – y; Mr. Kemp - y) to enter non-public session at 7:48 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(c) – reputational.***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted unanimously to leave non-public session and return to public session at 8:25 PM.***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 8:28 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator