

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of April 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matt Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** None

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Glenn Elsesser, Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Jude Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

GUESTS:

ACTION ITEMS: Signed 2 timber cut intents; signed six 2021 timber cut reports; signed the bill manifest for the Fall Mountain monthly payment; Signed the Vilas Pool Shoreland Permit by Notification for 2022 cleanup of flooding debris.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of April 5, 2022: No changes requested. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*** Revised minutes of March 30, 2022 Tax Deeding meeting: The Town Clerk requested the following changes: 1) Add the word "Deed" before "Recommendations" columns 2 and 3; In the Brewer row, columns 2 and 3 should be No instead of Yes; In the "Burrows" row, the phrase "IF paid in full" should be added after the word "No" in rows 2 and 3. On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to approve the March 30 minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.*** Minutes of the April 5 non-public session: These minutes were approved and signed by the board on the night of the non-public session so no vote was taken.

DEPT REPORTS: Admin: Mary reported that she asked a certified public accountant (CPA) skilled in municipal accounting about the placement of the money from the sweeping/stripping warrant article in the operating budget, and the answer was much the same. The concern is that if the money is reflected as operating money, it would be included in next year's budget numbers. Joel asked the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) rep and got a more complicated answer. The conclusion is that a bit more study is needed before we decide where to put the money from that warrant article. Mary also answered a question about the amount in the solid waste cardboard account, which reflects the cost of shipping collected cardboard out. Joe pointed out that we're now bundling our shipments with Walpole's, which will save money. Mary was tasked with reporting income from solid waste recycling once it begins to come in.

BOARD: Joe reported that the School Board met the new budget committee at the last meeting. Alstead is represented on the committee by Dr Jen Marchesi. Members are enthusiastic and ready for the new fiscal year. Members were sworn in but no chair was elected. Watch the Fall Mountain website for updates. **Joel** reported that contact was re-established with the long lost Vilas Dam engineer. It is confirmed that he is on the list of approved engineers. Joel also reported that a constituent is concerned about Hubbard trucks dumping large amounts of wood chips and manure. Joel added that we received an update from the lawyer for the Bennett Rd. negotiations (to be discussed during non-public later in the meeting). There is nothing new to report on the discussions with the owners of the burned-out property next to Town Hall. The owner of the trailer parked on Gilsum Mine Rd. is unhappy about having to move it; Joel referred him to the Well Hill Coop. Joel also reported that several people who attended a funeral last weekend have tested COVID positive. There is an Easter Egg Hunt on the 16th at 10 AM on Millot Green thanks to the efforts of a local mom. **Matt** reported that the Planning Board suggests writing a letter to the property owners concerned with the petition special warrant article passed at Town Meeting. Matt agreed to draft the letter, which should indicate that the lot can no longer be developed because the warrant article removed its road frontage. Matt also noted that the non-compliant property on Walpole Valley Road is about to be sold again and discussion ensued about the need for realtors involved to disclose the permitting issues. Matt asked Mary if the missing payroll quote had been found; it has not. Mary is tasked with finding it or getting a new quote from payroll provider ADP, Inc.

VILAS POOL: Joe noted that with the signing of the shoreland permit at today's meeting and submission of the permit with its fee the Vilas Pool committee can begin cleaning up the flood debris. Prescott pointed out that he thinks towns don't pay for permits. Gordon said he would check again but the DES rep seemed certain that we need to submit the fee. Joel asked where the displaced silt and soil removed was going to be taken and the answer was it would be used to grade over the tree roots that

pose a tripping hazard. It won't leave the property. The board expressed their appreciation for Gordon's efforts on the park's behalf.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Prescott reported that the DES rep contacted him about meeting with the Lake Warren stakeholders including the association. Joel offered to contact the association president. Jesse also reported that bag pickup for Green-Up Day is Monday April 18th and Saturday April 23rd, and that the road posting can end EXCEPT for the upper section of Old Settlers Rd., which is still a challenge. Prescott is working with the dealer to spec out the new truck and finding ways to keep the cost within acceptable ranges. He wants to know where we stand with using ARPA funds to buy culverts. Suppliers are imposing delivery fees and there is a 6-week wait. Joe answered that it's acceptable to use ARPA money for that. Finally, we have received all the bids for Gilsom Mine paving but we delayed opening them until next week's meeting in order to make sure all bidders are working from the same specs. There was additional discussion of the paving project.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Jesse reported that calls have followed the usual seasonal pattern and have declined to a more manageable level. All equipment seems to be running/functioning well. There are several new members and 3 have just graduated from EMR class. The current director of EMS is promising more hybrid classes (partial online, partial in person) which are saving \$1000 per student. Jesse also warned that there is a bad batch of fentanyl-laced opiates and marijuana circulating. We haven't had any overdoses but surrounding towns have been affected. He recommends citizens having Narcan available. In some states you can get it at the pharmacy counter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Steve reported a slowing of call volume. National drug take-back day is Saturday April 30th. People can bring prescription drugs on that day to the Alstead Police Department for disposal. Mary will post a notice on the website. Steve noted that our cameras have disproved reports of theft at the store across the street and with the fire report for the property next to the Town Hall. Joe asked whether the department would be back up to fully staffed any time soon; the answer is they don't know.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Glenn Elsesser reiterated his request for a list of Alstead town buildings that need work and the kind of work they need with some numbers that would allow prioritization when seeking grant funds. Joe is tasked with talking to Bruce Bellows about making the list. Gordon has a letter of intent to apply for a Moose Plate grant but needs to know if anybody else in town plans to apply for one since there can't be multiple applications from the same town. Plans are to use that money to repair the decks on the front of the Vilas Pool pavilion. Glenn also wondered if the people who were gardening on Bragg Lane can be tasked with cleaning up the materials that were left behind there. Prescott noted that Chief Paul Bunnell asked if that same area can be mowed for Pow Wow parking. Rich Nalevanko asked if there was a more formal report from the transfer station consultant. He also reiterated his questions about the Paper Mill Village tax assessment and additional discussion followed. Jude Willis asked for a status update of the AEDs. Steve Murrell reported that the last Wellness Committee meeting was canceled so it is a work in progress. He noted that Bill Wood ("AED Guru of the State of NH") will attend the next Wellness Committee meeting. Matt asked Prescott how many private properties he turns a plow around on. Prescott answered that he is making a list.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:35 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e), Consideration of pending claims or litigation.***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:44 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at H:MM p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)