

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of February 14, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton. Chairman Joe Levesque was absent due to conflicting meetings.

STAFF PRESENT: **In person** – Ben Hoy, Transfer Station Consultant; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet** – Technical difficulties – no conference call available this date.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person** – Gordon Kemp, Barbara Viegner, Robert Quaglin, Jordan Cannon, Rich Nalevanko. **Google Meet** – none.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE and CALL TO ORDER: After adjourning the mandatory Public Hearing for the tax cap warrant articles, Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed 1 property tax abatement for Well Hill, involving the demolition of a mobile home (M44 L3-T). Signed contracts with Garland and Fuzzy Brothers for sand and gravel.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Public Minutes of February 7, 2023; NPS Minutes of February 7, 2023 (employee compensation 1); NPS Minutes of February 7, 2023 (employee compensation 2). Two changes requested to the public session minutes: 1 – via email from Mr. Levesque before the meeting - under Board Reports, first sentence - change FMRHS to FMRSD; 2 - Mr. Saxton asked that “school legal” be changed to “school lawyer” in first sentence under Misc School District News. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve the public session minutes as corrected and the minutes of the non-public sessions as written. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.***

BOARD REPORTS: Insurance: Mr. McCarty reported that Primex has been consulted after an employee hit a deer on the way to an emergency call. The employee should file a claim with his own insurance company and the incident has been reported to Primex. The Board would like to be kept apprised to make sure that all is resolved satisfactorily. **Older Fire Equipment:** Mr. McCarty reported that it was brought to his attention that the state requires older equipment to be placed on standby. More investigation seems appropriate since most of our equipment is past the threshold. The Fire Department completes a survey every 10 years to ISO.org; we can get a copy of our ISO audit. **Webinar:** Mr. McCarty reported that he signed up for a webinar about Congressionally Directed Spending. **Police cruiser update:** Corporal Underwood’s cruiser is repaired and back on the road after last week’s computer glitches and front wheel bearing replacements. In addition, the new cruiser has been delivered and is now being outfitted. **MOBIL Bridge project:** No news from NH DOT rep. **Transfer station agreements with Hubbard/Trex:** Mr. McCarty reported that the Board received feedback from town counsel and intends to send revised contracts to interested parties. **Stone laid on some roads:** Mr. McCarty noted that stone was laid on Homestead and Pratt roads today and thanked the Highway Department for its attention to those roads. **Coffee chats:** Mr. McCarty reported that he had coffee with former state senator Molly Kelly and learned some interesting things. He continues to work on arranging March meetings between DOT, DNCR, and town re: 123A/Vilas Pool Park. He enjoyed a second cup with a Gilsum selectman who indicated that Gilsum is not interested in bulk purchase of energy or fuel oil, because they buy from the state bid, which comes out of Boston from which they get a daily number. Mr. McCarty presented the numbers to Mr. Kemp and Mr. Nalevanko for the benefit of their analysis and for comparison, in order to advise our decision with regard to the school group.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Sand and gravel: Mr. Trafton presented contracts for sand and gravel from Fuzzy Brothers and Garland for Board signatures and reiterated his concerns about the potential for being short on funds for materials this year. **Gilsum Mine request for bids:** Mr. Trafton presented for review the documents associated with the Gilsum Mine paving project. The Admin was tasked with asking town counsel for legal review; confirming whether the project must be put out as a new bid instead of going with last year’s contractor since no work was done last year; and with taking last year’s bid results down off the web site. Goal is to post next week. **FEMA:** Efforts continue with regard to getting reimbursements for 2021 July and August emergency flood work. **Posting roads:** Temps over the next week could affect the mud situation with future ramifications. On a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted to follow the Road Agent’s recommendations to post Alstead roads for 2023, to prevent unreasonable damage and extraordinary municipal expense.***

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Chief Moore reported that the squad has responded to 15 calls to date for 2023; of those, 4 were basic life support and 11 were advanced life support. This is down slightly from last year but above the median average. He noted re the previous discussion about the ISO audit that the information is not public and the board must request it. In addition, he noted that the oil test used to evaluate the condition of the engine in a used vehicle is called the Blackstone test.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Nalevanko reported that he attended a meeting where David Wheeler, Executive Councilor, was a featured speaker, at which he learned that the Executive Council has officially tabled a proposed rail project between Boston and Concord because there is not enough population density to support it, it would cost 10 million per year to subsidize it, and that the rail system would absorb traffic from the successful bus system and result in both rail and bus services needing heavy subsidy where the bus requires little subsidy now. Mr. McCarty reported that an Alstead neighbor has donated \$41,400 to NH Fish & Game to purchase particular pieces of equipment. Chief Moore gave kudos to the state of NH which is now reimbursing towns who send EMTs to school for training. This is good news because NH is “dreadfully short on EMTs and ambulance units.” Mr. Trafton reported that more money is coming for roads and bridges from the state, similar to the unanticipated block grants we saw last year.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Candidates’ Night will be Tuesday, February 28, 2022 immediately following the regular 5 PM board meeting.

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. Levesque – absent) to enter non-public session at 6:10 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c).***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:25 p.m. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.***

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. Levesque – absent) to enter a second non-public session at 6:26 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c).***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted to leave the second non-public session and return to public session at 6:39 p.m. The motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 absent.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:40 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)