

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Select Board Meeting

Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 29, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Chair, Gordon Kemp, and Joe Levesque.

STAFF PRESENT: Misty Gratacos, Town Office Administrator; Jesse Moore, Director of EMS, Sanitation & Grounds; Michael Kercewich, Fire Chief; Bobbie Wilson, Vilas Pool Chair/Alstead Ambulance/ Supervisor of the Checklist

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Barbara Viegner, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis; Glenn Elsesser; Ann White

Google Meets:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM and then proceeded with leading the agenda-based discussion.

GUESTS:

ACTION ITEMS: Review & sign Payables (\$26,365.42); review & sign all items in Misc Sign folder; review all items in Mail folder.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Washed-out glass** – Mr. McCarty reports receipt of a letter from Bragdon and Bergstein regarding a washed-out deposited glass waiver. He elaborates that more work is needed before any steps are taken.
- B. Thayer Brook bypass** – No updates.
- C. Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty reports that we had a bid opening on Thursday, which he attended.
- D. Dams** – No updates.
- E. Fire Dept Policies** – No updates.
- F. Pine Cliff Rd info/updates** – Mr. McCarty reports that Pine Cliff Road generated reports regarding issues with dust, potholes, and speed.

- G. Comp Time Discussion** – Mr. McCarty asks the selectboard if they had a chance to review the lawyer's comments. Mr. Kemp responds to the discussion regarding comp time, stating that he believes it to be a bad idea.
- H. Donation of Trailer for Emerg Services** – *The selectboard moved to accept the donation of a trailer for emergency services on a 2-1 vote, with Mr. Kemp's opposition.*
- I. Credit Card provider discussion** – The selectboard discussed that they are having trouble finding a new CPA, but Mr. Kemp is actively working on it.
- J. NEW CPA** – New updates.
- K. Furnace Cleaning Schedule** – Mr. Gratacos reports that she needs to reach out to Mr. Trafton.
- L. Complete Streets Information** – No updates.
- M. Newell property in question** – Mrs. Kemp states that tree removal is occurring next Tuesday and Wednesday.
- N. Highway Garage mold situation** – Mr. Kemp reports that Mr. Trafton is attempting to find a contractor to open up more of the wall, potentially, but to find the source of the moisture definitively. Additionally, Mr. Kemp states that no asbestos was found in the Highway Garage, according to a report he just received.
- O. 52 Mechanic Street Asbestos report** – Mr. McCarty reports that he received a legal opinion stating we could sell the house, as long as we are very clear about disclosing the issue of the asbestos. A member of the public states that the house has immense historical value, and there is a chance someone could recognize this and buy the property. Mr. McCarty states that he will reach out to a firm highly recommended to him by selectmen in Stoddard and see what they make of the property. Mr. Elsesser states that there is a need to conduct an analysis of the potential costs of tearing down the building and conducting mitigation. Mr. McCarty responds, stating that he does not have a desire for mitigation in the demolition, but notes that other selectmen may.
- P. 210 Gilsum Mine Survey-** Mr. Kemp reports that he met Joe DiBenardo and Jed West, who will be working on a quote for the survey.
- Q. Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department –

Chief Kercewich reports that the fire truck with turbo issues was fixed, which cost roughly \$2200.

Town Office Administrator –

- Mrs. Gratacos reports that she reached out to Chief Paul regarding his insurance claim and is hoping for a response tomorrow.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

Director Moore reports that:

- **Ambulance** – At about 150 calls to date. Mr. Elsesser commenced discussion on implementing a fee for ambulance calls that result in no transport, noting that about 30% of calls fall into this category. While there is a Medicare billing code for such cases, concerns were raised about potential abuse and fairness. Going on this, a waiver system for low-income individuals and a third-party exemption was proposed to ensure people aren't unfairly charged or discouraged from calling for help.
- **Parks** – Reports that everything is mowed. He says many areas are almost done for the season.
- **Transfer Station** – Director Moore reports that of an incident at the Transfer Station where a citizen fell through a safety step. The step, not part of recent safety upgrades, completely failed, causing injury. Emergency services were called, the stairs were immediately removed and taped off, and proper documentation and notifications were made. Perly Lund, a welder, will come and check out all the safety structures. Additionally, Mr. Trafton and Director Moore managed follow-up, including equipment inspection and employee debriefing. They also began work on fixing an old MSW compactor can. They looked through it and ordered steel to fix it, costing \$1700 to replace both rails and the door. Director Moore also made a proposal to initiate After Action Reviews following incidents at the Transfer Station, which will allow them to identify and address any further issues. Mr. Kemp notes there is a need to discover if the Good Samaritan Law applies to our employees when working for the town. Members of the public also propose suggestions on modifying the dump layout to improve accessibility for older citizens. *Finally, Mr. McCarty moves to accept Mr. Lund's estimate for safety structures around the glass bin at \$1400, Mr. Levesque seconds, and the selectboard unanimously passes the motion.*

Vilas Pool –

- Mrs. Wilson reports they are planning a party. Additionally, she proposes to the selectboard to approve 2 members to the committee: Misty Gratacos and Krista Ruel. *Mr. Kemp proposes a motion to appoint these people, Mr. McCarty seconds, and the Select Board voted unanimously passes the motion.*
- Mr. Elsesser has a question: Has anyone started a process of discovering what we need to do, permit, or anything else regarding the dam? Mr. Kemp responds, stating that he has been in conversation with an individual in charge of the permitting. He states that first, it is very clear that with existing dry hydrants, you are allowed to maintain, repair, or even replace without a permit at all. Regarding the dam, he states that as long as the water is down to a certain level, you can work on anything above the water level without a permit.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp –

- Reports that the fiber internet and phone at the library are still a work in progress.

- Regarding 52 Mechanic Street, he stated that someone mentioned there might be a defect in the deed dating back to when the property was first taken. He clarified that even if such a defect exists, the town would not be liable, as the last time it was sold, it was not a warranty deed.

Mr. McCarty –

- States that we are in receipt of a couple of communications from Mrs. Wolf. She claims that we should be able to get flags for free from our congressman.
- Says we are in receipt of a communication from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division, stating they are planning to harvest timber from 12 acres of the Feuer State Forest.

Mr. Levesque –

- Brings up discussion regarding his concern about a number of bills in the state house, which could impact the selectboard. Mr. Kemp and Mr McCarty are in agreement that they should wait and see if they are enacted into law before they become a concern.
- States that he still has not heard anything regarding the Complete Streets grant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

On a motion made by Mr. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Kemp ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:42 PM.***

Important Upcoming Events/Meetings

Date/Time	Subject	Location	Notes
August 5th at 5:00 pm	Selectboard Meeting	Town Offices 15 Mechanic Street	
August 11th at 5:30 pm	FMRSD School Board Meeting	High School Library	
August 16th at 12noon	Vilas Pool 100th Anniversary Party	Vilas Pool Park	Fireworks at dark

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Mitchell, Interim Recording Secretary