

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of October 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton.

**STAFF PRESENT: In person:** Julie Bacon, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person:** Bill Blaiklock, Gordon Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

**GUESTS:** 15 minutes: Bob Phinney, Renee Bohannon, Mike Miaski - Well Hill Co-op - additional foundation plan review and approval for 10 Well Hill Way site. 10 minutes: Bill Blaiklock to report on the outcome of the MOBIL bridge design engineering selection process.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and introduced the guest attendees.

The Well Hill guests had not yet arrived so the meeting proceeded in the meantime.

**ACTION ITEMS:** The chair mentioned for the record the fact that at the 9/20 meeting, the Board agreed by consensus to direct the Administrator to reimburse two timber taxpayers who were inadvertently overcharged. Signed a current use application for M30 L37. Signed 1 employee pay rate sheet. Announced the Acworth Cold River Instream Flow meeting scheduled for November 9, 7:30 PM at the Acworth Town Hall. The meeting is similar to an ongoing effort in Alstead whereby the NH Dept of Env Services is exploring how water flows through the Cold River watershed and what steps might be called for during flood or drought conditions. Review the Water System Mapping proposal and vote whether to accept it (see later topic). Signed the 10/18 Accounts Payable manifest (\$220,169.86), the 10/21 Payroll manifest (\$24,130.94), and the 10/21 Tax Liability manifest (\$4936.28).

**WATER SYSTEM MAPPING PROPOSAL:** The Board explained that the impending sale of 9 Mechanic Street raised the question of water supply rights, which triggered the need to understand the source of the water supply that serves a series of downtown buildings. To that end, the Board requested a quote from Northeast GIS LLC to map the details of the downtown water supply and determine whether it qualifies as a municipal water system. The proposal is for mapping services amounting to \$1710. It is not known whether the mapping task is weather dependent and the property in question is undergoing a survey. The Board decided to table signing the proposal until more information was available; Mr. McCarty will communicate the Board's questions to the water mapper.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of October 4, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, *the Board voted to approve the public minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor.*

**SELECT BOARD REPORTS: School Board:** Mr. Levesque reported that civil negotiations are ongoing with the Fall Mountain teacher's union. **Water agreement:** Mr. McCarty indicated that it is time to renew the water agreement between the Lake Warren Association and the Mill Hollow Heritage Association and he is working on that. **Timber Owners of New England:** Mr. McCarty reported a nice chat with Mike Pratt, the resident agent of Timber Owners of New England (TONE). Mr. Pratt expressed the organization's gratitude to the town for the excellent care of South Woods Road over the years. During the course of the discussion Mr. Pratt made Mr. McCarty aware of a high-intensity parking dispute, which Mr. McCarty agreed to follow up on. **Well Hill:** Much progress is being made and there is hopefully a person who can assist with moving the trailer at 210 Gilsum Mine Road to a new foundation at the co-op. **Cyanobacteria warning:** Mr. McCarty posted warning notices in multiple locations around the lake to advise people of a harmful algal bloom in the lake. **Property negotiations:** Mr. McCarty asked Gordon Kemp if there was any progress to report with the purchase negotiations for the property next door to the Town Hall. Mr. Kemp indicated that the owner was pondering the information that has been exchanged so far. **AED cabinet availability:** Mr. McCarty reported that the United Kingdom company that makes solar AED housing cabinets has notified him that cabinets are now available and he is exploring pricing options. **Building permit:** Mr. Saxton as acting zoning officer reviewed and signed a building permit for adding service to the AT&T tower and an extension of a demolition permit for a burned-out house on Walpole Valley Road. Mr. Saxton continues to seek interested candidates for the vacated Zoning Officer position. **FUEL ASSISTANCE:** Mr. Saxton reported that his postcard of fuel assistance information is nearly completed and he hopes to mail it by the end of the week. There followed some discussion of fuel prices.

**BRIDGE ENGINEERING SELECTION OUTCOME:** Bill Blaiklock took the floor to explain how the bridge engineering evaluation took place. Each of the four engineering firms who submitted qualifications gave presentations at two scheduled Board meetings, during which evaluations were completed and the field narrowed to the top two firms. Mr. Blaiklock checked the references of the top two

firms and reported the results of those conversations. Mr. McCarty explained that the town will pay the first-choice firm to do all the work administrating the design, specification, and permitting; and the second-choice firm to oversee all of the activities associated with implementing the design. On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Levesque, **the Board voted to announce the results to the firms advising them of the selection, and to begin negotiating the design phase for the two bridges. The motion passed with all in favor.** Because town pays the full cost up front and the state later reimburses 80%, Mr. McCarty further observed that the Town will likely need to speak to the Bond Bank and that if no-one objects, he plans to ask a local financial expert to advise the Board on that funding process. No objections were raised. Mr. McCarty reminded the group that a previous board raised and appropriated money to design and permit the replacement of the big bridge on Drewsville Road. He would like to use that project as a source of information for these two bridges. The Board thanked Mr. Blaiklock for his efforts on the town's behalf.

**WELL HILL FOUNDATION PLAN UPDATE:** Mr. Phinney provided an updated foundation plan for 10 Well Hill Way, which needed to be built up in a way that the previous site did not require. Mr. McCarty reminded the group that Well Hill is deferring to the advice of a NH-licensed manufactured home installer for the foundation designs. In addition, Mr. Phinney reported that the home for the other tenant is now installed and nearly ready for habitation. Mr. Phinney explained that the property requires some stormwater management and the board agreed to exchange contact information for engineering firms. Mr. Phinney also observed that he is having a crane come in to install a home, and in the process of that he will have the crane assist with removing two dead trees that threaten structures. The Board requested that they work with the Road Agent and the Chief of Police where necessary. The Board agreed by consensus to sign the revised foundation plan. The Board thanked Well Hill for their efforts, time, and communication.

**AMBULANCE:** Chief Moore reported that the team is 8 calls away from their busiest year ever. He expressed his thanks to Gilsum Fire Department, which was a good neighbor and sent multiple people and a truck to assist with a difficult call with a very short response time. Alstead has added a 4th paramedic to the team and Chief Moore plans to petition the state for licensing as a paramedic service. Being a paramedic service helps avoid situations where an intervention is needed but our paramedic can't provide it because the team is not licensed. Chief Moore observed that call volume increasing, the licensing will bring the Alstead team to the next level. He expressed his enthusiasm for the AED cabinets. He is at the very end of his 2022 budget, is out of pagers and jackets to give new team members and wondered about using \$2000-\$3000 of ARPA money on items of that nature. Options are being explored. Chief Moore also reported that AT&T has been selected as the contractor to provide priority emergency communications. Municipalities and individual first responders get a FirstNet phone with priority bandwidth. The Board asked for more information; Chief Moore will schedule a presentation. Some additional discussion ensued about networks, antennas, towers, service area, and service providers.

**BROADBAND:** The first round of the \$50 million broadband RFP was awarded to New Hampshire Electric Co-op, and will not cover Alstead. Round 2 has just started. There was additional discussion about internet providers and infrastructure.

**NEW BUSINESS: Land purchase inquiry:** A resident inquired whether the town is interested in purchasing a small plot of land, M30 L7. After discussion, on a motion from Mr. Levesque that was seconded by Mr. McCarty **the Board voted to decline the offer.** The Administrator will respond to the resident to report the decision and extend the Board's thanks. **Transfer Station land sought:** The Transfer Station is interested in acquiring an adjacent piece of land and the option is being explored. The Board agreed to invite Supervisor Hoy to talk about it at the next meeting. **HealthTrust rate increase:** The Admin reported that health insurance rates will increase by 11.7% for 2023 and information was provided in the Mail folder. For context, it was noted that the previous year's rate decreased by 8.1 percent. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, **the Board voted all in favor to renew the HealthTrust contract for next year.**

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday October 28th, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the Walpole Town Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** None.

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator