

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

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

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Erin Heidorn, Leslie Honey, Gordon Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Bill Williams, Judith Willis, others. **Google Meet:** None.

GUESTS: There were no scheduled guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed 5 Vilas Pool Park expenditures; signed timber intent 22-009-12-T; signed appointment of Maximillian Zurmuhlen to the Alstead Zoning Board of Adjustment; signed 1 tax abatement (53-7A2); signed 5 land use change tax bills (M12 L14-A, M4 L7-A, M4 L7, M67 L10-D1, M37L2-2).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of July 19, 2022; Minutes of July 19, 2022 non-public session. On a motion made by Matt Saxton and seconded by Joel McCarty, ***the Board voted to approve both sets of minutes as written. The motion passed with all in favor.***

ADMIN: Mary reported that she expects to take PTO on Monday 8/1 and possibly Monday 8/22, but will be here to take minutes on Tuesday 8/2 and 8/22, so there is no longer a need to secure a substitute minute-taker.

HIGHWAY: Road Agent Trafton reported that the highway department cleaned up a fallen tree on Bragg Lane. In addition, he is keeping tabs on two large oaks on the river bank that are being undermined and could pose a damming issue. The team has finished up work on the Newell Pond area and is working with the power company to raise the lines to prevent entanglement. He will work with them at the same time to make sure there is no entanglement issue remaining at the transfer station. He is working on FEMA paperwork for the 50% match projects. He expressed some frustration with last-minute formatting demands, COVID impact, and impending change-out of FEMA reps. The team is hoping to catch up on culvert work before school starts and to implement some drainage mitigation to lessen the mud season impact on Homestead and Pratt Roads. Joe asked about the fuel situation and Prescott indicated that he will present a fuel report at the beginning of August. Matt reminded him that the dead elm tree in front of the library is looking dreadful and Prescott indicated that Russell Tree will be removing it soon.

VILAS POOL PARK: The committee is half way through the season. Sunday free days are popular and things are going well. They are behind on projects but hope to learn whether they got the moose plate grant this fall, which will allow them to move forward on projects before closing the Park for the year.

AMBULANCE: Chief Moore advised the Board that the ambulance budget is in jeopardy because of the unusually high volume that has consumed more payroll resources than usual, even though they have not yet entered what is usually the busiest part of the year. Volume is > 100 calls and shows no sign of slowing down. This year's pattern has not been anything like that of previous years. They're experiencing 18 calls per month when they would usually have 3. They're at 71% of the budget overall, but with 4 months still left to cover in the year. He reports that all of the local Emergency Management Service agencies are having this problem this year. Mr. Saxton reminded those present that although there is a revenue side to ambulance operations, incoming ambulance money does not go into the ambulance budget and the Board must find money in other budget line items without overspending the budget. There was additional discussion of the varying reasons for the increased call volume. Chief Moore once again commended his fabulous squad of dedicated people.

AMATEUR RADIO IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Chief Moore reported that all of the radio improvement equipment is here except the repeaters. The equipment rep is going to build a website for us to refer operators to from the town site. The site will provide all the information people need to set up and operate amateur radios. The rep will provide two sessions to help people get their ham radio licenses, plus the Chief has an additional PowerPoint presentation. Jesse reported that the only other community in the US that has a setup similar to what Alstead is doing is the city of Los Angeles. Jesse is meeting with other local communities who are interested in setting up something similar. There was additional discussion of coverage and usage benefits.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: Gordon Kemp reported that discussions with Comcast are paused while Comcast prepares its proposal for the state's RFP request for covering the remaining areas of the state that have no broadband coverage (approximately 115 towns). There is a lot of money being made available for broadband projects statewide.

SELECT BOARD: Joe Levesque reported that he is meeting with the Fall Mountain budget committee to make sure that they know about the Stop the Bleed kits intended to help respond to any type of traumatic incident in our schools. Ambulance Chief Moore reiterated that the more school staff members that know how to use the kits, the better.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Property: Mr. Bill Williams informed the Board that the building next to the Town Offices building is owned by Leslie Honey, also present. Ms. Honey is interested in selling the building to Erin Heidorn, who operates a business in the building. There are some issues associated with the property deeding that Ms. Honey would like to remedy before selling. The first is water - the building gets its water from the same town well as the town offices, but the rights to water from that well are not included in the deed. The second issue is a right-of-way for a 25x35-foot tract of town land intended as parking for Ms. Honey's building. The right-of-way IS deeded, but the tract might be adjusted to create a parcel with a more practical size and shape. Mr. Williams distributed a copy of the deed that describes the tract and the right-of-way (attached). A survey would be necessary. Mr. Saxton suggested that the board walk it with them to clarify the idea and the objectives. The Admin took relevant contact information so that arrangements can be made to work on their requests. After Mr. Williams and his party departed there ensued a nostalgic discussion about how the water supply to the town buildings evolved. **Right to know request:** Rich Nalevanko requested an update on his right-to-know request and Mr. Saxton indicated that he needs to make an appointment to review approximately 3 boxes of materials. Arrangements were made. **Electric charging station:** Marge Noonan asked if the group was aware that Kroka had electric car charging stations, and it was observed that these were privately owned. She wondered why, if private citizens install their own, the town needs to be responsible for one. Mr. Saxton pointed out that the town having one is beneficial to non-resident visitors. Mark Mastrocinque clarified that the question seems to be that municipalities don't own gas pumps so why do they need to own/supply electric charging stations. Mr. Saxton observed that it is a question of evolving infrastructure and more research is needed; he reminded the group that Mr. McCarty has volunteered to spearhead that research.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS: There were no executive sessions during this meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the public meeting at 6:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator