

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Approved Minutes for August 16, 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:** Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person:** Laurence Howard & guest, Gordon Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis, and two members of the Lake Warren Association. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson.

**GUESTS:** Steve Blake re: Town wells; Katie Hanatow, Tri-Town Soccer League fall season.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and introduced the guest attendees.

**PRESENTATIONS:** **Steve Blake** described the location of a second well located on the property of the old Trow farm that once served to fill cisterns in multiple homes and buildings in downtown Alstead. **Katie Hanatow** notified the board that the Tri-Town Soccer League that consists of youth from Alstead, Langdon, Acworth, and Marlow will hold signup sessions on Millot Green on Saturday 8/20 and Wednesday 8/24 and expects to hold games from September 12 through October 22 for the Fall 2022 season. Ms. Hanatow explained that expenses for insurance, infrastructure (such as porta potties), and equipment are increasing and the income from participant fees is not covering all costs and that she is asking the Select Boards of all of the member towns if they are willing to contribute towards expenses. She will circle back when she has a better idea of how much the towns might contribute. Sponsorships typically cover the uniforms and some playing equipment; town contributions might help cover insurance, infrastructure, other playing equipment, and line paint. Mr. McCarty explained the Parks and Recreation budget. She confirmed that business sponsorships are welcomed. At Mr. McCarty's inquiry Ms. Hanatow confirmed that she was indeed honored as Teacher of the Year and the group expressed their appreciation for her dedication and service to the community's youth. The Admin will reach out with information about potential conflicts on the calendar.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed a Bragg Lane pavilion reservation request to hold a facilitated small-group clothing swap at the same time as the Cook Hill farm market on 8/27.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of August 9, 2022. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve the public minutes as written. The motion passed with two in favor and one abstention.*** On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve the two non-public sets of minutes as written. The motion passed with two in favor and 1 abstention.***

**SELECT BOARD: Lake Warren:** Mr. McCarty reported that he is shopping for stop logs for the Lake Warren dam after hearing complaints about leakage. He added that the NH Department of Environmental Services is now communicating with the lake association and plans to return to measure water depths for a water quality study. **Culverts:** Mr. McCarty enthused about the new sign trailers and the effective advance-notice communication that they are delivering at Homestead Road culvert replacement site. He indicates that we have nearly used up our supply of culverts and he expects the Road Agent to present another purchase order for more. **Well Hill:** Mr. McCarty went to a meeting at Well Hill with Keith Thibault of Southwestern Community Services to continue efforts to install 3 new families at the co-op by October 1. All three families have been accepted as members. The three trailers in question need refurbishment and/or foundation pads; concrete is hard to come by because it is hard to find truck drivers. He further reported that NH Department of Environmental Services has awarded Well Hill a grant of \$950,000 in ARPA money to rehabilitate their septic system. **7 Main Street:** The expected demolition date for the burned-out property next to Town Hall is September 9. It is not clear what the plan for the classic cars on the property is. Asbestos remediation will happen before that. **Digitize town records:** Mr. McCarty has embarked on exploring the idea of digitizing all town records before the next flood occurs. **CIP on web site:** Mr. Levesque seeks to know if there are any objections to posting our Capital Improvement Plan on the website. No objections were raised; one suggestion was to include language reminding viewers that it is a plan and as such it is a living document, not written in stone. **Backup of electronic data:** Mr. Levesque asked whether our IT backup is in the cloud or not; the Admin is tasked with getting that answer. **Bonus money from Highway block grant:** The Admin reported that we received bonus highway block grant money from the state in the amount of \$81,424.87. There followed a fair amount of wishful speculation in the Road Agent's absence about it might be spent. **Water system mapping:** Mr. McCarty thanked Ambulance Chief Moore for connecting him with a resource to assist with mapping the

downtown water supply. **Bulk purchasing:** Mr. Levesque reported that he spoke with the school board about including the town in the pool of entities seeking heating oil and diesel fuel. **EV Charger:** Mr. McCarty reported that he spoke with Mr. Acheson about his offer to fund installation of a charger in Alstead; Mr. Acheson provided contact information to someone on Cape Cod with experience to share.

**VILAS POOL PARK:** The Admin reported that a good-sized Vilas Pool trust fund payout was received for the park and happy noises were made. Gordon Kemp reported that Cinde Warmington visited the park on her campaign trail and will continue to offer her support toward approval of the Moose Plate grant, which we hope to receive to repair some rot caused by roof water runoff. The final Sunday free lunch celebration is coming up and will include a chicken barbecue; Mr. Kemp hopes to employ one of the new sign trailers to inform people of the event. There was additional discussion about how to solve the roof runoff problem.

**BROADBAND COMMITTEE:** The committee is in a holding pattern awaiting responses to the state's RFP. New Hampshire Bureau of Economic Affairs is expected to make a decision on a vendor soon.

**AMBULANCE:** Chief Moore reported that the ambulance has enjoyed a normal call rate for about two weeks and expressed hope that this continues. **Ham radio project:** Chief Moore further reported that the Ham Radio Club completed the installation of the ham radio system at both fire stations. GMRS radios should be in within the next week. The Ham club is willing to hold some signup sessions to help people who want to sign up for their ham radio licenses navigate the federal web site, which can be a challenge. He noted that the ham radio hobby is growing quickly right now and the Alstead infrastructure is among the best in the country and is the second community in the country to install such an infrastructure municipally. The chief expressed dismay that he had not heard from the school about getting the Stop the Bleed kits and really wants to make that happen soonest - across the district, but especially in Alstead schools.

**PAYROLL TRANSITION:** The Admin sought the Board's recommendations about use of a graphic signature for check signing and the choices for paying the new payroll service (direct debit versus check).

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Walpole will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday October 28th, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Rich Nalevanko observed that we used to get our fuel oil and diesel through the school and wondered why that ended. Mr. McCarty answered that personnel at the school changed some time back and they ended the program. Gordon Kemp asked whether the board considered his suggestion about Starlink internet equipment any further. Mr. McCarty responded that he planned to pursue it in next year's budget. Mr. Kemp suggested using ARPA funds for it since it is broadband, so Mr. McCarty agreed to follow up with his ARPA administrator contact.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** None.

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, *the Board chair adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator