

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Unapproved Minutes for Meeting of February 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Offices, 45 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: In person: Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton. **Google Meet:** Gordon Kemp (5:15pm)

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Administrative Consultant; Misty Gratacos, Office Administrator; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Jesse Moore, Director of Sanitation, EMS & Grounds; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Supervisor of the Checklist, Ambulance Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Joseph Levesque, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegener, Judith Willis.

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair invited all to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Reviewed email correspondence from Roger Beauchamp (NH DOS); reviewed emailed invitation from the City of Keene; reviewed email correspondence from Donna Doel regarding "food insecure"; reviewed email from Michael Nerrie, Distant Hill Nature Trail; reviewed mail correspondence from Mission Square (retirement program).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: No minutes were approved at this meeting, as additional information needed to be added.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. McCarty reported that the Road Agent will be posting the roads with the spring weight limits according to RSA 231:191 tomorrow 2/28/24. All action items were reviewed and discussed briefly with the residents and staff in attendance. Tasks given to the Office Admin to look into Mission Square letter, follow up with a letter of support to Mr. Nerrie, provide audit 2022 information to Roger Beauchamp. Brief discussion regarding Absentee Ballots and the protocol for those.

Chief Murrell reported that he had spoken with the Towns Attorney regarding the Cell Tower on Cobb Hill Road, however the attorney has a conflict of interest and has recommended Cronin, Bisson & Zalinsky. Chief Murrell spoke with them today and they will be happy to represent the Town in the Lease Agreement conversion. On a motion made by Mr. McCarty, and seconded by Mr. Saxton, **the Board voted 2-0 to approve the request to have Cronin, Bisson & Zalinsky work on the Tower agreement.**

OLD BUSINESS: **Washed-out glass deposits:** Mr. McCarty met with SWRPC and discussed the next steps, which is mapping of the affected areas. **Thayer Brook bypass:** Nothing new to report at this time. **Bridges and Dams:** Mr. McCarty reported that the new goal is to bid out both bridges in 2025, construct Bell Hill bridge in 2024 and to construct Comstock bridge in 2025/2026 with staggered openings. The winter work schedule expects to have a positive impact on the negotiations & cost factors. **Sale of town properties** – Mr. Saxton had nothing new to report. **M11 L2 status** – Joe Levesque reported that the family will only discuss the sale and moving forward with testing via attorneys. Mr. McCarty reported that Mr. Levesque is not protected by the towns municipal liability insurance so this will be forwarded to Gordon to follow up on. **Model T Memo of Understanding** – Mr. McCarty reported that this is deferred until after March 12th voting. **East Station chemical barrel and Village Station overhead door status** – Chief Kercewich reported that he is still waiting on a date for the barrel pick up and also for a second quote for the repairs for Engine 1. He will keep the Board informed. **Langdon Transfer Station and Library support** – Work in progress.

DEPARTMENT AND BOARD REPORTS: **Broadband** – Mr. Kemp asked if there were any complaints regarding the Fidium crews. He stressed that if residents have issues to contact him and he will speak with his contact at NH Broadband. **Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds asked if the culvert on Hill Road could be added to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Levesque indicated "yes" it can. Mr. McCarty asked the Road Agent to provide the information to Director Reynolds so that the plan can be updated (culvert number and location). Mr. Trafton reports that it will only need to be corrected, not added, it had already been added. Mr. Kemp was tasked with posting a digital copy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the website for any comments. Director Reynolds reported that he observed a possible safety issue at the Transfer Station when a pick-up truck towing a trailer blocked egress and blocked the hut exit. He referred to PRIMEX for an opinion. He reported that he will be working with Mr. Moore to streamline a better traffic flow and they may need assistance from the Police Department for traffic cones. **Ambulance Department:** Mr. Moore reported that the department has been very busy as of late. They are seeing an increase in the number of calls regarding use of drugs with other substances being added. Mr. Moore reported that they are going to test POC (platform over cellular) with our radios now that the HPUE's are installed. Could benefit the Highway Dept. POC units are cheaper than new radios. Testing in town will see if they work better. Mr. Moore reported that he worked with

George Moore to see what we can do with HF radio to see if we can talk to Concord / dispatch if Mutual Aid goes down. **Police Department:** Chief Murrell reported 135 calls to service year to date. Mostly small stuff. Noticing an increase in calls since Langdon has no Police Department. State Police are covering most of those calls currently however several people come to Alstead thinking that the Police Department is the same. Chief Murrell noted that his department will be more diligent in reviewing calls coming in to see if we will need to bill Langdon for these services. Mr. McCarty asked Chief Murrell if we have the technology for traffic counting, and if so, can we get a traffic count for Pine Cliff. Chief Murrell reported that he has those numbers already and will provide them to Mr. McCarty. **School Board Report/Grant Information:** Mr. Levesque reported that the School Board is currently working on the performance review of the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Levesque reported that he is working on several grants that include an exhaust scrubber grant, an SCBA grant and several others. At this point Mr. Levesque, Mr. Moore, Chief Kercewich and Director Reynolds left the public forum to discuss which of the grants was more important for Mr. Levesque to be focused on. They returned to the public meeting a few minutes later and determined that the SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) grant was the one that would best benefit the town. Mr. Levesque reported that NHDES is expecting funding to become available for electric vehicle charging stations. **Fire Department:** Chief Kercewich reported that he is waiting to hear back from Lakes Region with a 2nd estimate for Engine 1. The engine still works but will need repairs. **Transfer Station:** Director Moore reported that he has discovered that as of July 1, 2022 it is unlawful to place any stickers in front of a driver's shoulders, therefore we should consider an alternative to include bags or placards for the Transfer Station. Public questions regarding the use of the scales at the Transfer Station were fielded.

The Select Board reviewed a response from Primex regarding the hiring of a candidate that had a misdemeanor offense on his record.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, March 5 th , 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 5 Mechanic St.
FM School Board meeting:	Monday, March 11 th , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (2 nd Monday)
2024 Town Meeting Voting Day:	Tuesday, March 12 th , 2024, 8 AM to 7 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street
FM Budget Committee meeting:	Wednesday, March 21 st , 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (3 rd Wednesday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. McCarty asked anyone in the audience if they were interested in joining the Planning and Zoning Board as the Admin has resigned from his position. A member of the audience asked if the sign trailers could be used to point people to the website for additional information that they may need for voting.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:42 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mlsty Gratacos
Office Administrator