

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of February 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque; Joel McCarty. **Absent:** Mary Ann Wolf

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator (outgoing); Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming); Steve Reynolds (Emergency Management)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Rich Nalevanko; Matt Saxton; Barbara & Rudy Viegner; Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** Gordon and Hollie Kemp, and possibly one other attendee whose name was not noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Rich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER: Joe called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed payroll and payables manifests. Signed the Assessing Officials' Response to Application for Veteran Tax Credit form for resident Caldwell. Signed a letter from the Town requesting that a resident submit required building and driveway permits.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of February 15, 2022 meeting - Joe requested that the last sentence of the Admin paragraph under Old Business be changed to reflect that the March 7 meeting would be the second board meeting of the month, not the first. No further changes were requested. On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Joe, ***the Board voted to approve all sets of minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.***

OLD BUSINESS: Joe opened the floor for reports from other board members and department heads.

ADMIN: Charlotte reported that the attorney wants to meet with the Bennet Road party's attorney. The board agreed with this and instructed Charlotte to move forward.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Steve reported on the ham radio project, which is a secondary means of communication in an emergency. The temporary antenna at the east station is operational; a permanent antenna should be installed at some point. George Moore's house has a repeater. The downtown antenna situation needs to be evaluated further to determine what equipment exists, where it is, and who owns it, but it shouldn't take more than a couple of months for a downtown antenna to become operational. Each ham radio operator requires their own license; 12-15 operators are interested. Information has been distributed about where to purchase study guides and how to get licensed. Jesse and Kim are looking to see if there is training money in their budgets for some of these costs but the operators were aware that they are responsible for the cost. Testing date Saturday April 23, time and location TBD. The Board agrees that the Town Hall or Select Board conference room could be used for the testing if available. There are two major networks that we should be able to connect with – one in southern NH and one in western MA.

SELECT BOARD VICE CHAIR: Joel asked about the status of the background check for the Transfer Station attendant applicant; Charlotte indicated that payment for that is in progress and that there is another application to consider for the Transfer Station supervisor position. Joel indicated that the Board had received an update from the consultant this week and that discussion of hiring a supervisor should include Mary Ann and our Transfer Station consultant. The discussion was tabled until next week's meeting.

SELECT BOARD MEMBER: Joel reported that conversations continue with the owners of the house next door. He added that he continues investigating the frustrations associated with installing and powering the AED units that we want to implement. Joel learned about a company that makes photovoltaic cabinets designed to house and power AED units, but he cautions that use of solar in our geographical area as a source of power for AED units is not fully understood and more study is needed.

Joel announced that In April, 1000 feet east of Old Settlers Road on Route 123, the state plans to remove a 36 inch culvert and install a 48 inch culvert. Barbara wondered whether this is where they want to close the road for 5 hours as mentioned at a previous meeting. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Barbara Viegner commented that a key factor in the success of the AED project is training. Volunteers need to be familiar with and comfortable using them. There should also be a key contact who is responsible for managing the stations and their battery/power/inverter needs. The next meeting of the Health and Wellness committee is March 9th.

Rich Nalevanko raised questions about the Rooms and Meals tax relief and the SWEPT tax relief mentioned in the Governor's recent State of the State speech. He also wondered about the state surplus. There was additional discussion about how all these things affect local governments and taxpayers. Charlotte indicated that she would continue to research.

Rich also asked whether making the Health and Wellness committee a standing committee of the town would make it subject to the mandatory notice and posting requirements that other committees observe. Joel responded that the question can be answered by contacting the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Barbara asked whether there was anything in the Transfer Station consultant's update that could be shared. Joe read to the group the email that Board members received from the consultant, which he cautions is an update, not a formal report.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall.

On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 5:31 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)