

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of May 17, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matt Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Marge Noonan, Gordon Kemp, Glenn Elsesser, Rich Nalevanko, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEMS: Sign NHRS retirement liability for April. Sign liabilities and payroll manifests for 5/20 payroll. Sign new 1-year DiLuzio ambulance contract. Sign forest fire report. Sign 1 Vilas Pool Liberty Utilities expenditure. Sign minutes from non-public session of 5/12/2022.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of May 10, 2022: No changes requested. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, *the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

BRIDGE QUALIFICATIONS: The Board acknowledged receipt of 4 sets of qualifications for the 2 Alstead MOBIL bridge projects from these DOT-approved engineering firms: Quantum Construction Consultants, LLC of Concord, CMA Engineering of Portsmouth, Wright Pierce of Portsmouth, and Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates of Manchester. This completes phase 1 of the procedure. Joel will confirm that all four are on the list of approved firms, and the Board members will review the qualifications for next week's meeting.

FIRE TRUCK DAMAGE ESTIMATE UPDATE: In response to Glenn Elsesser's question last week about the status of the estimate he submitted, Mary reported that she had contacted Primex and reopened the claim, that Primex would pay Glenn for his time doing the estimate, that the check for the claim has been received and deposited, and that Chief Kercewich can proceed with arranging the repairs to the truck. If repairs beyond the scope of the estimate are determined to be necessary, the Town and the repair shop will work with Primex and Glenn to open a supplement to the existing estimate so that all necessary repairs can be completed.

DAM REPAIR: The board acknowledged receipt of notification from the Department of Environmental Services that the owner of Cranberry Pond has repaired the Cranberry Pond dam to the department's satisfaction.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Now that the contract with DiLuzio is signed, the Board would like Jesse to contact DiLuzio about CPR training for Town employees.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Prescott reported on the progress of the Vilas Pool cleanout operation, mowing, and the annual sand and gravel excavation at the gravel pit. There was extended discussion of ways to optimize budget and increased fuel consumption costs with regard to the sand and gravel excavation and roadside mowing. Prescott has worked with the prospective owners of the 500 Walpole Valley Road property on the necessary driveway permit and an approved driveway permit is anticipated soon. In addition, Prescott has received a quote for the bio-logs needed to forestall soil erosion happening on Arbor Way at Pine Cliff Road. The project is slated for August. Joe noted that if we don't use the grant money intended to pay for that project by December 31st we need to apply for an extension. Prescott further reported that the liquid asphalt index is still increasing and the Gilsum Mine Road paving project might need to be put off if the allotted 300K is only going to pave $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. He says other towns are coming to the same conclusion with their paving projects. Prescott noted that the crew is shorthanded because one member is out recovering from a bad back. Finally, Prescott reported that he did look at some used bobcats and the cost of those is about 16-20K. He did confirm that the Highway Department does use the backhoe beyond the scope of the transfer station, so it is not an option to sell the backhoe to finance the purchase of a used bobcat for the transfer station. Joel noted that it looks like we will need to look at a warrant article to fund a bobcat for the transfer station. There was some discussion of the Highway department doing oil changes for the ambulance.

TRANSFER STATION: Joel reported that we did hire Transfer Station consultant Ben Hoy to work 20 hours per week as Transfer Station supervisor.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Jesse reported that the ambulance is broken down with a bad rear main gasket and seal. The consensus is that Shamrock Diesel is the right shop for making the repairs. While it is down, DiLuzio and Walpole are covering. (DiLuzio covers us under Mutual Aid without charge when the ambulance is not in service.) The last week has been unusually busy with calls. He reported that the Mutual Aid radio system is working, but not working correctly because the equipment has aged out. Jesse did discuss the training schedule with DiLuzio and they will do the training for town employees at no cost.

SELECT BOARD: Joe reported that he heard from Katie Hannatow asking for materials assistance with maintaining the baseball field. There was extended discussion about balancing the needs of the soccer teams versus the baseball teams who both use that field, the need for painting the dugouts to cover graffiti, trees that need to come down or be trimmed, and the budget constraints we are facing. Joel noted that in the past the baseball people had taken responsibility for that field. **Joel** reported about a proposal received for Vilas Pool dam work from a consultant, for \$80K. There was extended discussion about where that money might come from, what elements of the proposal we might want to consider, who needs to scrutinize the proposal, and avoiding DES fines for inaction. Joel did ask the DES dam deficiency rep whether the proposal met their expectations and they answered in the affirmative. Joel suggests that we run the proposal past the DOT rep for that portion of 123A to see what their response is, given that DOT has indicated that the dam spillway is too small to protect the road. Joe commented that if we apply for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant with DES and DOT on board, then we continue to show appropriate progress toward resolving those problems. **Joel** noted that the library doors are restored and reinstalled and they look fabulous. He noted that he has another meeting scheduled with the son of the owner of the property next to the Town Hall. He reported that the owner of the offending trailer on Gilsum Mine Road has returned his call and that he has been redirected to Well Hill Way, and he is working toward forward progress there and does not plan to pursue enforcement of the Cease & Desist order at this time. **Joe** reported that he has completed the letter of intent for the Library grant and it is being reviewed before submission. He is working on the LCHIP grant for the highway sign trailers and the radio repeater equipment. **Matt** reported that he had contacted the assessing company about the PA-67 processing sequence and they indicated that all their resources are consumed with completing the assessment activities so that the towns they serve can run their tax warrants, but they have a record of the question and will provide information at the next available opportunity.

VILAS POOL: Gordon presented the board with a copy of Vilas Pool certificate acknowledging its presence on the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places. He commended the Highway Department for all their work opening up the spillway. Glenn Elsesser asked if Joel had followed up with Ben Northcott about the past discussions about installing a trash gate on the spillway. Joel reported that Ben remembers the discussion but not the reasons for deciding NOT to install a trash gate, and wants to ask his brother (Dan Northcott). Prescott reminded the group of the complexities of removing debris from the spillway and described some adventures and inventive techniques that have been used to clear it in the past. He reiterated that the spillway is too small. Gordon reported that the bell tower is open and working and a wedding event is being held before the pool opens. A public opening event is scheduled for Sunday June 5th, before school is out for the summer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Glenn Elsesser asked if the Highway Department has mowed the Bragg Lane clearing. Prescott indicated that they had, and reported that the only debris that was observed is leftover debris from the community garden endeavor.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for May, 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel McCarty, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 6:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)