

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of March 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** **In person:** Charlotte Comeau, Office Admin (outgoing); Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin (incoming); Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** **In person:** Glenn Elsesser, Robert Esslinger, Gordon and Hollie Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegener, Judith Willis.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mark Mastrocinque led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Ann called the meeting to order at 5 PM.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed last week's liability checks manifest. Signed a 2021 gravel tax warrant and a 2022 intent to excavate.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of February 22, 2022 meeting - On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Joel, *the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed 2:1; Mary Ann abstained because she was absent from the 2/22 meeting.*

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

**ADMIN:** Re-discussed holding the next board meeting on Monday night March 7. The room will be set up for election day but we should be able to meet as planned. Re-discussed the application received for the position of Transfer Station Supervisor, the Board noted that they are not yet ready to fill that position pending the outcome of the consultant's studies and tasked Mary with writing a letter to the applicant explaining as much.

**POLICE DEPT:** Steve reported that the two programmable sign trailers that the highway and police departments would like to obtain will cost \$37,656. There is a grant available for up to \$50,000 that will cover all but a 10% deposit. Because the grant is ARPA based, ARPA funds that we have already received cannot be used for the deposit so we must find the deposit elsewhere in the budget. The grant application is due by June 3, 2022 and the equipment must be acquired by December 31, 2022. The group further explored the various reasons for considering the purchase, storing the units, maintenance requirements, extent of programmability, the state of the unit shared with Langdon and that unit's limitations, whether Joe can meet the grant writing deadlines, and the COVID link that justifies using the grant.

**CHAIR:** Mary Ann commended Charlotte on the lovely annual report booklet and the group offered a round of appreciative applause. Mary Ann next reported that Prescott will meet with the Transfer Station consultant on March 2. He asked for a copy of the Heman Chase survey of the Transfer Station parcel. Charlotte or Mary will locate the survey.

**VICE CHAIR:** Joe reported that he attended the Lake Warren Watershed Project meeting and they asked him to remind Prescott to save any receipts for any work done in the Lake Warren watershed area (culverts and such – including labor) because they can be used towards our match for the grant that the Southwest Regional Planning Commission got for us. The only project Joe knows of that the town had in mind for the watershed area was the bio-logs on Pine Cliff Road but he indicated to them that he didn't think that project would begin until after mud season.

Joe next reported that at the school board meeting, the board decided to end mask requirements in building and on buses. The only masking requirement that would be retained is based on the DHHS requirement for people who contract the virus and are subsequently cleared to return to work/school – these people must wear a mask for 5 days after returning. The superintendent will continue to send weekly bulletins and update the dashboard on the web site. Some want a full review of the COVID handling over the last two years. The school board intends to retain a contractor

through the New Hampshire School Board Association to help search for a new superintendent. If a new superintendent is not in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>, Lori will continue in the position until a replacement is chosen.

**MEMBER:** Joel reported that most of what he has worked on since last week will be discussed during non-public and he had nothing new to report on the photovoltaic AED housing cabinets.

**AMBULANCE DEPT:** Jesse reported that the new Wellness Committee has agreed to meet every other Wednesday at 6 PM. The next meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. James Suozzi (Head of Emergency Medicine at Cheshire Medical Center) will present at the following meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jesse next reported that we should receive the indoor- and vehicle-mounted AEDs next week. Joe asked who to contact to purchase an outdoor mounted unit. Steve Murrell is the contact.

**HIGHWAY DEPT:** Prescott expressed concern at the substantial increase of the cost of culverts. We'll need to be mindful of how much we stockpile and limit work to only the high priority projects. He also expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of a contractor hired to cut trees along Route 123. The job was completed, but the signage and flagger resources were inadequate and it took longer than planned.

Prescott also reported that the town of New Hampton is selling a front-mounted broom that mounts on a backhoe, that needs new bristles (easily replaceable), and that he would like to see if we can purchase it if the budget passes. Bidding is time sensitive. Glenn Elsesser noted that this could be a really good deal if we can get it for two thousand to twenty-five hundred dollars and agreed to go take a look at the vehicle.

Mary Ann asked Prescott about the status of the inquiry into additional signage at the intersection of Chartier Lane and Route 12A, where an Alstead Police cruiser was damaged during duty at an accident at that site. Prescott reported that the NH DOT indicates that there is not a sufficient accident rate at that location to merit additional signage. Joe observed that he had heard back from John Mann about the flashing light at Gilsum Mine Road in East Alstead, and the town would have to pay to put a light back in that location because there aren't enough accidents there to merit a flashing light.

Prescott asked for a motion to post Alstead roads for the mud season. **On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Joel, the board voted to post the roads beginning Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.**

**TRANSFER STATION:** Junie reported that the station shipped out another 10 bales of corrugated cardboard today. He indicates that ice has been a problem for the metal dumpsters and they have received a few suggestions from the consultant. They are looking for a bobcat, which is the optimal tool for loading the bales into the transport containers. Gordon Kemp asked who does the hauling; the answer is Ruggiero. Rich Nalevanko asked how much we get for a bale of corrugated cardboard; the answer is \$130 - \$140 per ton. Junie noted that they spend a lot of time prepping plastic for baling, by removing caps and rinsing. Volunteers can do it, but some public education would also help.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mary Ann described questions she had about the AED project. She did some math and speculates that at current estimates the AEDs will consume 28% of our ARPA funds. The AED project was then discussed at length, including maintenance, ownership, inspection, and a description of a role-playing scenario enacted by Joe and Jude intended to explore the response time compared to the EMT average. Jesse strongly urged that anyone with questions, concerns, or suggestions about the implementation of the AED program attend the Wellness Committee meetings. He noted that the shape of the project by the time it is implemented will be different from the initial vision. Junie observed that community-wide CPR training is a vital part of the AED program, because someone would likely start CPR while someone else would be running for an AED. Barb asked whether CPR is taught at Fall Mountain, and Jesse replied that FMRHS made CPR training a graduation requirement about 5 years ago. Rich Nalevanko suggested including Heimlich training with the CPR training.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next Select Board meeting is Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM at the Town Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Rich Nalevanko asked whether there was a contact specializing in masking at DHHS and wants to know what the science is behind the guidance used to impose mandates and policies during the pandemic. Joe said he would see what he could find.

Rich reported also that he followed up with the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) about the details of the "tax relief" mentioned in Governor Sununu's recent State of the State speech and that he was impressed with the responsiveness and knowledge of the DRA representative that replied to his inquiry. The DRA representative explained that the tax relief was implemented by reducing the amount of tax collected and distributing that reduction across towns through equalized valuation, bringing relief to taxpayers of about \$100,000.

Rich asked whether Joel had looked into making the Wellness Committee a standing committee of the town, versus operating as an ad hoc committee. Joel indicated he had not worked on that.

Rich then asked about a line that makes a provision for calling a special meeting. The line appears when a governing body such as the town or school board posts the warrant on the budget. He has never seen that special meeting triggered and wonders what triggers it. Joel responded that he has never seen it triggered and that he thinks it's part of the SB2 law that Alstead adopted. If the governing body experiences an emergency mid-year, it must petition the court and convince them that there's an emergency, and the court then gives permission for the governing body to call a special Town Meeting. Rich doesn't think it's necessarily limited to SB2 towns because Acworth recently held an emergency town meeting and they are not an SB2 town.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Public business being concluded at 6:10 PM, Mary Ann paused to allow the public to exit before making a motion to enter the first of three non-public sessions planned for this meeting.

On a motion made by Joel that was seconded by Joe, ***the board voted by roll call (Mary Ann: Y; Joe: Y; Joel: Y) to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e) at 6:15 p.m.***

Public session resumed at 6:22 PM.

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Joe, ***the board voted by roll call (Mary Ann: Y; Joe: Y; Joel: Y) to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a), at 6:23 p.m.***

Public session resumed at 6:40 PM.

At this time, the Board decided to table the third public session planned for this meeting until a future date.

On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 6:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)