

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Select Board Meeting

Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Chair, Gordon Kemp, and Joe Levesque.

STAFF PRESENT: Misty Gratacos, Town Office Administrator; Bobbie Wilson, Vilas Pool Committee Chair/Alstead Ambulance/Supervisors of the Checklist; Jesse Moore, Director of EMS, Sanitation & Grounds; Joyce Campbell-Counts, Co-Chair of the Conservation Commission

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Karen Schwabe, FMRSD School Board member, Judith Willis, Jason Little, Barbara Viegner, Marge Noonan.

Google Meets:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM and then proceeded with leading the agenda-based discussion.

GUESTS: Mr. Kemp made a motion to add Mr. Kent Carbo to the Planning Board, Mr. McCarty seconds, and **the Select Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.**

- Karen Schwabe, who represents the Alstead school area on the school board, is here to give updates. She reports that the school board is continuing to conduct feasibility studies on whether Langdon and Walpole should withdraw from the district. Langdon's study is nearly complete, and Walpole's is still in progress. The district is also searching for a new superintendent as their current interim, who came out of retirement to support them, will be leaving soon.
- Jason Little is here, questioning about the immediate release of the right-of-way next to his property on Newell Pond. Mr. McCarty motions that the town will move the right-of-way if it has the authority; Mr. Levesque seconds, and **the Select Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.**
- Katie Dearborn, Mascoma Bank. She attends the meeting to offer the town credit card processing services as a local alternative to Square, which the Transfer Station currently uses. Mr. Kemp motions to switch to Mascoma Bank for the local credit card processing services and to authorize Misty Gratacos, Town Office Administrator, to complete the

paperwork to get this implemented. Mr Levesque seconds, **and the Select Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.**

ACTION ITEMS: Review & sign Payables (\$37,273.96); Review & sign Bills Manifest (\$2,261.06); review & sign Tax Liability Manifest (\$7,429.08); review & sign all items in Misc Sign folder; review all items in Mail folder.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Washed-out glass** – Mr. McCarty reports that all business is in order for this item. Mrs. Gratacos is calling Connecticut River Valley Yard Works tomorrow morning to notify them that everything is in place.
- B. Thayer Brook bypass** – Mr. McCarty reports that he has attended two video conferences with FEMA. Mr. McCarty motions the selectboard for permission to respond to a letter in the mail folder with a positive statement stating that, at this time, we only intend to proceed without applying for mitigation. In response to this, Mr. Levesque seconds, **and the Select Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.** The selectboard discussed funding details and the need to proceed without mitigation funding for now.
- C. Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty moves that we execute the construction engineering contracts for the Hill Road Bridge project, Mr. Levesque seconds, **and the Select Board votes unanimously to pass the motion.** Mr. Kemp motions Mr. McCarty to find the notice of agreement award for professional services, Mr. Levesque seconds, **and the Select Board votes unanimously to pass the motion.**
- D. Dams** –
- E. Fire Dept Policies** –
- F. Pine Cliff Rd info/updates** –
- G. Comp Time Discussion** –
- H. Donation of Trailer for Emerg Services** –
- I. Credit Card provider discussion** – Mrs. Gratacos says she will reach out to Hans Waldmann tomorrow to ask where things stand regarding checks and paperwork; she will then notify the board of developments.
- J. NEW CPA** – Mr. Kemp says he is meeting tomorrow morning with Mark Dehaney, who has agreed to look at the books and potentially help or recommend an individual to help.
- K. Furnace Cleaning Schedule** –
- L. Complete Streets Information** – Mr. Levesque says we have been totally shut down. There will be no sidewalks as the grant has been cancelled. The selectboard commends Mr. Levesque for his tireless work on this project. Mr. Levesque states he can put in a grant request for possibly putting a crosswalk with beacons, as he has seen in other towns. He believes there is a possibility we could get that funded through the M.A.S.T grant.
- M. Newell Pond trees & property in question** –

- N. Highway Garage mold situation** – Mr. Kemp states that we are in the process of looking for a carpenter for this property.
- O. 52 Mechanic Street** – Mr. Kemp motions to give a 90-day warning letter to the previous owner of 52 Mechanic Street, Mr. McCarty seconds, and **the Select Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.**
- P. 210 Gilsum Mine Survey-**
- Q. Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Office Administrator –

- Mrs. Gratacos reports that regarding payroll, DPW took pictures of theirs because they were not around a computer, and when they were, issues occurred.
- Additionally, she states that with regard to a request about an employee working full-time in one department and part-time in another, it was found not to be possible.
- She states we should be expecting the check for the full amount, \$2,491, and some change, which is the total of the three invoices that were sent to the insurance, which includes the work that Connecticut Valley Yardworks did, the fill that we received from St Pierre, and then the town truck use & employee cost.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

Director Moore reports that:

- **Ambulance** – 157 calls to date.
- **Parks** – Director Moore notifies the board about people living in campers at the trailer park. He believes there is a need for someone to look into it due to potential subpar living conditions. Additionally, he says there has not been a need to mow as most areas are dead.
- **Transfer Station** – Director Moore notes that at the transfer station, individuals will notice 4 bins at the glass gate. He requests that people know that this is Chris Salmon from Acworth, who utilizes recycled glass to make blown glass objects. He also went and picked up our donated trailer, which was much nicer than expected.

Vilas Pool –

- Mrs. Wilson thanks everybody for their efforts in the 100th anniversary of Vilas Pool.

- Mrs. Wilson questions the board: What was the name of whoever Vilas Pool got money from in the 1970s? Mr. Kemp responds and states that it is the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp –

- Mr. Kemp notes that the Vilas Pool event was a large success and expresses his appreciation to everyone involved. He notes that there is discussion on potentially holding a community day in the fall due to the excess of food leftover from the event.
- Reports that the planning board would like to have a joint meeting with the Select Board to go over the CIP.
- States that he has sent off the ambulance on call, life and policy off to the labor attorney, and is awaiting a response.

Mr. Kemp motions

Mr. McCarty-

- Reports that the library roof was found to have structural issues and needs further review after his time with two engineers on Saturday on the roof.
- States that he and Mr. Reynolds are working on a protocol for activating a service that allows towns to text all cell phones within a geographical area.
- Finally, he reports that DES is planning to open the dam at Lake Warren for 48 hours on September 3rd.

Mr. Levesque –

- Reports that on Tuesday, August 26th, he has a brown fields advisory committee meeting down in Keene at noon, where he will put in a request about getting the Shadowlands tested to get phase one testing of any toxic materials in the ground there.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

On a motion made by Mr. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Kemp ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:28 PM.***

Important Upcoming Events/Meetings

Date/Time	Subject	Location	Notes
August 26th at 5:00 pm	Selectboard Meeting	Town Offices 15 Mechanic Street	
Sept 8th at 5:30 pm	FMRSD School Board Meeting	High School Library	

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Mitchell

Interim Recording Secretary