

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of December 6, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Joseph Levesque, Matthew Saxton. Absent: Joel McCarty

**STAFF PRESENT: In person:** Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Ben Hoy, Transfer Station Supervisor; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Darren Perlongo, Assistant Emergency Management Director. **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person:** Glenn Elsesser, Gordon Kemp, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis, Mary Ann Wolf, Jean Kelly.

**GUESTS:** Steve Murrell, Police Chief re: Police Department budget for 2023; Ben Hoy, Transfer Station Supervisor re: Transfer Station budget for 2023.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and yielded the floor to Chief Murrell, the first budget presenter of the evening.

**PRESENTATION: 2023 PD budget:** Noting that the PD would like to hire another full-time officer, Chief Murrell presented three different budget possibilities: A team of the Chief, 2 full time officers, and one part time officer at 20 hours per week (\$256,971); a team of the Chief, 1 full time officer and 1 part time officer at 20 hours per week (\$229,205); or a team of the Chief, 2 full time officers and a part time officer earning \$5000 for the year (\$235,971). If the additional personnel item is approved, then hiring, uniform, and vehicle repair costs would increase. Other increases include phone costs and some additional IT work is expected to separate the PD and town networks. Comparatively, the 2022 police budget was \$191,349. Chief Murrell noted that most line items other than wages remained flat. There was additional discussion about coverage and recruiting. The Board thanked Chief Murrell for his presentation and the Chief yielded the floor to Transfer Station Supervisor Ben Hoy. **2023 Transfer Station budget:** Before Mr. Hoy began his presentation, Mr. Levesque thanked him for presenting to the Langdon Select Board meeting about the Transfer Station. Mr. Hoy thanked former Selectboard member Mary Ann Wolf for her help with his budget. Mr. Hoy presented a total sanitation budget of \$187,536 for 2023, compared to \$163,796 for 2022. The major increase is the result of a "seismic" increase in tipping charges over last year - from \$85 to \$100 per ton. Mr. Hoy noted that although Alstead residents are not enamored of the bag system, switching to bags could help offset the tipping charge increase; there was a fairly extensive discussion about the economics of the bag system. Trucking, telephone, fuel, fluorescent bulbs, and freon are all increased slightly and a new category is added for processed glass aggregate (PGA glass); eight other budget lines are reduced over 2022. Wages include a small merit increase. There was extended discussion about glass recycling, the definition of "clean glass" (clean glass bottles only - no mirrors, no frames, no porcelain, no window panes). The Board thanked Mr. Hoy again for his contributions to the Langdon visit and for his presentation and Mr. Hoy yielded the floor to the Chair.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed 1 timber cut intent (M37 L6); Signed 1 pay rate sheet (election worker); Signed the Tax Warrant (24.64).

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of November 29, 2022; Minutes of public hearing of November 29, 2022 re: unanticipated funds. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joe, ***the Board voted to approve both sets of minutes as written. The motion passed with two in favor (one member absent).***

**SELECT BOARD: Langdon Select Board Meeting:** Mr. Levesque reported that he and Mr. Hoy attended the Langdon meeting on Monday evening 12/5/22. Topics of discussion were expected costs to Langdon residents for use of the Alstead Library and Transfer Station facilities. Langdon will host the next 5-town Select Board meeting. **Electrical study:** Mr. Saxton reported that he met with two electrical contractors to request quotes for adding electrical outlets to the Town Hall space. He learned that while room in the existing panels might be an adventure, there is no need for 200-amp service. Quotes are forthcoming. **Conservation Commission:** Mr. Saxton reported that Conservation Commission chair Sarah Webb noted that the Prime Wetlands requirements seem prohibitive and many residents with eligible wetlands on their property are opting out.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Murrell reported an extremely successful Tree Lighting celebration on Friday 12/1. He expressed gratitude for generous donations and the efforts of many volunteers that made the event a roaring success. The hot chocolate

was plentiful, the hayrides fun, and the twin bonfire pits much appreciated by all who attended (an estimated 200 people). The Board thanked Gordon Kemp for manning the fires again this year. The Chief further reported that the department expects to reach 800 calls by next week.

**AMBULANCE:** Chief Moore reported that the squad is 20 calls over last year at this time - a 15% increase that you can't budget for. In reference to the 2023 budget he presented last week, he noted that the billing rates he used should be increased and he will provide that next week.

**ADMIN:** The admin reminded the group that she will be out of the office from 12/13 through 12/26.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday August 5th, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the Town Hall at 9 Main Street.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Barb Viegner wondered about the appearance of the highway truck purchase in the budget. Glenn Elsesser wondered why it is there when we haven't put capital purchases in the budget in the past. The Admin attributed that to inexperience and will consult resources to determine the proper place to put those expenditures. She suggested reminding employees that December is a low-purchase month to avoid going over budget. Mr. Elsesser asked about the 3% cap and how that will be handled. Two separate CPAs have advised us how to calculate that. Mr. Elsesser wants to ensure that we're not combining the warrant articles with the budget when making that calculation. Mr. Levesque reassured the group that no fund balance was being used to offset taxes. There was additional discussion of proposed revenues for 2023, the budgeting process, the dangers of running over budget, and the process to follow if we discover we are at risk of running over. Mr. Elsesser asked for a revenue comparison spreadsheet and Mr. Levesque indicated he was not yet finished with it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Levesque, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:11 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(a) – compensation of public employees.***

Before exiting the non-public session, the Board reviewed the minutes of the session and signed them.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Levesque, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:28 p.m. The motion passed with 2 in favor and one absent.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Levesque, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:29 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(e) – consideration of threatened litigation.***

Before exiting the non-public session, the Board reviewed the minutes of the session and signed them.

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Levesque, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:37 p.m. The motion passed with 2 in favor and one absent.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:38 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator