

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: **In person:** Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton, Gordon Kemp.

STAFF PRESENT: **In person:** Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Jim Gordon, Joe Levesque, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

CALL TO ORDER: After the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed 1 timber cut intent (M18-L5B). Signed one corrected letter to the Trustee of Trust Funds to withdraw one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the Bridge Capital Reserve fund (supersedes the letter signed last week for the wrong amount). Signed one Vilas Pool reimbursement expenditure (\$100.00).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of June 25, 2023 regular meeting. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.***

OLD BUSINESS: **Washout glass deposits** – Mr. Saxton reported that the resident affected by extensive waste glass deposits after the flooding has made a pile of the offending glass and gravel at the end of his driveway and requested that the town remove it. While the location of the offending material is in Acworth the Board is clear about Alstead’s responsibility for the glass and directed the Alstead Highway Department to remove it. It will be dumped over the bank at the Transfer Station on the left side. The Board thanked Mr. Landry for going the extra mile to help Alstead clean up its mess and urges him to submit a bill to the Town. **Panning for gold** – In response to an inquiry about panning for gold, Mr. Saxton reported that panning for gold by hand is allowed without a permit, machine-assisted panning is regulated by the state and requires a permit. **Flood update** – The Road Agent reported that North Road was opened as two lanes last week. This week they are working on Thayer Brook to start on one of the major corner washouts; Acworth is planning to open Thayer Brook in the next two weeks. Much-needed North Road work required no permitting – added an additional culvert on top of the existing culvert in hopes that it will handle overflow. Seeking pricing on larger culverts hoping to upsize some of the recurring problem areas. FEMA reimbursement for 2021 (about four hundred ten thousand dollars) is at the last stage of approval. They expect to get some wage money back in addition to the repair reimbursements. FEMA rep says Alstead is the only one of ten towns he works with that has kept up its certified culvert maintainer (CCM) status current, which has allowed them to do some of their repair work without a permit. Mr. Trafton has begun looking at the cost of permitting for the washed-out culvert on Thayer Brook; if we use a temporary bridge no permit is needed. He is contacting Mr. Tarmey to determine whether he wishes to be paid for flood repair work he has done. **Broadband update** – Mr. Kemp had no report on this topic. **Bridge update** – Mr. McCarty reported that the next monthly bill for the engineering study is due and reminded the group about the informational meeting scheduled for Tuesday August 22 at 6 PM. **Dams** – Mr. McCarty has scheduled an informational meeting to ask questions about the ramifications associated with the reclassification of Warren Dam on Wednesday August 16 at 6 PM. **Sale of town property** – Neither Mr. Kemp nor Mr. Saxton has anything to report on this topic. **Fire Department by-laws** – tabled until 8/8. **Village Station lighting** – Still a work in progress and additional troubleshooting is underway. Mr. Kemp will reach out to Jack Fuller. **Septic tanks** – Last pump was summer 2020. Concluded that if we have trouble at Village Station we will pump everything and reset the five-year timer to 2028; otherwise, we will arrange to pump all tanks in 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: **Highway Department** – Gilsum Mine paving came in under budget at four hundred forty-one thousand dollars; Mr. Trafton would like to have Pike quote on doing some additional shoulder work to remedy steep shoulders, as the town has insufficient supply to complete that work. When asked what is needed to get things in shape for winter, Mr. Trafton answered that he has about thirteen hundred yards of gravel left and he is exploring the options. When asked whether they are removing accumulated tree debris that could further block culverts, Mr. Trafton indicated that they have six months to clear it. The Board asked him to advise them what they can do to help him; he indicated

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that involving our Executive Council rep helped a lot and there was general digression into various methods of getting the state's attention. Finally the Road Agent reported that they have been using equipment pretty hard and so there have been a few minor breakdowns and repairs but nothing major. The Board reiterated their thanks for his and his team's efforts to get things ship shape. **Fire Department** – Chief Kercewich reported 65 calls YTD. Fire Tech & Safety came and tested the SCBA air pacs this week and three failed; one failed permanently. The failed unit might be able to supply parts for other units. The new SCBA units have been ordered but not received. Chief contacted five contractors about painting East Station trim; he has heard back from two so far, quotes pending. The bathroom has been painted and attempts made to clean rust stains out of the toilet. The UTV is now inside the station on the trailer (crowded). The mystery barrel contains sodium orthosilicate, a steel tank protector. He has paperwork for it, continue to attempt to determine how to dispose of it. Doors are painted but it won't last long; flammable liquid storage does not need a cabinet if less than 25 gallons. One emergency lighting unit must be replaced and two units need batteries. The department continues to work on the Board's punch list items and awaits the JLMC safety committee's list and Primex's audit report, both WIP. **Ambulance** – Alstead will be the county's newest paramedic service, pending state approval. The newly purchased used ambulance came home for the hospital's drug security inspection (passed), and people got a chance to look at the graphics work (well received). Chief Moore noticed an oil leak and shifter linkage problem and requested the seller to make repairs. Rescue, Inc. has left Keene so Alstead is now being backed up by Cheshire County for the same price as Rescue, Inc. and Diluzio. Although not yet in service our anticipated medics are in demand. Chief Moore and Darren Perlongo attended a conference about community health care, and they want to know what services the community wants or needs from them. The goal is to avoid acute situations by providing preventive care. The Board extended its congratulations for attaining the new Paramedic Service status. Mr. McCarty asked Chief Moore to bring a description of the program offered in nearby areas to fuel the discussion. **Transfer station** – Mr. Esslinger reported that Shamrock Diesel offered their skid steer on loan as needed for loading bales onto trailers. Practice is needed by the team to handle the machinery safely and he is looking into safety training opportunities. The aluminum bales loaded recently brought in over four thousand dollars. There was additional discussion about the machinery options, safety, and creation of a policy that limits loading of trailers with mechanized equipment to times when the public is not present. The Highway Department and Transfer Station will continue to consult about these issues to keep exposures to a minimum. Mr. Kemp stated his opinion that the Transfer Station needs a full-time manager; Mr. McCarty urged Mr. Kemp to investigate what the budget allows and report back. **School Board** – Mr. Levesque reported that the Board is on vacation but he is looking into grant money that is available for developing a Complete Streets policy, so that the town can leverage additional state funding to implement some of the sidewalk plans that the town has long envisioned. He seeks to review policies implemented in other towns. **Additional grant projects** – Mr. Levesque continues to investigate a source of funding for a fourth bay at East Station but has been unable to find a funding source for police armor.

BOARD REPORTS: Funding ambulance needs – Mr. Kemp raised the idea of a revolving fund as a means of accessing ambulance income to address increased expenses associated with the additional demand on ambulance resources that goes along with being a paramedic service. He will bring the results of his research to a future meeting. **Gravel needed at Transfer Station** – Mr. Kemp noted that the Transfer Station is seeking a load of gravel, which is in short supply, and wondered whether tailings remnants leftover from the Gilsum Mine paving project could be spread on high traffic areas for dust control. Mr. Trafton responded that a new load of gravel would be delivered soon and arrangements can be made to address the problem. **Final Moose Grant payment** – Mr. Kemp reported that the state has accepted the final report of the pavilion work completed at Vilas Pool in order to release the second half of those grant funds; arrangements are being made with the Treasurer to satisfy the State's need for proof of payment. **IRS letter of tax-exempt status** – Mr. Kemp contacted the IRS to secure proof that the town is a tax-exempt entity that the Emergency Management Director needs to apply for a grant. **Accident reporting policy update** – Mr. Kemp noted that he could not recall who asked whether the Board passed the updated accident reporting policy proposed recently but the answer is yes, it was adopted. **AED locations** – Mr. Kemp is working to follow up on identifying the locations in town where AEDs are or will be installed. Chiefs Moore and Kercewich noted that some upcoming events are planned for the Fire Department and it would be good to have those locations nailed down in time for those events. **Building permit**

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updates – Mr. Saxton reported that the Building Permit form is in the process of being updated to include explanatory notes.

NEW BUSINESS: Beaver dams – There was extended discussion of a substantial beaver dam that was washed out during the floods and whether anything can be done to discourage the animals from rebuilding that dam.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Esslinger noted that he would have his observatory open for night viewing. Ms. Willis noted that all the book drop boxes at the Transfer Station are full and need pickup; Mr. Esslinger will look into requesting that the books get picked up. A resident enquired what happens at the Five-Town Select Board meetings and Mr. McCarty explained that the Boards deal with matters that affect all five towns in the school district, giving the recent bulk fuel purchase as an example.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, August 8th 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
FM School Board meeting:	Monday, August 14th 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
FM Budget Committee meeting:	Wednesday, August 16th 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
Informational Warren Dam meeting:	Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
Informational Bridge Projects meeting:	Tuesday, August 22nd 2023 @ 6 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 @ 4 PM, Acworth.

On a motion made by Mr. Saston and seconded by Mr. Kemp, ***the public meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator