

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of May 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Penny Gendron, Police Dept Admin; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin. **Google Meet:** None.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed a request to use the Town Hall on May 21 for FCC testing. Signed a Purchase Order for Culverts for the Highway Department. Signed a current use application denial letter for Mountain Parks. Signed Payroll, Payables, and Liabilities manifests for the 5/6 payroll. Signed a permission request for Cook Hill Farmstand to use the Bragg Lane pavilion from 8-1 on Saturday mornings during the growing season beginning 5/7.

GUESTS: Joe Ruggiero of Ruggiero Trash Removal was scheduled but did not appear.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of April 26, 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.***

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Mary read Steve Reynolds' report to the group. Summary:

- The next round of FCC licensing testing for the ham radio operators is scheduled for Saturday the 21st at the Town Hall. George Moore will ensure the hall is secure upon the completion of the testing. George has advised access through the fire station makes obtaining a key unnecessary.
- Also I am requesting the hall for the evening of Thursday the 26th at 5 PM, for the purposes of having an Office of Emergency Management (OEM) meeting. It's been a few months since we last had one and it would be a good time for all of us to update on some projects we have going as well as begin to brainstorm on any Mitigation Plan updates folks may have started to think about. Joel will attend this meeting.

We are looking to start the meeting at 5pm and no more than 90 minutes. We can access through the fire station.

Do we need to post these meetings as OEM is a town office? If anyone of the Board would like to attend, we welcome that.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Mary read a brief report from Prescott. Summary:

- **Lake Warren:** Wayne Ives of NH Dept of Environmental Services has postponed the sonar survey of Lake Warren from May 4 to May 19th due to inclement weather. He would also like to meet with a select board member on that day; Joe plans to attend.
- **Vilas Pool:** The pool is currently being drained and we should know in a few days whether we will be able to see the gate. Prescott will reach out to Brett Russell to have the trees removed that are within the immediate proximity to the dam, per the NH DES Letter of Deficiency.
- **Transfer Station:** Prescott has a meeting Wednesday May 4 at 10 AM with Ben Hoy to share his ideas about moving the railroad car, maximizing building space, cost savings to the town, and reducing unforeseen issues down the road. Prescott would like a board member to attend and Joe agreed to attend that meeting.
- **Gilsum Mine Rd:** Prescott talked to Caleb from Pike yesterday and the oil index has gone up another \$40 per ton. They are working to project how much work can be done so that they do not tear up more of the road than they can pave.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Jesse asked whether the Board had determined if ARPA money could be used to cover the cost of the CPR training classes needed for implementing the AED project. Joel answered that he had no response from the

administrator yet. The approximate number is \$800 for Transfer Station and Town Office employees. On a motion from Matt that was seconded by Joel, the Board voted unanimously to schedule the CPR training for the personnel at the Transfer Station and Town Offices. Jesse will schedule the training.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Workload: Steve reported that the PD continues to be busy without their part time officer. **AEDs:** AED units are awaiting assignments. He expressed his appreciation for the 5-6 volunteers who assembled the units last week. **Dirt road speed limits:** Steve asked whether there was any process for setting speed limits on Alstead dirt roads. The board recalled that the limit was set to 25 mph when there was a specific request for a 15 mph limit on a specific road, but they learned they could not set it lower than 25 mph. In response to speed complaints, PD has been collecting data and finds that the 25 mph speed limit is too low based on the commonly traveled speed (the 85th percentile is used to determine the limit to set). To spur public education/conversation, consider a paragraph for the web site or FB page. **Sign trailers:** Grant due 6/3 for the 10% match; suggests we do one sign through the grant with a split, and one sign using ARPA money. We've spent about 38K of our 130K in ARPA money, leaving about 98K. Joe will begin work on the grant proposal and get information from Steve. There was additional discussion about what we can get with the grant; Joe will investigate and bring more information back next week.

Gordon reported that the Broadband Committee is no longer planning to use ARPA money for broadband since there are funds available from other grant sources.

SELECT BOARD: Matt reported that he met with two roofing contractors about an in-kind new roof for the Library. He received one quote so far, from Keith Hanatow at Melanson, for \$1,460,000.00. Another contractor is expected to submit a quote. He reminded the group that the library endowment is less than \$500,000, and \$400,000 of that is principal that cannot be spent. He noted that the price of copper is as volatile as the price of oil right now. Because the Library is on the National Register of Historic Places, there are guidelines that must be followed. Joe is working with Kathy about the letter of intent to apply for the LCHIP grant. Joel wondered if there was somebody besides the vendor to consult with about appropriate materials. There was additional discussion about options and issues.

Joel referenced the request from Chief Paul Bunnell of the Abenaki Nation to relocate the ceremonial fire during their celebration to a location other than the horse ring. The Board agreed that they would like them to use the agreed-upon location within the ring.

Joe wondered about the progress of the Bennett Road legal situation and Mary reported that our attorney has been out ill, but that he is back in the office and is formulating our response to the other party's attorney.

Joe reported that he has been working on grant items and taking courses. He will work on the grant for the signs. He successfully submitted the preliminary reports for the ARPA funding. Joel asked whether he had heard anything from Lisa Murphy at Southwest Regional Planning Commission about the Pine Cliff Road drainage project. Joe reported that the Best Management Practices (BMP) work is going smoothly and the contractor is getting ready to do its work. All of the abutting property owners have been contacted.

Joel reported that he wrote to Ann Hess during this meeting to inform her about the change in dates for the sonar survey meeting with Wayne Ives. There was additional discussion about stream flow studies and weed monitoring associated with Lake Warren and the Cold River. In addition, Joel reports that the owner of the Gilsum Mine Road trailer has stopped returning Joel's calls. He has also met with the Tax Collector and complimented her on her efforts and skills dealing with people about resolving their tax obligations. Joel also reported that he would schedule a ride-around with the Road Agent to view all of the dirt road locations affected by excessive wetness this Spring, with an eye toward obtaining hazard mitigation funds for next year.

VILAS POOL: Gordon reported that work on removal of debris next to the dam gate has begun and will be completed shortly. There was some discussion about previous projects at the site and the history of some of the swimming activities that used to be possible there. Gordon noted that some of the trees could be removed to allow more sunlight into the area, particularly referring to those noted in the DES Letter of Deficiency. Joel noted that the Board is willing to consider whatever the committee recommends. Mary noted that people were asking when the pool is going to open for this year; Gordon said the committee is meeting this week and would get back to us with a date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rich Nalevanko asked if there was any additional progress on the PA-67 for the Senior Housing Project. There was additional discussion about current and past PA-67 forms, loss of institutional memory on both sides due to attrition and other factors, the length of time of the project contract, and its financing.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel – y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:12 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, II(m) - Consideration of whether to review sealed minutes due to change in circumstances.***

During this time, the Board reviewed sealed minutes dated 2/5/18, 2/13/22, 4/9/18, and 6/12/18.

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Upon returning to public session, on a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to keep sealed the four sets of minutes that were reviewed during the non-public session. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 6:18 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)