

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Approved Minutes for Regular Select Board Meeting**  
**October 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** **In person** – Joel McCarty, Chair; Matthew Saxton, Vice Chair; Gordon Kemp, member.

**GUESTS:** 2024 Budget presentations: Director Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management; Chief Jesse Moore, Ambulance.

**STAFF:** **In Person** – Rich Beringer, Fire Department; Junie Esslinger, Transfer Station; Penny Gendron, PD Admin; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet** – Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** **In person** –Glenn Elsesser, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Barbara Viegner, Rudy 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 and summarized the action items on the agenda.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Proof the completed letter to the Spauldings re: trees on Warren Dam site, and sign if approved. Consider Location Agreement for someone that wants to film in Alstead. Sign three sets of public and non-public minutes. Sign one Land Use Change Tax abatement.

There was brief curiosity about the Location Agreement request. Mr. McCarty asked Mr. Nalevanko to read the agreement and make a recommendation later in the meeting.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of October 3, 2023 regular meeting and October 5, 2023 and October 10, 2023 special meetings for non-public sessions. Minutes of four October 3, 5 (2 sessions), and 10, 2023 non-public sessions. No changes were requested. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that was seconded by Mr. McCarty, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted, with Mr. Saxton abstaining from the October 3 minutes due to absence.***

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Washout glass deposits** – Mr. Kemp reported that a public meeting site visit with the glass washout landowners is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 10 AM. Anyone planning to attend should meet at 431 Cobb Hill Road dressed for weather and walking. **Broadband** – Nothing to report. **Flood repair update** – Nothing new to report. **Bridges** – Mr. McCarty reminded those present about the public meeting that is scheduled and posted for Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM to hear the engineering firm present solution options for both the Comstock Road and Hill Road bridges. **Dams** – Mr. McCarty reported no news from the Engineering contractor yet. **Sale of Town Real Estate** – Mr. Kemp reported that the owner of the property abutting the Village Station is considering a donation, and asked if the town can provide a letter stating estimated value. Mr. Kemp has submitted a request for advice to the municipal association and will seek advice from Town Counsel as well. There was discussion about the need to test the soil for contamination. **Fire Department bylaws, policies & procedures** – Mr. Kemp reported that work continues and the next meeting is 10/12. They have a list of topics to cover and are ready to prioritize and start work on the details. **Model T disposition** – Nothing new to report; Mr. McCarty will reach out to Mike Kercewich. **Village Station lighting** – Nothing new to report. **Sign trailer maintenance agreement** – Nothing new to report. Mr. Levesque asked again if the new cruiser has a trailer hitch; Ms. Gendron agreed to check for one. **Plastic recycling** – Mr. Kemp reported that storage is needed, a quote is in hand, and they are considering other options. He re-stated last week's passed resolution to landfill all but 1, 2 natural, and 2 colored plastics. There was additional discussion about Monadnock Food Coop collecting all clamshell containers. **Old cruiser** – 2016 Ford Explorer is still parked at Kmiec's. Chief's 2017 cruiser is at Ford of Claremont. **Disposition of 2012 Dodge Repurposing** – Nothing new to report – holding pattern for numbers and a warrant article. Mr. Kemp will follow up on the emissions issue. **East Station progress report** – Ms. Schoppmeyer will contact Westover Chimney services to arrange an inspection and quote. Chief Kercewich reported that he is waiting on Clean Harbor for a quote, to confirm the contents of the barrel, and instructions about how to dispose of the chemical. Director Reynolds suggested checking with the NH Fire Marshal's office.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Transfer Station** – Mr. Esslinger reported that Shaena Hakey volunteered to represent the transfer station on the Joint Loss Management (Safety) Committee, and that the Transfer Station seeks volunteers who can make signs. In addition, the team was inspired by a visit to the Swanzey transfer station. Mr. Esslinger presented quotes for repairing (Perley Lund, \$5500) or replacing (Ruggiero, \$7200) the crumbling 40-yard dumpster (4-6-week lead time). During discussion the possibility of a short-term loaner was raised and Mr. Levesque suggested applying to NH the Beautiful for a grant to cover a portion of the cost. On a motion from Mr. Kemp that Mr. Saxton seconded, **the Board voted unanimously to purchase the 40-yard dumpster from Ruggiero.**

**Ambulance** – Chief Moore presented his 2024 budget request of a \$10,000 increase on the wages line until the revolving fund passes and all else remaining the same. Mr. Kemp noted that because the revolving fund is a warrant article, the first year is tricky and recommended budgeting as if the warrant article will fail. This idea brings the proposed ambulance budget to \$66,473, a sixteen percent increase over 2023. Chief reported 132 calls to date, compared to 167 calls last year at this time (busiest year ever). Mr. Elsesser asked whether the Board has discussed the details of the revolving fund and suggested asking either Marlow or Walpole about theirs; the Board asked Chief to obtain copies of those agreements for them to study.

**Fire Department** – Chief Kercewich reported 81 calls to date and the trucks are inspected except for the brush truck, which has an inspection appointment on 10/12.

**Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds presented his 2024 budget request. He noted that Dispatch costs will increase a minimum of five percent (from \$27,037 to \$28,289) and wages will increase from \$2,000 to \$5200 to compensate for the increased amount of time spent on Safety Committee concerns. The director then asked how fire department incident reports go to the state, and indicated that in 2022 the state has a record of calls only for January, February, November, and December, but that 2023 is up to date. Chief Kercewich indicated that every call that causes an entry in the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) is reported to the state. After discussion that suggested that it is better to be in synch with the state, Mr. McCarty made a motion that Mr. Kemp seconded and **the Board voted unanimously to request that the Fire Chief copy the Office Administrator on the monthly report to the state by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month.** Director Reynolds then reported that the Town Offices completed several items on their inspection list and that crash bars have been ordered for the upstairs and downstairs conference room doors. The Director cited a Department of Labor (DOL) requirement that anyone who shows up at the Fire Station to do routine maintenance must be paid for their time because routine maintenance is part of their job. An energetic discussion followed about whether there are conditions under which people can choose to donate their time; the Director will follow up with the DOL to clarify. Director Reynolds asked about the status of the exhaust system at East Station. Chief Kercewich will follow up. The director has more questions about the department's response to the Primex audit report but decided to hold the rest for a future meeting in the interest of time.

**Planning Commission** – Mr. Levesque asked what the Board thinks about a Capital Reserve Fund intended to make funds available to the Board following an emergency. He noted that Peterborough has one; Mr. McCarty asked for a copy of that town's plan and deferred the discussion to a future meeting. Mr. Nalevanko suggested that another thing to consider might be a catastrophic loss policy.

**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** – Mr. Elsesser asked for ambulance replacement information for the Capital Improvement Plan; the projection is 5 years, at a cost of \$350,000 for a new vehicle. Mr. Elsesser then asked if the generators will be going on the CIP as previously discussed; the Road Agent and Director Reynolds will follow up with Jack Fuller. Mr. Elsesser asked about the replacement of the grader via the Clean Fleets grant program; Mr. Levesque reported that the grant is mostly written and offers an .80/1.00 reimbursement for a diesel grader.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ms. Schoppmeyer asked how to handle the situation where the federal observance of a paid holiday falls on a day that an employee doesn't customarily work. (This will happen this year on the Veteran's Day holiday.) The handbook is not clear on the subject. The options seem to be having the Board designate an appropriate day of observance, or to allow employees to take a floating holiday on a day of their choice. **The Board agreed by consensus to offer the floating holiday and instructed the Office Administrator to update the policy document accordingly.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Nalevanko reviewed the location agreement and did not recommend signing it. The Board thanked him for taking the time to review the agreement.

There being no further public business, on a motion from Mr. McCarty that was seconded by Mr. Kemp, **Mr. McCarty recessed the public meeting at 7:30 PM to allow the room to clear for one non-public sessions.**

On a motion from Mr. Kemp that Mr. Saxton seconded, the Board voted by roll call (McCarty – Y, Saxton -- Y, Kemp – Y) to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: II (b) at 7:36 PM. The Board reviewed and approved the minutes

from the session before returning to public session.

On a motion from Mr. Saxton that Mr. Kemp seconded, ***the Board voted to return to public session at 7:40 PM.***

There being no further public or non-public business, on a motion from Mr. Saxton that Mr. Kemp seconded, Mr. McCarty adjourned the public meeting at 7:41 PM.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next regular Select Board meeting:</b>	Tuesday, October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>Halloween week Select Board meeting:</b>	Wednesday, November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>FM School Board meeting:</b>	Monday, November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>FM Budget Committee meeting:</b>	Wednesday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>MOBIL Bridge solutions meeting</b>	Tuesday, October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	Wednesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 4 PM, Acworth.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator