

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Approved Minutes for Select Board Meeting**  
**November 7, 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: Moderator & Library budgets

**STAFF: In Person** – Susan Norlander, Moderator; Carol Reller, Library Trustee; Steve Reynolds, Emergency Management Director; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Steve Murrell, Police Chief (left early).  
**Google Meet** – Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person** – Jim Gordon, Joe Levesque, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barbara Viegner, Judith Willis, one other. **Google Meet** – None.

**CALL TO ORDER:** After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM and yielded the floor to Moderator Susan Norlander.

**Moderator's budget** – The Moderator's 2024 budget request is \$18,912.30. The main reason for the increase over 2023 is the number of elections (five in 2024, compared to one in 2023). Asked if there is news about the Primary, the Moderator indicated that there is no news yet. There was discussion about the possibility of a special town meeting about 2023 expenditures and the Moderator noted that there is still a need for a Republican Inspector of Elections this year. The Local party recommends a candidate to the State party and the State party notifies the town. More information is available on the New Hampshire Secretary of State web site. Mr. Levesque asked if the Moderator and Library FICA numbers are included in the Personnel Administration FICA total; an answer was not available and the Office Administrator will investigate. There was additional discussion about voting machines; the Moderator noted that voting machines are NEVER connected to the Internet. It was noted that the Moderator's budget is a portion of the total Elections budget that includes the Moderator's budget and the Supervisor of the Checklist's budget. **Library budget** – Trustee Carol Reller thanked the public, the office administrator, and Mr. Kemp for their assistance with developing this year's budget. The Library Appropriation for 2024 is \$47,300 and consists of payroll only. The library expects to pay for health insurance premiums and window painting out of its own funds. In addition, bathroom renovations and upgrades to library technology are planned that will be paid for using grant funds and donations. Mr. McCarty noted that there is a school of thought that says that the town pays for everything except payroll, including utilities, heat, snow removal, cleaning, mowing. He noted further that the library is also the public library for the town of Langdon, which pays approximately \$5100 per year for privileges. Ms. Reller noted that the Trustees are pleased with the energy at the library now and some anecdotes were offered by some present comparing now with years past. The Board thanked the Moderator and Ms. Reller for their presentations. Mr. McCarty asked whether either presenter had any warrant articles. Ms. Reller indicated that there might be a warrant article forthcoming about the library roof; the Moderator indicated that she expects none.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed the estimate from Foster's Painting for the Historical Society steeple. Signed one blind tax exemption application. Reviewed the Complete Streets proposal for making a plan to build a sidewalk to Vilas School. Signed two sets of non-public minutes for candidate interviews.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from November 1, 2023; Minutes from November 1, 2023 NPS re: hiring. Minutes from November 2, 2023 NPS re: Hiring. Minutes from November 3, 2023 NPS re: Hiring. No changes were requested. On a motion from Mr. Saxton that Mr. Kemp seconded, **the Board voted unanimously to accept** Minutes for Select Board Meeting of November 1, 2023

*all sets of minutes as submitted.*

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Washed-out glass, Bridges, Dams, Model T insurance** – Mr. McCarty reported communication without progress for each of these subjects, with the addition that Ms. Noonan provided information from her own research about devices that can be used to pick up debris. Mr. Saxton will follow up on the Spaulding letter regarding trees that need to be cut at Warren Dam. **Flood repairs** – Mr. Saxton reported that a letter documenting an agreement with the Thayer Brook Road property owner is forthcoming. **Broadband:** A Comcast Franchise Agreement was given to Mr. Nalevanko for study and recommendations. **Steeple** – Mr. McCarty noted that the quote from Fosters Painting for the Historical Society steeple is about ten percent less than the 2023 warrant article (\$40,000); some rot and repair is anticipated so it is hoped the difference will cover it. **Langdon Transfer Station fee** – There are questions about how this number is arrived at yearly. Mr. Kemp did some research in the files and found little supporting information; he suggested arriving at a formula based on population. Mr. McCarty noted that this approach was attempted last year but the number was considered unacceptably high by the Town of Langdon, resulting in a negotiation meeting. The current proposed formula is Expense line items adjusted for revenue plus capital improvement costs divided by population. A tangent discussion developed about storage space and the fact that Langdon’s transfer station space is sitting unused, with the suggestion that perhaps that space could be used to ease Alstead’s storage constraints.

**BOARD REPORTS:** **Beavers** – Mr. Kemp reported continuing progress in his efforts to facilitate a property owner’s efforts at mitigating damage caused by beaver dam collapse. **12A/123 intersection** – Mr. Kemp reported that he contacted an NHDOT assistant engineer to ask about this intersection and plans to set up a meeting.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** **Emergency Management** – Director Reynolds reported that the Village Station safety inspection with Primex took place last week and reports will be provided. He asked whether East Station overhead doors were serviced and safety sensors installed. The Admin noted that a bill was received from Champion Overhead Door but details are not on hand. The Director noted that a Village Station door is damaged and needs servicing. The Transfer Station safety inspection took place over the past weekend and several safety concerns were noted. He noted that there is no running water in winter but there is a summertime workaround for hand washing. **Fire department** – Mr. McCarty reported that Ms. Curtis had developed a spreadsheet inventory of the SCBA bottles. It was noted that similar sheets are needed for the SCBA packs, for fire hoses, and for SCBA harnesses, masks, hoses, and regulators and should include maintenance and testing tracking. The goal is to be able to clearly state what needs to be purchased with reasonable certainty, in order to write warrant articles. Mr. Levesque requested a copy of these completed sheets to aid with the writing of SCBA grants. **Transfer Station** – Mr. Levesque needs more information about Transfer Station from Mr. Esslinger to apply for the New Hampshire the Beautiful grant.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was broad speculation about the usefulness of the Alstead Dump stickers toward contributing to calculating usage.

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 7:01 PM for five minutes to allow the room to clear for one non-public session.***

On a motion from Mr. McCarty 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 7:09 PM. The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the session before returning to public session.

On a motion from Mr. Kemp that Mr. Saxton seconded, the Board voted to return to public session at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Kemp then asked where in the financial reports the dust control expenditures for the 2023 dust control warrant article are shown. The Office Admin will explore and report back.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. McCarty that Mr. Kemp seconded, Mr. McCarty adjourned the public meeting at 7:24 PM.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

<b>Next Select Board meeting:</b>	Tuesday, November 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
<b>FM School Board meeting:</b>	Monday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>FM Budget Committee meeting:</b>	Wednesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
<b>Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:</b>	TBD -- reschedule in progress
<b>Public Mtg re: Unanticipated Funds:</b>	Tuesday, November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator