

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Minutes for Public Hearing and Business Meeting of January 21, 2020 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Alan Dustin, Chairman; Rock Wilson, Mary Ann Wolf

**STAFF PRESENT:** Richard Berringer, Fire Dept. Member; Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator; Penny Gendron, Police Administrative Assistant; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Jodi Kercewich, Transfer Station Supervisor; Kim Kercewich, Fire Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Prescott Trafton, Director of Public Works, Bobbie Wilson, Vilas Pool Committee

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Hansen, Allen Kauders; Gordon Kemp, Joe Levesque, Marjorie Noonan, Susan Norlander, Bob and Jane Quaglin, Carol and Ed Reller, Barbara Viegner, Judi Willis

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Alan Dustin called the meeting to order at 5:58p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** At 5:58 p.m. Alan Dustin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN FORUM:** Alan said that he would read the budget totals and if there were any questions they could be asked:

Executive \$73,652 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Town Clerk \$36,735 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Election \$20,624 – Alan mentioned this amount was increased due to more elections. No questions

Tax Collector \$40,110 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Treasurer \$3,701 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Auditors & Assessors \$50,000 – Up from last year's budget, Gordon Kemp asked why, Alan mentioned it was due to the fifth and final year of the revaluation contract we have.

Legal Fees - \$6,000 – Down from last year, due to FairPoint settlement being resolved.

Personnel Administration \$167,426.75. Charlotte mentioned that the decrease was due a different insurance plan the town chose which provided the town a lower premium and the employee a higher deductible.

Planning & Zoning \$8,002 - Slight increase from last year, Alan mentioned it was due to increase for Secretary

General Government – \$148,206 - Down from last year as putting less in maintenance & repairs. No questions

Cemeteries - \$26,722 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Insurance \$20,261– Allen Kauders asked how this amount went down. Charlotte stated she did not know and that is the number that's provided by Primex.

Regional Associations \$3,818 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Police Department \$183,944 – Up from last year's budget, no questions

Ambulance Department \$37,403 – Up from last year's budget, no questions

Fire Department \$62,562 – Down from last year's budget, no questions

Forest Fire \$8,950 – Slightly down from last year's budget, no questions

Emergency Management \$27,007 – Up from last year's budget, no questions

Communications (Cobb Hill Tower) \$600 – Same as last year's budget, no questions

DPW Administration \$71,300 – Up from last year, Charlotte mentioned that was due to the fact that the Board agreed with Mary Ann Wolf to add a new line item in this category for admin wages instead of having it under part time highway.

DPW Highway & Streets \$397,003 – Up from last year, no questions

Street Lighting \$6,000 - Same as last year, no questions

Sanitation Administration \$38,041 - Up from last year, no questions

Solid Waste/Recycling Disposal \$115,209 - Up from last year, some discussion took place on recycling plastics

Health Agencies \$14,393 - Down from last year, some discussion took place on health officer wages and why it was omitted, Alan said the health officer didn't want the pay.

Welfare \$6,830 - Down from last year, no discussion

DPW Parks & Recreation - \$10,300 - Down from last year, no discussion

Library Wages - \$44,500 – Up from last year

Vilas Pool – \$2.00 – No questions.

Patriotic Purposes \$500 – Judy Willis wanted to know what this was for, Alan told her it was for flags.

Conservation Commission \$1,401 – Same as last year, no questions

Debt Interest \$3,000 – Same as last year, no questions

Bob Quaglin asked the question on whether the budget could be cut back. Alan responded that they have been going over this for quite some time and it is "bare bones". Alan welcomed Bob to attend the Select Board meetings.

Alan reviewed and read the 2019 warrant articles.

Article 3: Paving Article-totaling \$207,000. \$103,500 to come from unassigned fund balance, the additional \$103,500 to be raised by taxation. Some discussion took place on the necessity of this being done this year.

Article 4: Fire Capital Reserve Fund – Add \$40,000 to be raised by taxation

Article 5: Highway Capital Reserve Fund – Add \$65,000 to be raised by taxation

Article 6: Bridge Capital Reserve Fund – Add \$35,000 to come from unassigned fund balance

Article 7: Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund – Add \$5,000 to be raised by taxation

Article 8: Shedd-Porter Memorial Library Capital Reserve Fund - \$5,000 to be raised by taxation

Article 9: Fence for Pine Grove Cemetery - \$6,375 to be raised by taxation

Article 10: Town Hall Renovations - \$72,600 to come from unassigned fund balance

Article 11: OHRV Firefighting Rescue Vehicle Package - To enter a 5-year lease agreement with option to purchase not to exceed \$25,000. \$5,000 for the first-year payment and withdraw the funds from the Fire Dept. Capital Reserve Fund. Some discussion took place.

Article 12: Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Vilas Pool - Discussion took place on why it wasn't being funded, Bobbie Wilson mentioned that they are not asking for funding this year, they just want to establish it.

Article 13: Purchase an Ambulance Defibrillator and Heart Monitor - Discussion took place on what the item was exactly. Jesse Moore explained that it is also a heart monitor not just a defibrillator. It was mentioned to clarify this in the article that a heart monitor is part of this purchase.

The Public Hearing was concluded at 7:00 and Alan announced that anyone wishing to leave may do so and that they were going to conduct the business meeting for anyone that wanted to stay.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of January 14, 2020: On a motion by Rock Wilson, seconded by Mary Ann Wolf; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.***

**ACTION ITEMS:** Bill manifest signed

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS):** On a motion by Alan Dustin, seconded by Rock Wilson; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 7:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Select Board members present were: Alan Dustin, Rock Wilson, Mary Ann Wolf. Also present was Office Administrator, Charlotte Comeau and Prescott Trafton, Road Agent

Discussion took place on shoveling library steps and how it is being done currently. Mary Ann provided a picture that was taken. Prescott explained to the Board that his main goal is roads being plowed first. He stated that perhaps there should be a policy. That other towns have a policy in place that sidewalks get done after the roads and that it is usually the day after. This was a Sunday that the picture was taken and before the job was complete. The employee had left to get sand and had planned to come back.

On a motion by Mary Ann Wolf, seconded by Rock Wilson; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvene public meeting at 7:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion took place on the town truck that backed into another town truck. Prescott is still getting quotes to determine if a claim should be filed or not.

**INFORMATIONAL:** Deliberative Session February 1, 10:00 a.m. at Vilas Middle School Gymnasium

On a motion by Rock Wilson, seconded by Alan Dustin; ***The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

**The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00 p.m.**