

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Meeting of January 7, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joel McCarty, Chair, Gordon Kemp, and Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT:

Name	Position	In Person	Google Meet
Misty Gratacos	Town Office Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shelley Steuwe	Recording Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Murrell	Police Chief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescott Trafton	Road Agent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Kercewich	Fire Chief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wendy Underwood	Police Corporal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bobbie Wilson	Supervisors of the Checklist/Vilas Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Barbara Viegner, Joe Levesque, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis, and Rich Nalevanko; **Google Meets:**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:02 PM and then proceeded with leading the agenda-based discussion.

GUESTS:

ACTION ITEMS: Review and sign Payroll Manifest (\$35,059.04); review and sign Bills Manifest (\$24,288.83); review and sign Tax Liability manifest (\$6,673.73); review and sign Vilas Pool invoice; review email from SWRPC

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 1/3 meeting minutes were reviewed, amended and approved as amended by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Washed-out glass** – No updates.
- B. **Thayer Brook bypass** – No updates.
- C. **Bridge projects** – No updates.
- D. **Dams** – Mr. McCarty reports that the Dubois and King report for Warren Dam has been received, but he is still awaiting the report for Vilas Pool. Once that has been received, Mr. McCarty would like to schedule a Public Hearing, hosted by Dubois and King, to discuss their findings and recommendations.
- E. **Status of property at M11 L2 (abuts Town Hall)** – No updates.
- F. **Model T MOU** – No updates.
- G. **Fire Dept Policies** – No updates.
- H. **Pine Cliff Rd info/updates** – No updates.
- I. **210 Gilsum Mine Road land merger talks** – No updates.
- J. **Complete Streets Information** – Mr. McCarty reports that Southwest Regional Planning Committee will be sending an engineer here for a site visit on Thursday, January 9 at 10:00 am.
- K. **Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – No updates.

Highway – Mr. Trafton reports that they have received the tire changer, but are still waiting for the balancer.

Police Department – Chief Murrell brings up the recent Keene Sentinel article about regional call volumes taken by the State Police. Accompanying the article is a bar graph that displays the number of calls taken by the State Police per town, with Alstead showing 201 calls. He provides important clarification about this data. It represents all calls that come into the State Police, including ambulance calls, and calls redirected to Alstead's Police Department during times we're on duty. It also includes all motor vehicle stops by State Police in Alstead. As a result, the numbers are inflated.

Town Office Administrator – Mrs. Gratacos reports that the System for Awards Management (SAM) renewal is in process. She also reports that tax forms were received today and will be sent out soon. The deadline for property taxes is 1/20/25.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp – He has been talking with a Wilmington Trust representative about the Vilas Trust being significantly lower for 2024. He has another call scheduled with her on 1/9 and asks the

Board if it's ok to discuss changing the payment schedule to move payments earlier in the year (versus January). There is no opposition from Mr. McCarty or Mr. Saxton. Mr. McCarty is also interested in whether the checks received are for the prior Fiscal Year. If so, he suggests having them changed to the same Fiscal Year instead.

Mr. Kemp has also requested to discuss suggestions for the yearly Selectman's report dedication in non-public session after tonight's meeting, and would like to suggest including the ice skating rink in the report.

Mr. McCarty – The 1/16 Public Hearing regarding Walpole withdrawing from the Fall Mountain Regional School District has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. McCarty is working on rescheduling that and hopes to have it before the Deliberative Session.

Mr. McCarty reviews the following important upcoming dates:

- 1/14 at 5:00 pm; Town Hall:
 - Last day to file a warrant article by petition
 - Public Hearing to discuss a private donation from a resident
 - Selectboard meeting
- 1/21 at 5:00 pm; Town Hall – Town Budget Hearing
- 1/22-1/31 at 5:00 pm – Filing period for Town Offices
- 2/1 at 10:00 am; Town Hall – Deliberative Session:
 - FYI – Absentee ballots can be requested from Town Clerk anytime during Town Clerk business hours.
- 3/10 at 5:00 pm – deadline for residents to deliver their absentee ballot to the Town Clerk
- 3/11 8:00 am - 7:00 pm:
 - Polls open at the Town Hall
 - Deadline for Town Clerk to receive absentee ballots via mail or “delivery agents”

He is also putting together a postcard to be sent to residents with these dates.

Mr. Saxton – He completed the cost per warrant article and sent that to Mr. Kemp. Mr. Kemp updated the warrant article draft to include these figures.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Mr. Nalevanko asks how residents have responded so far to termination of plastics recycling. There was a small group of upset residents and one resident who exhibited particularly aggressive behavior toward Transfer Center staff. As a result, Mr. Kemp spent the day at the Transfer Station on Saturday to allow residents an opportunity to stop and discuss their questions and concerns with him. Mr. McCarty was also at the Transfer Station for a portion of the day. Corporal Underwood was also there to provide support to Mr. Kemp, Mr. McCarty, and the Transfer Center staff. Only one person stopped to discuss it with Mr. Kemp. Mr. Nalevanko also asked about the Town's ability to ban residents from going to Town property due to their behavior. Chief Murrell confirms that the Town can “no trespass” a resident from Town property if a resident is particularly aggressive or threatening.

This can temporarily be done without Selectman approval via emergency order of the police, if necessary, but ultimately it must be voted on by the Selectman (even the emergency orders). Chief Murrell and the Selectman note that this is not something they take lightly, but it is something they're prepared to do and can be done on a temporary or permanent basis.

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION/S: RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Matt – y) to enter non-public at 5:41 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation.***

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. McCarty ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 5:53 PM. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Kemp ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 5:53 PM.***

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, January 7 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Selectboard Meeting and Public Hearing re: Accepting a donation from a resident	Tuesday, January 14 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Public Hearing re: Walpole withdrawal from FMRSD	Thursday, January 16 @ 5:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street. New date to be announced.
Next FMRSD School Board meeting:	Monday, January 13, 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (2nd Monday)
FMRSD Public Hearing	Wednesday, January 15, 2025 @ 5:30 PM, High School
FMRSD Deliberative Session	Wednesday, February 5, 2025 @ 6:30 PM, High School
2025 Alstead Town Budget Hearing	Tuesday, January 21, 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main Street

2025 Alstead Town Deliberative Session	Saturday, February 1, 2025 @ 10:00 AM , Town Hall, 9 Main Street
2025 Alstead Town Voting Day	Tuesday, March 11, 2025, @ time TBD, Town Hall, 9 Main Street

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Steuwe

Recording Secretary