

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Meeting of February 25, 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"/>
Jesse Moore	Director of Sanitation, EMS & Grounds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Reynolds	Dir Emergency Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Joe Levesque, Judith Willis, Susan Esslinger; **Google Meets:** Kenyon Nesbitt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McCarty called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM and then proceeded with leading the agenda-based discussion.

GUESTS: Susan Esslinger

Ms. Esslinger is taking over daily operations at Friendly Meals. They are trying to get licensed by the State for the purpose of accepting food from the NH Food Bank. Part of this process involves installing a “mop sink”. Since the building is owned by the Town, she is here to ask the Board permission to do this. She has already contacted Matt Beam to inquire about installation, and has asked if it can be done “pro bono”. Friendly Meals will purchase the sink itself. The Board unanimously approves this request.

She also asks if the security camera system can be removed. Mr. McCarty asks her to connect with Chief Murrell about this. Mr. Kemp recommends leaving the camera outside in place.

She also notes that they have hired an Executive Director, Evelyn Beliveau, and that they're working on putting together a volunteer group to paint the exterior of the building. Mr. McCarty asks that when that time comes to let the Board know, as they may be required to have the volunteers sign waivers for insurance purposes.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 2/18 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** – No updates
- E. **Status of property at M11 L2 (abuts Town Hall)** – No updates
- F. **Model T MOU** – Mr. McCarty reports that it is with Chief Kercewich. He will connect with him to get an update.
- 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** – No updates
- K. **Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Emergency Management – Director Reynolds informs the Board that the door leading to the sidewalk at the Town Hall was found ajar during a recent visit. The latch was found to have a malfunction, and has since been fixed.

He asks Mr. Levesque if Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) can help with the Emergency Management Plan update.

Director Reynolds asks the Board if the garage door at the East Station has been repaired. Mr. Kemp says that there was not enough damage to warrant spending money on repairs, and it has been working fine. Director Reynolds asks if it's on a maintenance schedule and Mr. McCarty says that he will ask Chief Kercewich. Director Reynolds asks if there was any damage done to the fire engine involved, and Mr. Kemp says there was minor paint damage. The damage was reported, but not repaired. There is no concern for rust.

Director Reynolds notes that there is a generator being stored at the Village Station and asks who owns it. Mr. McCarty says he will find out.

Director Reynolds asks if there is a plan in place for storage of the 3rd ambulance yet. Mr. Kemp proposes sending the brush truck back to the State, and putting the ambulance in its spot. The Board will take this under consideration, and Mr. McCarty will also connect with Joe Bates to see if there is an option to rent a bay from him.

Town Office Administrator – Mrs. Gratacos reports that the annual Town Report is complete and being printed.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

Director Moore reports that:

- Ambulance – They have received 51 calls this year.
- Parks – No updates.
- Transfer Station – The gate at the Transfer Station was not working properly. Director Moore has asked Springfield Fence to come do some maintenance and look into changing the gate from slide open to swing open.

The waste oil furnace went out, but has been fixed. The Town will not be charged for this since it was due to an error on Arrow Equipment's part.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp – Met with Mr. Levesque to review the ARPA funding commitments, and they found there had been a miscommunication that led to some residual funds still being available to allocate. To do so, they need to find receipts for work or proposals dated between 4/30/24 and 12/31/24. Mr. Kemp and Director Moore are working together to do this and will update the Board with their findings and proposed next steps.

He asks Director Moore to switch the landline phone at the Transfer Center to a Voice over IP phone.

He went to Concord to testify for the bill he wrote about emergency lighting on first responder vehicles.

Mr. McCarty – Will have the Selectman's Report to Mrs. Gratacos by Friday (2/28) morning.

He took part in a multi-agency call this morning regarding the work on 123a by Vilas Pool.

He has asked Justin Falango to put together a recreational infrastructure design for the property at Bragg Lane.

Mr. Saxton – He heard from Dan Ranieri, who had expressed interest in purchasing the property at 52 Mechanic Street back in 2023. He informed him of the current status of the property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

INFORMATIONAL:

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

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Matt – y; Gordon – y) to enter non-public at 6:26 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a).***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 6:34 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 6:34 PM.***

Important Upcoming Events/Meetings

Date/Time	Subject	Location	Notes
March 4 at 5:00 pm	Selectboard Meeting	Town Offices; 15 Mechanic Street	
March 10 at 6:00 pm	FMRSD School Board Meeting	High School	2nd Monday of each month
March 11 8:00 am - 7:00 pm	Town and School Voting Day	Town Hall; 9 Main Street	

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Steuwe

Recording Secretary