

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 19, 2024 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"/>
Penny Gendron	Police Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bobbie Wilson	Supervisors of the Checklist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescott Trafton	Road Agent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara Webb	Conservation Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Jonathan Landry, Barbara Viegener, Marge Noonan, Judith Willis, Joe Levesque; **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:

ACTION ITEMS: Review & sign Bills Manifest (\$322,259.77); Review email from Hans Waldmann, Treasurer; review & sign rate sheets for 2 Library employees; review & sign Solar Exemption; review & sign Application for Reimbursement (DRA)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The 11/12 Public Hearing minutes are not ready for review and approval. They will be reviewed at the 11/26 Selectboard meeting. The 11/13 meeting minutes were recorded by Mr. McCarty and have been reviewed, amended, and approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Washed-out glass** – Mr. McCarty reports that a debris management proposal was received and reviewed by he and Mrs. Gratacos. It was also given to Ms. Viegner and Mr. Landry to review. It still needs to be determined where the debris will be brought. Mr. Saxton asks where the money is coming from for this, and Mr. Kemp suggests a warrant article because he doesn't see how we can spend this money in 2024. Mr. Saxton says we can't overspend the total budget, but can move funds around to make this work. Mr. McCarty asks about Highways, Streets and Bridges. He suggests discussing at another meeting and the rest of the Board concurs. Mr. McCarty approves moving forward with this but acknowledges funding is what is in dispute.
- B. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Mr. Trafton suggests a warrant article for bridge engineering in the amount of approximately \$60,000-\$80,000.
- C. **Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty reports that he reached out to the auditor to ask if the reimbursements will go back into the Capital Reserve, and the auditor confirmed that they will not – they go back into the Fund Balance. Mr. Kemp suggests asking DRA if these funds can be categorized as Anticipated Revenue. Mr. Kemp asks when we're scheduled to start spending money for the Drewsville Bridge project. Mr. McCarty does not have that information at hand, but can get it to him.
- D. **Dams** – No updates.
- E. **Status of property at M11 L2 (abuts Town Hall)** – Mr. Kemp reports that the family court date has been postponed to December.
- F. **Model T MOU** – Mr. McCarty reports that the draft is back with Mr. Kercewich.
- G. **Employee Health Insurance** – No updates.
- H. **Fire Dept Policies** – No updates.
- I. **Pine Cliff Road information/updates** – Mr. McCarty reports that he is meeting with the Lake Warren Preservation Association leadership on 11/22 to brainstorm about grants.
- J. **210 Gilsum Mine Road land merger talks** – No updates.
- K. **Complete Streets Information** – Mr. Levesque reports that he met with Henry Underwood today and let him know we have approval via ARPA funds to spend up to \$5,000. He is also going to provide a copy of the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant to Sara Webb. He will also make sure the rest of the Committee has a chance to review the grant before it is submitted. Mr. Underwood will get the engineering group out here to plan the sidewalk implementation.
- L. **Ambulance Revolving Fund** – No updates.
- M. **Fire Chief Selection Committee** – The Board has changed the leadership on this committee to Mr. Kemp as a non-voting member, and they express their gratitude to Mr. Saxton for his efforts to this point.
- N. **Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Conservation Commission budget review** – They are asking for \$1,000. The budget was reviewed, discussed, and given to Mr. Levesque to be added to the spreadsheet.
- **Moderators/Election Budget review** – They are asking for \$4,840.50. The budget was reviewed, discussed, and given to Mr. Levesque to be added to the spreadsheet.
- **Fire Dept. Budget review** – They are asking for \$61,606. The budget was reviewed, discussed, and given to Mr. Levesque to be added to the spreadsheet. Chief Kercewich also suggested the following warrant articles: Two air packs and three sets of turnout gear.
- **Police Dept budget review** – They are asking for \$246,723. The budget was reviewed, discussed, and given to Mr. Levesque to be added to the spreadsheet.
- **Highway Dept. budget review** – They are asking for \$488,609. The budget was reviewed, discussed, and given to Mr. Levesque to be added to the spreadsheet. Mr. Trafton also suggested the following warrant articles: Replacement grader with a wing (\$450,000); paving on Thayer Brook Road for \$450,000 (not including bridge that is out); bridge engineering for Thayer Brook for \$60,000-\$80,000; and a new tire and balancer changer (would like to use Block Grant) for \$20,000.
- **Review bill from Bellows Construction for Steeple repairs** – The Historical Society would like the Town to pay for this. Mr. Kemp asks where the approval for this work came from. Mr. Saxton says the Historical Society solicited and approved the work. The Board unanimously agrees to pay the bill.
- **Review Fire Dept Officers** – Discussed in non-public.

OTHER ITEMS: Personnel Policy manual review – the Board reviewed

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department – Chief Kercewich reports that they are up to 84 calls to date. The past couple of weeks have been busy with brush fires. One such fire was at the fault of the homeowner and they'd like to send a bill to them. Mrs. Gratacos will work with him to get this taken care of. A list of officers was sent to the Board as selected by the Fire Department. Mr. Kemp says this is not how it should work, however Mr. Saxton says this is how it's worked for years. This will be discussed further at a non-public.

Highway – Mr. Trafton provides a Purchase Order for a Tire Balance and Tire Change Machine. This will save us money in the long run and make us more efficient. We currently need to send tires out to be mounted and balanced. Our bigger trucks are taking 315 tires, and when they tried to do one by hand it blew a cord out that cost \$500; it is also labor intensive. Looking for special highway block grant and did not spend all the money, and could use the remainder of the grant for this purchase order. Mr. McCarty proposes that the PO be signed conditionally based on available funds in this grant.

They just spent \$1200 on a new muffler for the Sterling. They got their mezzanine in for the salt shed, and have increased capacity for storage quite a bit (and have a goal to park the grader

there for the winter). Bazin brothers is coming in to do shoulder work on Drewsville and Homestead Roads (money was raised and appropriated for this). Mr. Kemp asks for an update on Refuse 1. Mr. Trafton said he needs to get a quote from Josh at Shamrock Diesel.

Police Department – Chief Murrell reports that they have received 964 calls to date. Reminder: The tree lighting is scheduled for 12/6 at 6:00pm (Mrs. Gratacos will add this to the Town website). He brings up the Wage Study for the Land Use Clerk/Planning and Zoning Admin, and reminds the Board that they need to facilitate acquiring this information.

Town Office Administrator – Mrs. Gratacos requests modified hours for the first week of December. She requests to work 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, instead of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. On Tuesday she requests to leave at 2:30 pm and return at 4:00 pm. The Board approves of this temporary change in hours unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp – Attended a meeting hosted by NHDOT on 11/18: Town may need to provide paperwork to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (NHDOT will assist the Town with this). There was extensive discussion about easements and right-of-way for the retaining wall. They are going to have another meeting after the holidays to discuss scheduling, construction, wants/needs, as these were not discussed at the 11/18 meeting. Charlie Johnston from Dubois & King was also in attendance. There was some talk about combining our project and the FEMA project, for the purpose of permitting, but Mr. Kemp informed the group that that probably wouldn't work because our project won't start until after the FEMA project is close to finished. Mr. Trafton asks if the issue of increased traffic (particularly with commercial traffic) on roads like Cobb Hill due to restricted access to Langdon from construction was discussed. Mr. Kemp suggests that if it becomes an issue, they can post a weight limit on the affected roads.

Mr. McCarty – Suggests that the Board meet on Thursday at 10:00 am to see if they can discover an honorable way to launch the Glass Recovery Project in 2024, complete the MS535 report, perform a legal review on the Fair Labor Standards Act (non-public), and the Ambulance Revolving Fund. Chief Kercewich will remain Fire Warden after his retirement from Chief, and will have administering power over the Forestry Budget.

Mr. Saxton – The Fire Chief Committee is still at three. He has called Mutual Aid twice, but has not heard back. He has considered moving forward with just three Committee members, but one is not interested in participating unless there is a Mutual Aid member as well. He called Bascoms about the truck drivers going up Pleasant Street before realizing they cannot continue and need to back down into the Village. He got a driveway permit as Zoning Officer, had questions about that, which Mr. Trafton was able to answer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Ms. Willis asks how many budgets are left to present. Mrs. Gratacos says there is Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Executive Office, Library, General Government, and Parks, Ambulance, and Transfer Station.

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION/S: RSA 91-A:3, II (a) - dismissal, promotion, or compensation

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joel – y; Gordon– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public at 6:52 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) dismissal, promotion, or compensation.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 7:05 PM. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 7:23 PM.***

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, November 26, 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Next FM School Board meeting:	Monday, December 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (2nd Monday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Steuwe

Recording Secretary