

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Select Board**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of March 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Mary Ann Wolf, Joe Levesque; Joel McCarty.

**STAFF PRESENT: In person:** Charlotte Comeau, Office Admin (outgoing); Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin (incoming). **Google Meet:** Bobbie Wilson, Ambulance Lieutenant.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person:** Glenn Elsesser, Jean Kelly, Gordon and Hollie Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegner, Judith Willis.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Ann called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Charlotte Comeau and Mary Ann Wolf were each presented with tokens of appreciation for their service to the town. Mary Ann celebrated the completion of her term on the Select Board by providing pizza and ginger ale for all in attendance.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Signed payroll, liability, and bill manifests. Signed five approved Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) applications and their corresponding tax warrants.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of March 1, 2022 meeting – these are long and the board wanted extra time to review them; voting was deferred. Minutes of March 1 2022 NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a); Minutes of March 1, 2022 NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e) - On a motion made by Joe and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve both sets of NPS minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mary Ann opened the floor for reports from other board members and department heads.

**ADMIN:** Re: furnace maintenance – Mary asked Steve Martin to visit the Transfer Station waste-oil furnace to see if he can maintain it. He did visit on Saturday; we have not heard back about whether he can service the unit. Mary or Charlotte will contact.

**CHAIR:** Mary Ann reported that a Baine Rd. resident called just before the meeting and Mary Ann referred them to Joe. Joe provided background that a resident who purchased property on Baine Rd wants to turn Baine Rd into a Class V road up to his driveway and we're talking about extending it just beyond to give better access to trails and Wellman Pond and to give school buses and town trucks room to turn around. Glenn Elsesser observed that we can't afford to fix the roads we have, is it wise to add more for us to maintain? Marge Noonan reminded us that bringing that road up to Class V commits us to maintaining it. Joe cautioned that we are agreeing only to investigate the cost of changing the road to Class V up to the driveway and extending the class VI portion 200 feet beyond the driveway.

Mary Ann provided Joe and Joel with a list of things on her to-do list that remain incomplete, including the Millot Green trash can and a Road Bids form (Joe), East Station issues and the antique fire truck needs winterization and storage; this item is for "the new guy." The Library sidewalk project needs a champion.

**MEMBER:** Joel reported that there was some confusion at the Transfer Station about the rules regarding campaigning. Nothing prohibits campaigning at the Transfer Station, and staff is allowed to indicate where people can stand to do that and to ask them not to block operations. Joel promised to be more proactive when the next election process commences. There was additional discussion about election campaigning at the state and local levels.

**HIGHWAY DEPT:** Glenn Elsesser reported back on the used sweeper broom up for bid at the town of New Hampton and reports that it would be a good deal if we can get it for about \$3500. For context, a new one costs about \$11k. New brushes will cost \$7-8K.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The next Select Board meeting is Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM at the Town Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Matt Saxton asked what subsection of RSA 91:A we are using to justify a non-public session for discussing the Solar AED topic. Joel apologized for the NPS description mis-print on the Agenda. The topic is not about the solar AED cabinets but about the solar array project. We have a contract that needs reviewing and the thought was that a contract negotiation would fall under RSA 91-A:3, II(d). There are no numbers in the contract and we are not negotiating or executing it, just reviewing the language, so Joel suggests that we send it to the attorney for review instead. Rich Nalevanko asked whether non-public session discussions can be combined. The answer is no - they are RSA-specific and must be very focused discussions, so when you have multiple unrelated topics to discuss you must have multiple non-public sessions.

Joel announced that he has a meeting with the Treasurer and the Trustee of Trust Funds scheduled for Thursday 3/10 at 10 AM, to get smarter about four funds, including the Vilas Pool fund. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome. This is not a formal select board meeting since only one board member is attending.

Charlotte reminded us that Joe will meet with the Bennett Hill Rd. property owners, their attorney, and the town attorney at the property.

Gordon asked about the solar AED project vs solar array project and Joel reiterated that the Agenda item was for reviewing the contract for the solar array project.

Rich Nalevanko asked for follow-up on two items he raised at a previous meeting. The first was an answer about whether the Health and Wellness Committee was subject to the same notification requirements as other formal town committee meetings if it is not a standing committee of the town. The second is a request for a contact from DHHS about masking.

Mary Ann thanked the regular attendees for all their participation in town matters during her tenure on the board.

Glenn Elsesser asked for an update on the Walpole Valley Road property. Joel reported that a letter was sent to the property owner requesting that they apply for the appropriate driveway and building permits. After that, we received more information from the planning board about the history of the development activities on that property. The board awaits their response to the letter.

Glenn also asked where the town plans to locate the solar array and how the project would be funded. Joel responded that the public will get full information before any action is taken.

The discussion segued into discussion about how the Senior Housing project was funded, because the current thought is to fund the solar array the same way. Joel reminded us that the Senior Housing project was funded by selling tax credits via the New Hampshire Bond Bank. The discussion that ensued revealed discomfort about various aspects of the senior housing project, extending beyond funding methods to code and other issues. Joel asserted that if there is discomfort there is a need for explanation, and he agreed to get more information.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** The two non-public sessions planned for this meeting were tabled for the March 15 meeting.

***On a motion from Joel seconded by Mary Ann, the board voted to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)