

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Meeting of October 29, 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"/>
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"/>
Rich Beringer	Fire Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Penny Gendron	Police Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescott Trafton	Road Agent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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: Dan Kurz; re: VLAP results

Mr. Kurz comes to the Board to find out what the Town can do to pursue further testing and investigation to identify the source of high chlorophyll and phosphorous levels at the inlet of Spruce River, which has been consistently high (along with Smith Hill Brook and Hale Brook)

over the years. The Board notes that the difficulty lies in the fact that point source locations for pollution in these areas is almost certainly on private property, and property owners are under no obligation to allow them to do additional testing on their property or adhere to mitigation efforts suggested by the Town. Historically, NHDES has taken action on a property with known wetland violations (in 2017), however remediation has not been enforced by them. Mr. McCarty has personally followed up with NHDES about this on a number of occasions and has not made any progress.

Mr. McCarty will reach out to his contacts at NHDES to get their opinions on the most recent VLAP results, in hopes that if they confirm these levels require urgent action he can get some traction with the abovementioned action, along with additional support from NHDES. Mrs. Tusveld asks if it's possible to put forth a warrant article to appropriate funds to complete a project to address pollution contributors (Pine Cliff Road, the abovementioned three inlets). Mr. McCarty says yes, and that he, Mrs. Tusveld, and Mr. Kurz should connect to create one. Director Reynolds also recommends that someone write a letter to Senator Shaheen to try to garner more support from the State. Mr. Kurz will do this and asks Mr. McCarty to provide any helpful background information about what actions the Town has taken, which he will do.

Bob Finney, Chairman of Coop Board - Mr. Finney reports that they are still working with the DEA to get the septic system fixed. They're following up with them regularly, as is NHDES, but it's looking like it won't be completed until next year. They are working with Scott Williams, of Pathways Consulting, LLC.

He is here tonight to ask the Board for permission to allow a resident to place a travel trailer with a pad on a lot that is too small to put anything on. The trailer is set up to hook up to plumbing and electricity. The Board says Mr. Finney needs to bring this up to the Zoning Board for approval, which meets again on 11/4 at 7:00 pm. He will do so.

ACTION ITEMS: Review & sign Payroll Manifest (\$28,807.53); review & sign Bills Manifest (\$84,349.41); review & sign Tax Liability manifest (\$5,808.79); review emails from the following Vasilios (Bill) Gegas, NH Dept of Natural & Cultural Resources; NH Dept of Environmental Services re: Lake Warren; Julie Avenant, NH DOT; review poster from Sarah Webb, Alstead Conservation Commission (read aloud)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 10/22 meeting minutes were reviewed, amended and approved as amended by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Washed-out glass** – Mr. Trafton will connect with Mr. Beringer about the possibility of moving the debris to his property.
- B. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Mr. Trafton provided plans from Cold River Bridges to the Board for reference, he's also sending it to FEMA so they can move forward with the mitigation plan. Mr. Levesque reports that FEMA finally has the Town's updated Mitigation Plan (it was held up in Concord).

- 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** – No updates.
- G. **Employee Health Insurance** – Mrs. Gratacos provided information to the Board to review from her recent meeting with Health Trust.
- H. **Fire Dept Policies** – Mr. Kemp requests to remove this from Old Business for now.
- I. **Pine Cliff Road information/updates** – No updates.
- J. **210 Gilsum Mine Road land merger talks** – No updates.
- K. **Complete Streets Information** – Mr. Levesque reports that the TAP grant has been submitted, and they are not moving forward with the master grant this year.
- L. **Ambulance Revolving Fund** – Mr. McCarty reports that a meeting took place 10/28 with the Treasurer and Auditor to determine how best to proceed with this. More information to come.
- M. **Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS: There has been an issue with key exchange for those renting the Town Hall. Mrs. Gratacos is going to look into this.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Emergency Management – Director Reynolds reports that he continues his work on procuring emergency supplies. He hopes to have a list of items and associated costs to review with the Board by the end of November. He received an email from Mr. Elsessor for guidance on how much to appropriate for the Backup Generator Capital Reserve Fund. He is waiting to hear from Kevin Hicks regarding a time to do a walk through of the Vilas School to evaluate it for an emergency space.

Fire Department – Mr. Beringer offers to answer any questions the Board has for the Fire Department. The Board has none.

Highway – Mr. McCarty asks if Mr. Trafton spoke with Dwayne Hakey about his water complaint. He has not, but will. Mr. Trafton reports that Comstock Bridge has been rehabilitated. Culvert inventory has arrived, and they added three pipes for filler (in order to make for more efficient transport), which means the invoice will be about \$3,800 more than anticipated. The Board asks Mr. Trafton to provide an updated Purchase Order. When he figured the quote for the fog lines on Gilsum Mine Road, he forgot to double the line number and we will owe more money as a result. Mr. McCarty reports that he received a complaint about “washboard” on Homestead Road.

Police Department – Chief Murrell reports that Corporal Underwood is still taking donations until the end of the month for Blue for Bucks. Her original goal was \$500, and she surpassed that, collecting over \$1,200. At 9:00 am on Thursday morning Alstead Primary is doing their

parade to the Town Offices, Village Store, Library, and Police Department. There have been 918 calls to date. Mr. McCarty thanks Chief Murrell for reaching out to the Moderator to ensure the Election Staff feels the security for Election Day has been adequately addressed. There will be police presence all day close to the Town Hall, but not at the Town Hall unless requested.

School Board – Mr. Levesque reports that NH the Beautiful only deals in containers that are intended for recycling, so the waste container he was hoping to get a grant for won't qualify. ARPA funds can be used for this.

Town Office Administrator – Mrs. Gratacos asks how the \$10,000 from the Historical Society will be received for the Steeple painting. Mr. Saxton reports he asked Mr. Bellows to connect with her about this. She is confirming the following meeting dates/times: Selectboard meeting next week moving to 11/6 due to Election Day. Public Hearing at the Town Hall on 11/12. Selectboard meeting on 11/13 due to the Public Hearing.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

Director Moore reports that:

- Ambulance – 147 calls to date. The internet has been fixed on the Ambulance. Will be providing Hands Only CPR training on Voting Day.
- Parks – No updates.
- Transfer Station – The safety rails are done, but he's not sure if they've been installed yet. He received a quote for the new waste container and it is about \$9,000. The quote to replace the skids on the other container is about \$2,000.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp – According to the MS535, we did not go over budget in 2023. We also brought in more revenue than anticipated in 2023. After reviewing this over the next week, printed copies will be provided to the public next week and the Board will sign off on it. He received a quote for the bridge to be painted at Vilas Pool in the amount of \$200,000, but to appropriate \$250,000 to be safe. They need to repair the strainer on the dry hydrant.

Mr. McCarty – Ms. Webb provided information to Mr. McCarty to notify the public that they can come to learn more about and support the Conservation Commission on 11/6 at 3:00 pm. He thanks Ms. Iozzo for her extra work to get keys to the Town Hall to those who rented it over the weekend.

Mr. Saxton – Foster's Painting forgave a significant portion of the Steeple project in order to meet the amount appropriated by the warrant article. The first meeting of the Hiring Committee for the new Fire Chief is on 11/4. The timeframe for hiring the new Fire Chief is 12/12. Fire Department opinion can be directed to Mr. Saxton to review with the Committee.

Mr. Beringer is concerned that the Fire Department will not have considerable input in the hiring of the new Chief. Mr. Saxton reassures that he feels it's important to get the Fire Department's

opinion and will make sure he does, but that it's ultimately the Committee's decision. The Board agrees that the Committee will decide whether the meetings will be public or not.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Re: Ambulance billing company – Ms. Viegner feels that it's worth working out our differences with Golden Cross versus using the new company we heard from, due to the huge difference in cost. Director Moore says there's still a huge administrative burden associated with Golden Cross that they wouldn't need to do with the new company. She asks what the purpose of the Ambulance Revolving Fund is, and Mr. Kemp and Director Moore confirm that it will allow them to self-fund.

Mr. Nalevanko reports that students from the Fall Mountain High School will be providing literature to the public to help raise funds for the Fall Mountain Scholarship Fund at the polls in Acworth, Charlestown, Langdon, and Alstead.

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION/S: RSA 91-A:3, II (a) – 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 7:21 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) – Compensation***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 8:02 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 8:02 PM.***

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Wednesday, November 6, 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Next FM School Board meeting:	Monday, November 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (2nd Monday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Steuwe

Recording Secretary