

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 18, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Gordon Kemp and Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT:

Name	Position	In Person	Google Meet
Misty Gratacos	Town Administrator	•	•
Shelley Steuwe	Recording Secretary	•	•
Prescott Trafton	Road Agent	•	•
Jesse Moore	Director of Sanitation, EMS & Grounds	•	•
Kim Kercewich	Fire Chief	•	•
Ben Kercewich	Fire Department	•	•
Rich Beringer	Fire Department	•	•

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEMS: Review emails from the following: Justin Folger, regarding Comedy Show; Ann White, regarding mowing; Wayne Ives, regarding Public Hearing; Lori Schmidt, Payment schedule for FMRSD; Mary Ann Wolf, wage study. Review & Sign Vilas Pool invoice/check request; Sign Timber intent to cut; Review & sign abatement request (Tirisi); review & sign Auditors questionnaire.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 6/11 meeting minutes were reviewed, amended and approved as amended by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Washed-out glass** – Mrs. Gratacos emailed the NH DOC, and placed a call to Serve Pro. She is awaiting a response from both.
- 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)** – Mr. Kemp is still waiting to hear from the attorney.
- F. **Model T MOU** – No updates.
- G. **Langdon Library Fees** – Mrs. Gratacos reports that no library fees have been received, and that she has emailed the Langdon Town Administrator to follow up on this.
- H. **Employee Health Insurance** – No updates.
- I. **Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS: Rich Beringer, FD Policies, nepotism

Mr. Beringer reports that the two pending SOGs that were sent to the Fire Department have been reviewed, and a 5 member committee was created to meet twice a month to review existing and create new SOGs. The committee's first meeting was 6/17, so Mr. Beringer asks the Selectboard if they can report back on these policies in early August to give them time to work on this. Mr. Kemp reminds Mr. Beringer that at the 6/11 Selectboard meeting an expectation was set that the Fire Department would provide a progress report tonight and recommendations on 7/2.

The group decided to postpone review of the nepotism policy until 6/25 Selectboard meeting, since Mr. McCarty was not present.

OTHER ITEMS: Transfer Station, Tax Collector/Town Clerk and Admin Office will all be closed on Wednesday, June 19th in observance of the holiday; Public Hearing on June 20th @6:00pm at Alstead Town Hall with NH DES.

GUESTS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Office Administrator –

Fire Department – Chief Kercewich reports that they have received 48 calls to date. There was a committee meeting last night regarding the work in progress on the Fire Department policies and rules, but he was not there and can't provide any additional information.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

- **Parks** – Director Moore reports that everything but the Alstead Center town common has been mowed. He inspected the space and reports that it is not overgrown. There are vehicles and picnic tables in that space, which are difficult to mow around. Mr. Saxton

reviewed an email in which residents requested that the First Congregational Church property, parking area, and around the Porta Potty be mowed and accessible during the month of July, as they hold Sunday services during that time. Director Moore is going to meet with Bruce Bellows to discuss cutting down sumac trees around the Historical Society. Mr. Kemp provided an email received regarding a Parks and Rec comedy show to Director Moore to follow up on.

- Ambulance – No updates.
- Transfer Station – Director Moore reminds the group that the Transfer Station is closed 6/19 for the holiday. He reports his staff went to Concord for their safety training, which went well.

School Board – Mr. Levesque reports that he is working on a Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant for the library. They are looking to use grant funds for an engineering study to see if they can take the current roof off of the library and restore the original roof.

Supervisors of the Checklist – No updates.

Highway – Mr. Trafton reports that they will be replacing culverts on Cobb Hill towards the Acworth line next week. He reports a community concern about decreased visibility looking up Route 12A from the junction with River Street, due to overgrown vegetation. He will look into ways to improve visibility via vegetation management, a street mirror, etc. This morning he noticed that the Vilas Pool entry gate was open and that there was someone there fishing. He assumed they were staff members, but as it turned out Mrs. Wilson reported that the park was not open at that time and the gate had been left unlocked since Sunday. He suggests now to the Board that a policy be created for locking the park and buildings within the park during off-hours. He reports that the Highway Department is closed the week of 7/4. The new town truck is in. He reviewed culvert inventory and provided Mrs. Gratacos with a purchase order for 2025 inventory. Mr. Kemp suggests adding culvert inventory to the ARPA list. Mr. Trafton reports that he and another resident are interested in taking some of the washed-out glass to use as fill on their properties. Mr. Kemp is concerned that history will repeat itself and the glass will end up traveling to another property via natural processes. Mr. Trafton reports that Tina Nash, DPW Admin Assistant, is not comfortable with completing the two-factor authentication for setting up a Town email because she doesn't want it linked to her personal phone. Finally, he reports that the Highway Department will be taking 6/20 off instead of 6/19.

Vilas Pool – No updates.

Police Department – No updates.

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Office – No updates.

Emergency Management – No updates.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Saxton – Reminds the group that the Town Offices will be closed 6/19.

Mr. Kemp – Reviews an email complaint from a resident about the old tower on Cobb Hill affecting their view. He asks who owns the tower, and the group did not reach a consensus, so the first step is to confirm this. Mr. Saxton will also reach out to the landowner where the tower is located to see if they are willing to let it be taken down.

Mr. McCarty – Not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Ms. Viegner asks Mr. Levesque if Fall Mountain has decided what to do with their residual funds. He reports that they have not decided, but will be discussing at the next School Board meeting on 7/9.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Next FM School Board meeting:	Monday, July 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (2nd Monday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

On a motion made by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mr. Saxton ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:08 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Steuwe

Recording Secretary