

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matt Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Adam Vose, Assistant Ambulance Chief; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent. (The Ambulance staff left on a call after the pledge.) **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Glenn Elsesser, Gordon Kemp, Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barbara Viegner, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

GUESTS: The Road Agent spent 30 minutes presenting and explaining his 2023 budget. Overall, the Highway budget is up \$36,655 over last year and the Parks budget is up \$1458 over last year. Most increases are the result of increased fuel or equipment repair costs. There were discussions about employment and capital equipment trends and planning challenges, as well as questions about current inventory of equipment and materials such as sand, gravel, and salt.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed 1 letter of cooperation for the owners of 9 Mechanic Street. Signed 1 Vilas Pool expenditure (\$1500, Dam registration fee) and 1 employee reimbursement request (\$517.97).

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of November 15, 2022: No changes requested. On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty, *the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.*

BOARD REPORTS: Grants: Mr. Levesque reported that he was notified that an application for an LCHIP grant was declined. **Lake Warren:** Mr. McCarty reported that the Lake Association has accepted the Chase Mill Heritage suggestion of a 3-year water release agreement instead of a 1-year agreement. **Stop Logs:** Mr. McCarty is researching use of a better material for stop logs for the Lake Warren dam. **AEDs:** Numbers are starting to come in for installing AEDs in solar cabinets. No details yet, more research required. **Unreserved Fund Balance:** According to the DRA, the Board does not have to have a public meeting to determine whether any of the unreserved fund balance should be used to offset the tax burden; it is the Board's decision. It was apparent that there are differing opinions about this issue. **T.A.N.:** Because the tax rate is not yet set at this late date, the Board is considering a Tax Anticipation Note to help us transition into the new year while we await the arrival of tax payments that might well be delayed into the New Year. The meeting here went off topic briefly with a discussion about the logistics of moving a log cabin from Glens Falls to Newell Pond Road.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Murrell reported that he was told that the new cruiser that was approved by voters is supposed to be built on 12/5. It still needs to be outfitted; ordering of parts for that has begun; anticipated date of availability is end of January. Mr. McCarty noted that the funds appropriated to pay for the cruiser will not lapse on 12/31; the Chief agreed that no, it was a two-year warrant article. The Chief added that plans for the Tree Lighting celebration continue. Anticipation for the event is building and community participation continues to grow. He noted that call volume remains steady and he projects over 800 calls this year. He has not heard from the people who plan to move the trailer from Gilsum Mine Road to Well Hill. He requested that his budget presentation to the Board be rescheduled to 12/6.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Budget cap: Mr. Nalevanko suggested publishing information about the budget cap and the calculations used to arrive at it. The Board agreed that this would be helpful. **Paving:** Ms. Willis asked about the status of the warrant article approved for paving on Gilsum Mine Road. The Road Agent responded that no work was done on Gilsum Mine Road because it wasn't financially feasible to do it and that money flows back into fund balance until such time as a new project can be planned and a new warrant article written for Town Meeting. There was additional discussion about how this will impact other road maintenance projects. **Striping:** Ms. Viegner asked about the striping warrant article and why the warrant article money appears in the budget. The answer was, there was no other more appropriate place to put it. **Town-owned land:** Ms. Viegner asked if the town plans to sell the plot on Bley Road that was surveyed earlier this year; there was additional discussion about town-owned parcels that might be eligible for sale and ways they can be auctioned or sold, and online auctioning/bidding. **Sr. Housing right-to know request:** Mr. Elsesser reiterated his Alstead Sr. Housing question about missing PA-67 forms; Mr. McCarty responded that according to his research, the

legislation requires those forms be re-submitted only in years when there is a significant change in assessment or income, so the forms are not in fact missing. Mr. Nalevanko reiterated his Sr. Housing request for tax records – assessed values and tax payments made. Mr. McCarty reminded them that the information collected remains on the table in the Town Office and they are welcome to continue perusing it. Mr. Elsesser asked if the 10-year taxation cycle can be renewed; the Administrator responded that according to her research the answer is yes, by submitting another PA-65 form the October of the year the current 10-year cycle expires. The PA-65 submission is followed in April by the PA-67 form submission cycle.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. (A public hearing for accepting unanticipated funds is scheduled for 5:00 PM, immediately preceding the regular Select Board meeting.)

On a motion made by Mr. McCarty and seconded by Mr. Saxton, ***the Board Chair adjourned the public meeting at 6:10 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Schoppmeyer".

Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)