

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Select Board

Approved Minutes for Meeting of October 9, 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 Administrator	•	
Shelley Steuwe	Recording Secretary	•	
Wendy Underwood	Police Department Corporal	•	
Jesse Moore	Director of Sanitation, EMS & Grounds	•	
Steve Reynolds	Director Emergency Management	•	

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Mary Lord, Danny Rios, Jonathan Landry, Barbara Viegner, Joe Levesque, Marge Noonan; **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: Danny Rios and Mary Lord

- Mr. Rios is under the impression that matters pertaining to him were to be discussed this evening and felt he should be here to participate in that conversation. Mrs. Lord is Mr. Rios' sister and is here to support him. Mr. McCarty reports that the Board received a "Right to Know" request from an attorney. They printed the requested information and provided it to Mr. Rios. Mr. McCarty also reports that the Town attorney recommends the Board not get involved in property line disputes and to provide the requested information and let the parties handle the dispute in court. Mr. McCarty wants Mr. Rios to know that the Town is happy to help.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 10/1 meeting minutes were reviewed, amended and approved as amended by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Washed-out glass** – Mr. Saxton reports he has not received a quote from Mr. Hubbard yet. Mr. Saxton will reach out to him to follow up on this.
- B. **Thayer Brook bypass** – Mr. McCarty reports that we are waiting on Cold River Bridges for a proposal.
- C. **Bridge projects** – Mr. McCarty reports that the temporary work on the Comstock Road bridge is just about complete and it should be open tomorrow. Mr. Kemp reports that the NHDOT State Bridge Inspector should be back in a couple of weeks, and they hope the bridge will be taken off the red list.

Re: culverts –

Mr. McCarty asks the Board if they should make the decision tonight to commit some ARPA money to culverts. Mr. Kemp noted that according to Mr. Trafton, if we put a bid in now we can still get culverts by the end of the year. There is unanimous agreement from the Board to allocate ARPA funds to culverts as soon as a purchasing order is presented to the Board.

- D. **Dams** – Mr. McCarty reports that he has a phone meeting with Dubois and King on 10/11. Director Reynolds provided the emergency management plans for each of the dams to Mr. McCarty, both of which are in need of an update.
- E. **Status of property at M11 L2 (abuts Town Hall)** – Mr. McCarty reports that they went to the annual SWRPC meeting, and the Brownfields funding still exists. There are funds available. Mr. Kemp reports that the owners are hesitant to proceed since if “something is found”, they are responsible for that. Mr. Levesque reports that there is grant funding available for projects like this, which is why it’s in our best interest to encourage the owners to proceed with assessment for toxic materials. Mr. Kemp notes that he will create an encouraging narrative to help persuade the family to proceed. Mr. Levesque also notes that the EPA will pay for cleanup of any Brownfields sites. Mr. McCarty suggests facilitating a roundtable with funders, the State, attorneys, and the family to see if it would be wise for the Town to acquire the property. Mr. Saxton asks how quickly we would need to clean up the property if we acquired it, and Mr. Kemp says they’d likely have to have a plan in place for cleanup.
- F. **Model T MOU** (submitted for review) – Mr. McCarty reports that he received an updated MOU and will review it with the Town attorney. Mr. Saxton asks why does the Town care if the Firemen’s Association does, or does not insure their firetruck? Director Reynolds says that it’s because it’s being stored on Town property.

- G. **Employee Health Insurance** (rate setting by HealthTrust on 10/8, more info to follow) – Mrs. Gratacos reports that she has not received information yet, but she will follow up on this.
- H. **Fire Dept Policies** – No updates.
- I. **Pine Cliff Road information/updates** – Mr. McCarty reports that he has met twice recently with the Chase family, who have also met with their attorney.
- J. **210 Gilsum Mine Road land merger talks** – No updates.
- K. **Complete Streets Information** – Mr. Levesque reports that he spoke with Jack Ahern and Henry Underwood 10/8, and also sent them the pictures from Walk to School Day. He also sent them to Mrs. Gendron in the Police Department and SWRPC for use in grant applications. Mr. Levesque asks the Board for approval to use SWRPC's engineering firm that they have on retainer, and they'll pay a portion of the costs. Mr. Saxton asks if we can pay for our matching portion with another grant, and Mr. Levesque says yes. Mr. McCarty says the Board is likely in support, depending on the quote and timeline (which Mr. Levesque will obtain).
- L. **Department & Board**

NEW BUSINESS: Steeple painting

Mr. Saxton received an updated quote, which is much more expensive than the original. Mr. McCarty notes that they will discuss this further.

OTHER ITEMS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Emergency Management – Director Reynolds reports that he spoke with our representative from NH Homeland Security in reference to getting numbers for supplies and resources for emergency mitigation. She informed him that another town put in a similar request for supplies through their Emergency Management Director, and she will provide this information to him for reference. Mr. McCarty asks that Director Reynolds put together a proposal for the Board to review. Director Reynolds is also looking into what the Town would need to put an emergency shelter in place. Director Moore notes that all "expired" supplies from the ambulance can be used for emergencies. Director Reynolds is also looking into how to store all of these supplies. He asks Mr. Levesque if ARPA funds can be used for these supplies. Mr. Levesque says yes. Finally, he mentions the potential to use a trailer for not only storage, but also for a communications base. He notes that he has a connection in Troy who has expressed a willingness to partner with us in case of emergency.

Police Department – Mrs. Gratacos reports that the Police Department has had 889 calls to date and are busy preparing for Trunk or Treat on October 31st. The event will be in the parking lot behind the Town Offices and will be from 5-7pm. Anyone interested in participating can register with Penny Gendron, Police Admin., or Corporal Underwood.

School Board – Mr. Levesque reports that he will not be running for School Board again.

Town Office Administrator – Mrs. Gratacos reports that the warrant articles have been integrated into the budget and a current budget will be provided to the Board next week. Mr. Levesque asks that a “current budget” be uploaded to the Town website. Mrs. Gratacos will do this and include the disclaimer that it is ever changing.

Transfer Station, Ambulance, and Parks –

Director Moore reports that:

- Ambulance – 140 calls to date. He and some staff went to Twin Mountain, NH to attend the Sandy Stevens Skid School, where they participated in classes related to emergency driving. He is going to encourage the rest of his staff to attend. This class was paid for by Primex. Safety signs and vests arrived today (in response to the Traffic Incident Management System).
- Parks – No updates.
- Transfer Station – He met with the welder, Mr. Lund and our safety gating is about $\frac{2}{3}$ complete. It should be complete in the next couple of weeks. Both compactors were serviced on 10/8. New signs will be installed in November. Shamrock Recycling Service came and loaded the cardboard trailer (\$120/ton). Ms. Viegner asks if any modifications will be made to the stairs for the paper recycling. Director Moore says they’re currently compliant, but they are looking into reconfiguring this space so that the stairs are no longer necessary. They are also replacing the steps into one of the compactors with a new set with handrails. Finally, Director Moore requested a quote from Greg Stone for security cameras to catch accidents/incidents.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Kemp – Motions to cancel the cable TV account for the Town Office; there is unanimous agreement from the Board. Asks the Board about an expense that is being listed under the “Sand” expenses by Mr. Trafton. The Board asks Mrs. Gratacos to follow up with Mr. Trafton about this and to code it accurately.

Mr. McCarty – Chase’s Mill has a brand new, state of the art, bathroom.

Mr. Saxton – Updates provided via Old Business above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

INFORMATIONAL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION/S: RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputational

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 6:24 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputational.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 6:34 PM. The motion passed unanimously.***

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 6:37 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputational.***

On a motion made by Mr. Saxton and seconded by Mr. McCarty ***the Board voted to leave the non-public session at 6:45 PM. The motion passed unanimously.***

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 6:49 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) hiring.***

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 7:06 PM.***

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 5:00 PM, Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street.
Next FM School Board meeting:	Monday, October 14, 2024 @ 6:00 PM, High School (2nd Monday)
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD – Reschedule in progress

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Steuwe

Recording Secretary