TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602
Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Rock Wilson; Mary Ann Wolf; Joe Levesque (in person)

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Gordon Kemp; Judith Willis (in person)

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER: Rock Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: At 6:00 p.m. Rock opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS: Charlotte gave an update on the reval. stating that it should be done by November 30th and then she will file the MS-1 with DRA. It will take about 3 days after that for the tax rate to be set. The plan is to mail out tax bills the week of December 7th. The assessors will be mailing out letters at the same time to let people know what their values are. If anyone wants to dispute it, they can call the assessors and go over it with them. If there is a change resulting in a credit, they are able to process an in-house abatement and offer either a credit on their June bill or we can issue a check. She said that the assessors told her we may find that the tax rate will go down.

Charlotte presented the quote for SWNH Electric & HVAC Services to provide and install Daikin heat pump equipment in the first floor of the town offices in the amount of $16,775.00. Charlotte mentioned that the unit downstairs needs cleaning and new filters and will have to consider replacing that in the next year or two but for now would like them to consider an additional mini split for Steve's office in order to keep them cooler and the older unit wouldn't need to run as much. The cost for an additional unit would be approximately $3k. It is possible to get a rebate of $2k, Charlotte has a contact at Liberty she can reach out to for this. The Board agreed to have SWNH do this work.

NEW BUSINESS: There was some discussion on the email from the attorney regarding the LIBOR class action settlement. Rock said that the lawyer suggested the Board appoint someone to read through the facts. On a motion by Mary Ann, seconded by Rock; ***the Board voted to have Gordon look it over. The motion passed.***

Charlotte advised the Board of the $2,620 rebate received from Liberty for the LED lights installed at the highway garage. She noted that after this and the 4,600 grant the total cost to the town was $5,980.

Charlotte mentioned that funds from the most recent GOFFER submission was received which covered the cost of the washer/dryer with the electric and plumbing hook up.

Charlotte told the Board that the check from the HealthTrust surplus of $3,770.81 was received and the town portion of $3,049.36 was put in the health insurance line in order to reduce that expense, the remaining amount will go back to the employees.

Discussion took place on who to dedicate the town report to this year. She mentioned Erwin Ward and Peter Koson. The Board agreed to include both.

There was some discussion on where we were at so far with the 2021 budget which doesn't include the extractor, health agencies or the digitized maps. Charlotte asked Gordon if he had contacted CAI or looked into any other mapping companies. He had not yet.

After some review of warrant articles, it was decided to wait until we know what the current fund balance is in order to decide if it should be raised from taxes, taken from fund balance or capital reserve. Glen Elsesser put together what he recommended for 2021 warrant articles. There was some discussion on this. The Board agreed not to put money into Drewsville Bridge. They want to do Gilsum Mine Rd. The Board was in agreement with $45K into Fire CR, $105K into Highway CR, $10K into Library CR, $8k into Transfer CR. There was much discussion on the proposed amount of $70K for a new highway truck, no decision was made yet on this. $21K Police CR they thought this was high. Rock wanted to know why they can't get regular Ford Explorers like they have in Charlestown, will discuss more later. $27K Ambulance CR, Mary Ann doesn't think we need to put that much into it, will discuss more later once they know what the fund balance is.

Gordon presented a Broadband bond article that has no tax impact. It is very preliminary as they don't know the dollar amount or the provider yet.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of October 17: on a motion by Joe, seconded by Mary Ann; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

INFORMATIONAL: Town offices will be closed Thursday November 26th for Thanksgiving.
Julie will be open by appointment only beginning November 30th

On a motion by Joe, seconded by Mary Ann; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Comeau, Office Administrator

The next meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m.