

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of January 2, 2024 at 6:10 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Jim Jennison; Ray Leonard; Kathi Bradt

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; Linda Christie; David Clark; Melinda Loiselle; Mark Girard; Steve & Lori Murray; Gregg Thibodeau

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

On a motion by Kathi seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to accept the unanticipated bridge funds of \$17,797.86.***

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE: Nothing new to report

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE: Nothing new to report

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of 12/18: On a motion by Ray, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. Motion passed with Kathi recusing as she wrote them.***

BILL MANIFEST: After a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; there were some questions on a couple highway bills. Charlotte will check with Collin tomorrow and let them know; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

PAYROLL MANIFEST: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim, ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: Kathi asked if Fuzzy Brothers were done crushing. Charlotte will check on this.

PUBLIC:

- Mark G discussed Bowers Brook work that should be done. He said the state's recommendation was to immediately remove vegetation and to backfill along the edge of the roadway to prevent further damage in the area.
 - Kathi mentioned there may be misunderstanding as it was believed this was part of the plan that had to be submitted and reviewed by DOT and DES first.
 - Mark asked if they could get 2-3 truckloads of gravel immediately and to simply dump the truck loads and then bring the backhoe down to push it around. The area is right on the side of the road.
 - Kathi mentioned this is the first time discussing bringing town equipment there and asked for the board's position. **Ray motioned to have highway bring heavy stone to Bowers Brook and fill it in, seconded by Kathi.** Jim's concern was whether this is setting a precedence for other home owners.
 - Mark said part of the remedial stream bank action plan is that about 6-10 loads of decent river bed gravel will be hauled back to the town yard for future crushing.
 - Kathi felt this is a different situation than someone's back yard.
 - Greg said one thing that separates this is it is the most highly traveled road so it's a safety hazard. It also put the lives of the people that work at the store at risk.
 - Mark said on the original state plan, the shoulder is the town right of way and is called "the ambulance and emergency vehicle shoulder."
 - **Jim called for a vote; Motion passed with Jim opposing.**
- Greg B questioned why there was not a warrant article to ask for another loan. Since the plan is to hire an Engineer in 2024, if they want to start work during 2024 construction season, we would need the money. Greg had suggested the condition of a new loan could be "when the current loan is paid off"
 - After much discussion there was agreement by the board on this. Charlotte asked if the board wants the article to read "to borrow up to \$1,000,000". Consensus was yes.
 - Kathi asked if consensus was to stipulate once the first loan is paid off. Consensus was yes.
 - Charlotte will compose this article on the draft warrant for the Budget Committee's first meeting 1/3.

ACTION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION:

RFP for Engineer: Two RFPs were submitted. One from HEB and one from DuBois and King. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray, ***the Board voted for Charlotte to schedule a time to interview both. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator