

TOWN HALL MONTHLY: November

During October we followed work by the committee formed to study requests by Walpole and Langdon to withdrawn from the Fall Mountain Regional School District (FMRSD), work began on this year's project replacing culverts on Cold Pond Road and our 2026 budget started to take shape.

The FMRSD withdrawal committee was requested by Walpole and Langdon and established during the March Town Meeting by District wide vote. The committee was charged with determining whether withdrawal would be both practical and sustainable. Over the course of the members' deliberations, they attempted to look at the educational, social and financial effects of withdrawal by the two towns. In the end a majority of the committee supported both town's requests for withdrawal. Acworth's representatives voted against withdrawal noting that Walpole's plan for moving forward seemed insubstantial and that the tax burden on remaining towns would be significant.

The committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the State Board of Education. If the review is favorable, FMRSD voters will be asked to vote on the withdrawals in the next (2026) Town Meeting. Early in their deliberations the committee provided rough estimates of the tax effects of withdrawals. They showed that withdrawal by both Walpole and Langdon could cause Acworth's Local Education tax rate to increase by \$3 per thousand dollars of property value. This is an issue we all want to stay informed on in the next few months.

JP Trucking began work replacing culverts along Cold Pond Road. The project is planned to be completed before winter weather sets in. At the same time the Highway Department is also working on drainage including culvert replacements on Crescent Lake Road and culvert clearing around Town. This, along with equipment maintenance like undercoating is getting us ready for winter. The winter parking ban will be posted in November.

Charlotte will have a first draft of the 2026 budget for Selectmen at their November 3 meeting. The Highway Department is scheduled to meet with the Planning Board at the end of October to work on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for next year. Selectmen use the CIP as they finalize their budget during December. Come to our posted meetings or watch our minutes in this Newsletter or on the website to keep up to date on these discussions.

On November 3, Selectmen will also hear from the engineers working on the reconstruction of Crane Brook Road. We all want to follow this FEMA project which despite federal funding will be a significant future cost for the Town. The presentation begins at 6PM in the Town Hall.

At this time of the year we are waiting for the State to set our fall tax rate which includes school costs, county costs and Town costs. Following the revaluation we are all looking for a reduction in the Town rate. Ideally bills go out during November.

It's November. I'm grateful for being here. Kathi