

**TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Selectmen**  
**Approved Minutes for Meeting of December 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Charlotte Comeau, Administrative Assistant; Collin Crosby, Highway Foreman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gary Baber; David Bascom; Greg Bascom; Jennifer Bland; Glenn Elsesser; Frank Emig; Mark Girard; Ray LeClair; Steve & Lori Murray; Chris Noonan; Scott & Buffi Pike; Gregg Thibodeau; Dan & Lori Williams

**CALL TO ORDER FOR MEETING:** Jim called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**FLOOD RESPONSE:**

- Kathi said FEMA and HSEM are still working on submitting the data. Crane Brook Rd. waiting for Erin to complete the emergency authorization wetlands permit due Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, she is monitoring the culvert on Forest Rd. after every rain per DOTs request.

**MINUTES:** Meeting and NPS minutes of 11/21: on a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.*

**BILL MANIFEST:** On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.* Kathi questioned whether due to underspending on the legal line whether we can use those funds if we need a legal opinion for the loan next year. Charlotte mentioned that since we have a quote from legal perhaps we can encumber the funds.

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

**PRELIMINARY TAX RATE:** Charlotte said that the preliminary tax rate is \$25.81. She stated it is up a little from last year due to last year being a reval. year. The municipal is \$8.76, county is \$2.92, local education is \$13.04, and state education is \$1.09. The last time it was around this amount was in 2015 in the amount of \$25.21. From 2016-2020 the amounts ranged from \$26.33-\$29.37.

Charlotte will submit the preliminary tax rate with no changes to DRA, It will take a day or two for finalization. Once finalized she will print the warrant and would like the Board to come in to sign once it is ready so we can get the bills out. If we start getting money coming in we won't need to get a TAN. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; *the Board voted to accept the rate as presented. Motion passed.* On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; *the Board voted to print the warrant once the rate is finalized and they will come in to sign. Motion passed.*

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

- Western Star currently has a lot of problems and can't be safely driven. Collin said Aaron is a good mechanic and is working on this but will need to purchase parts.
- Fuzzy Brothers is currently crushing.
- Collin used the 550 to put salt down but the dump body picked up and wouldn't go back down.
- Would like to build new shelves during the slow days. This would be for organizing parts for each vehicle.
- Collin said Aaron needs new tools.
- Kathi asked if tarps were purchased. Since they were not in the budget we could use the extra highway block grant money for them as well as any additional tools and first aid kits needed.
- Collin said Will Starks installed most of the lights and is waiting for a unit on order. But so far there is much better lighting.

**TRANSFER STATION:** On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; *the Board voted to accept the updated fees to go into effect immediately. Motion passed.*

**PUBLIC:** Scott & Buffi Pike re: letter sent about camper: Jim acknowledged the Pikes. Buffi mentioned their building permit is good until July and they plan on building in the spring. They are currently living in an RV. Jim asked if they have water. Buffi said they don't have water but bring the water in. Jim said there is an ordinance the town has for living in a camper. Kathi mentioned that the zoning ordinance states an RV can't be used as a permanent dwelling. Kathi told the Pikes that the Board is charged with enforcing the ordinance. She asked if this could be resolved by sending a response to our letter stating their intentions. The Pike's indicated they would do this.

## ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: None
- Intent to Cut: None
- Intent to Excavate: Manix. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Contract Renewal for Tax Collector: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Trustee of Trust Funds: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign the letter to Trustee for Capital Reserve deposits. Motion passed.***
- Fire Dept Warden Reappointments: On a motion by Kathi seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Pistol Permit: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign Chief Connors recommendation to issue the permit. Motion passed.***
- Prouty Property M250 L2: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***per legal counsel's opinion, the Board voted to approve donating this to State Division of Forests and Lands as an addition to Honey Brook State Forest.***
- Compliance: W Desrosier, Mr. Barcomb: In both cases they are living in campers. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to table this until next meeting.***

## DISCUSSION:

- Winter Weather Policy: Consensus was to change the Road Agent to Selectmen on page 1. Discussion took place on whether to have an ordinance for a fine for illegal parking and placement of snow in right of way. The Board asked Charlotte to get more information for the next meeting. David B asked if this is a problem. Kathi stated that it has been in the past and an ordinance may be worth looking into.
- There was much discussion from Dan and Lori Williams and Chris Noonan on the William's house being built on Turkey Shoot Rd. with vehicles being parked on the road. At the end of the conversation it appeared things will be resolved this week.
- Adopt DOT road standards: Kathi stated that FEMA has looked to us for this in the past. Gregg stated this was a recommendation from the small roads committee. Kathi mentioned this was unique for Acworth because of the number of roads we have and the population. After much discussion, Kathi is interested to see if there are other towns that are equivalent to Acworth in spending power which have adopted the DOT standards? Consensus was for Charlotte to reach out to UVRPS to see if they have this info.
- Review Small Roads Committee: Gregg wanted to clarify that they were asked by the Selectmen to look at a number of roads that have only one resident which town crews have maintained, graded and plowed and been asked to analyze to see if there is any justification to reclassify to a Class VI road. The committee of 7 members put about 400-500 hours of analysis on 19 roads into this project. They developed a criteria to evaluate each road fairly and then made a recommendation to the board at a previous meeting. Gregg wanted to be sure the Board is continuing to back the committee on this. Gregg read his understanding of why they were doing this which was mainly for opportunities to redirect town resources. Kathi stated that in the minutes the committee was started March 7<sup>th</sup> which doesn't have the detail Gregg mentioned. However, she had gone back through the small roads file searching for this effort to address roads that don't have a high level of use but are still maintained starting in 2008, then in 2012, then 2017. It shows it's been a long standing desire of the Selectmen to address places we are spending money that we could save. There were minutes of the Board meeting in April showing the Board not only initiated the small roads committee but also the purpose. Gregg said they would need the Board's continued support for the warrant articles. After much more discussion, Jim stated this will be discussed more at the public hearing.
- Review proposed budget: Kathi mentioned she and Charlotte reviewed and reduced some of the amounts which totaled a decrease of about \$50k. The changed amounts were noted in the comments column.
  - Collin stated that the mower requested not to change the budgeted amount. Kathi said we kept a place holder of \$1,000. She also mentioned that we did the same thing with the crack sealing line.Kathi mentioned that the next meeting will be the last one for budget adjustments.

On a motion by Kathi, seconded Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau  
Administrative Assistant