

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of November 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Jim Jennison; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Bland, Hwy AA/EMD/HO; Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Bascom; David Bascom; Greg Bascom; David Clark; Glenn Elsesser; Chris Fournier, HEB; Mark Goodwin; Peter Hawkes, Kathrine Lewis, HEB; Jr; Lori & Steve Murray; Kris Pitney; Rob Traver

CALL TO ORDER: Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:00

ENGINEER: HEB Re: Crane Brook Rd repairs. Chris presented 3 alternatives for the reconstruction of Crane Brook Rd. There was much discussion and questions on the various alternatives. Alternative 1 is \$32-37M and keeps the same amount of stream crossings but increases the size of the culverts. Alternative 2 is \$23-28M, will raise the road in some places to get it above flood elevation levels, reduce the number of stream crossings from 12 to 7 and will increase the size of the culverts. Consensus from both the board and the residents present were in favor of alternative 2. Chris said FEMA provides 75% reimbursement and it will be presented to them shortly. Alternative 3 was about twice the amount as alternative 2 and prepared to satisfy FEMA's request. Alternative 2 would take 2 years of engineering and could be up to 3 depending on whether it requires a DES environmental review process then 2 years of construction.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND NPS: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; *the Board voted to approve. Passed.*

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.*

PAYROLL MANIFEST: None

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan (current work completed but not limited to):
 - Did maintenance and changed tires on Int'l, WS & Freightliner
 - Greased trucks and equipment
 - Repaired wing mount on WS
 - Inspected plows on trucks
 - Dug test pits in the pit looking for quality material
 - Organized pit
 - Trucked material from DMS Quarry to pit
 - Moved excavator to Turkey Shoot Rd. Demolished house and cleaned up
 - Posted winter parking ban signs
- Will start paving over the sections on Crescent Lake Rd where they replaced the culverts.
- There is some wood left from the demo on Turkey Shoot Rd which the fire department will be using for a controlled burn for training purposes.
- Jennifer said that Upper Valley has \$15k grant that was applied for before the flood for engineering on CBR. Since we have an engineer for CBR, she requested that we redirect the grant money to CLR because we will need an engineer for it. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; *the Board voted to reallocate the grant money from CBR to CLR. Passed.*
- Kathi asked about the driveway on Meader Rd. stating there is 2 driveways there. Jennifer said highway will still be able to plow the first driveway just not the one on the far end. Jennifer said a letter was sent to the tenant saying they have until Nov. 10th to remove all the animals from this location.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Ryanne. PB met on the 27th. They discussed CIP starting with equipment.

- Reviewed whether it's more cost effective to buy or lease.
- Looked at larger equipment, like the roller and excavator. For now, things are ok but need to review the expected life span of the equipment.
- Talked about smaller capital improvement items such as a roadside mower whether it would be more cost effective to buy one ourselves rather than rent one out.
- Discussed CIP with regards to roads, reclaiming Derry Hill, Crane Brook and Forest Rd. Jennifer talked about working on a regular maintenance plan for the roads.

- Reviewed bridge needs.
- Need to start a record of bridge maintenance.
- May have found an admin assistant. Reviewed application, had phone interview and invited her to come to the next meeting.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: None

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Letter: K Davey M246 L6, Meader Rd. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Building Permit: P Carter M210 L23. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Review preliminary tax rate breakdown: Kathi stated the town tax rate went from \$8.88 to \$4.87. The total tax rate went from \$27.04 to \$16.06. The board agreed with this. Charlotte said she would submit to DRA to finalize and prepare the warrant for the board to come in to sign.
- Review proposed 2026 draft budget: After a quick review and some discussion it was determined we would look at it more at the next meeting after reviewing wages and putting in those numbers. Kathi referred to a letter received from the state last year regarding Grout Hill Bridge repairs that need to be done. Glenn said he had been talking with Jennifer about this.
- Email re Beehives: There needs to be a survey of the property to subdivide 10 acres that the property owner wants to give to the town which has the beehives. Rob T received an estimate of \$5k for the survey. Kathi asked the board how this should be paid for? Consensus was to have a warrant article for the voters. Rob asked for some communication with the owner to let them know we are still working on this. Charlotte will draft a letter for the next meeting.

On a motion by Jim seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:06 p.m. Passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened the public meeting at 8:14 p.m. Passed.***

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator