

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

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

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Jennifer Bland, HWY Admin/EMD; Collin Crosby, Road Agent

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; Melinda Loiselle; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Larry Leclerc; Steve Murray; Steve Murrell; Gregg Thibodeau; John Tuthill; Sarah Vogel; Mark Wilson

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi addressed the \$2M FEMA set aside for CBR paving/shoulder finish. There has been questions on what would happen if the cost is more. In the meeting we were told if that happens, we put in a change in scope and the amount can change either up or down.
- There are 5 projects left on the 2021 flood. One is trying to get reimbursement for the interest on the loan and one is the last category is the admin costs.
- Steve Murray asked if there was an update on the state reimbursement portion. Kathi said we hadn't heard anything.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- There are several projects lined up but not fully costed out yet.
- HEB is doing drone flyover this week on various damaged roads.
- CBR Temporary Repairs-Work completed in a flood zone letter: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to accept and sign. Motion passed.***
- Daniel's Contract for temporary repair of CBR: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to accept and sign. Motion passed.***
- Bowers Brook Update: Kathi said there was another online meeting with DES and DOT. The next step is working with the Contractors to arrange a meeting with them and the abutters to go over the plan. The grant funding is to be on the Governors Counsel agenda for 5/1.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS of 4/1/24: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. Motion passed.***

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; Charlotte mentioned an addition of \$96.52. ***The Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Still working on the W.S. body
- Moved the excavator to Gove Rd.
- Collin brought up about a tree on the wires on Cold Pond Rd. This has been called in numerous times. Charlotte asked him to provide the pole number and she will call again.
- Discussion on putting the Ford 550 on Muncibid. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to have Glenn put the Ford on Muncibid. Motion passed.***
- R&D planning to start paving Charlestown Rd next month.
- Seal coating should be starting tomorrow.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: None, next meeting 4/30

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE:

- Ryanne attended the 4/10 meeting. They discussed the CIP survey results and how they support conservation for clean water and wildlife habitat.
- Approved the purchase of a turbidity meter which will determine how clean water samples are.
- Created a map of environmental areas of importance which will be used as part of the conservation plan.
- A reminder for green-up day this weekend, April 20th.

- Jim asked Gregg about the boat launch. Gregg said he would be submitting the permit to DES. Gregg will start working to see who would like to be volunteers.

PUBLIC:

- Sarah Vogel, Acworth School Board member gave an update to the Board about the district. She mentioned that because the budget is so tight, the district is looking at many options to cut back. One is closing schools and Acworth School is being looked at. However it will be awhile before this happens. They're just in the beginning stages of various discussions.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Report of Cuts: BMF M233 L8, M232 L5; B Bascom M242 L13: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion Passed.***
- Intent to Excavate C Duggan M250 L1: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Report of Excavated Material C Duggan M250 L1: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve sign. Motion passed.***
- Vet Tax Credit M241 L13: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- DES Annual T.S. Facility Report: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Accept Chief Connors Recommendations: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Exemptions/Credits, Exempt Parcels: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- ConCom Appointments: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Abatement V Salina/G Haines M246 L61: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Class VI Road Application-W Unity Rd and Walker Rd: This is for a grant the snowmobile club is applying for. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Deed-Deed or Waiver: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to table this until more information has been gathered by the town Health Officer. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Social Media Policy: Charlotte mentioned this is to establish a policy so that the town can have a Facebook page to notify residents of any important information. This would be for the town only to put out information and not for any other purposes. Charlotte and Jennifer will have access to this. Charlotte used a template provided by NHMA when creating the policy. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi, ***the Board voted to approve the first reading of the social media policy. Motion passed.***
- NH Emergency Notification System: This is going live May 1st. There will be information around town and on the website about how to sign up for alerts.
- Nextera Energy Provider Savings: Charlotte explained that Liberty is still the provider, we will still get bills and report outages to Liberty. Nextera provides the energy at a cheaper rate. Charlotte put together a spreadsheet of last year's KWH from Liberty and used those amounts with the price Nextera provided and there will be ~\$3K savings a year. Kathi mentioned there is provision for termination. Consensus was for Charlotte to get some more information about Nextera. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to go forward with this contingent on whether Charlotte could provide more information on Nextera. Jim said it would be good to have a reference. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator