

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of April 1, 2024 at 5:30 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; Marianne Nevelson, Tax Collector

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Baber; John Balla; Greg Bascom; Linda Christie; Melinda Loiselle; Mark Girard; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Steve & Lori Murray; Steve Murrell; Ben Northcott; Josh Perry; Gregg Thibodeau; Chris & Laura Troian; Carole Wallace

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INTERVIEWS:

The Selectmen along with Mark Girard and Gregg Thibodeau interviewed both Josh Perry from JP Trucking and Ben Northcott from Fuzzy Brothers who responded to the RFP for the construction of the Bowers Brook repairs. Kathi reiterated that the garage area is a holding place for the material that needs to be removed. It will sit there and be reused as needed, what doesn't go back can be used in the future for crushing. After the interviews, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; there was some discussion. Gregg mentioned he felt Fuzzy Brothers had more experience in this specific type of work. There was some discussion that the time line for both were the same. ***The Board voted to award the construction aspect of the project to Fuzzy Brothers. Motion passed.***

Due to the fact that HEB was the only Engineer that submitted a proposal for Bowers Brook. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to award the field engineering work for the project to HEB. Motion passed.***

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Jim asked about the flood loan, Kathi noted that it has been paid.
- Jim asked Jennifer how much was still pending; her response was about 2M.
- Kathi said the figures for 2021 that she calculated we would receive is 1.3M and preliminary figures for 2023 she calculates around 4 million as an early estimate.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- FRB scope and fee engineering study approved by state: Kathi mentioned there are revised figures from the state which are now coming in at ~1.4M down from ~1.6M. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to accept and sign the FRB scope and fee for the engineering study from HEB which was approved by the state. Motion passed.***
- RFPs for temporary opening of CBR: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; after some discussion, ***the Board voted to accept the proposal from Daniel's Construction for the temporary work to open CBR due to lower cost.***

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS of 3/18/24: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; after Ryanne pointed out a typo that Charlotte will correct, ***the Board voted to approve the minutes with correction. Motion passed.***

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; Charlotte mentioned an addition for Carquest for \$302.99. ***The Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*** Kathi mentioned that based on the budget report we are in good shape with all the departments, we are at the 20% range. She also stated that looking at the bottom line, the amount matches what is on the MS-232.

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Reached out to 3 contractors for crack sealant to use on Beryl Mtn Rd. The first quote was for \$15k which was state approved material. Collin told them that is too much. The contractor has a hopper that is ¾ full of that material he can give us. We would have to buy some more but we could do the entire road for \$7,500. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to accept this deal for crack sealant. Motion passed.***
- Collin asked if the crew could switch back to four 10-hour days the next pay period which starts April 7th. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to approve the crew going to summer hours. Motion passed.***

Kathi asked if we could have a place on the agenda going forward for the representatives on the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to give updates to the board. This will be added in the section before "public".

PUBLIC:

- Gregg mentioned that a bill passed at the House of Rep. and is now going to the Senate which would give towns the ability to change the way the Conservation Commission is appointed. Instead of being appointed, they can be elected.
- Marianne presented a tax deed she executed for the board to sign which they had signed a waiver last fall giving the owner until April 1. After much discussion, consensus was to table this until the next meeting until Ryanne learns more about this process and the board has a chance to reach out to the owner to determine whether to proceed or issue a deed waiver if reason warrants.
- Marianne asked the board if they would approve for her to accept pre-payment of taxes. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes. Motion passed.***

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building permits:
 - C&L Troian M245 L3. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - C&L Troian non liability agreement release for building on a Class VI Road. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - D&J Delgenio M229 L23. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve both permits and sign. Motion passed.***
- Intent to Cuts: Bascom Maple Farms M233 L8; B Bascom M233 L16. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Report of Cuts: R Miller M255 L2-1, M256 L1; B Bascom M243 L1&3. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- MS-232 Appropriations actually voted: Kathi pointed out that the bottom line on page five of the MS-232 matches what is in the bookkeeping. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- TOTF Voucher Requests: These two requests were warrant articles approved at town meeting for the truck and the Engineer of FRB. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve both and sign. Motion passed.***
- AVFR 2024 Contract: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Crescent Lake Boat Launch:
 - History: Gregg spoke on the need for repairs of the Crescent Lake boat launch. He presented the background of a deed in 1961 which indicates that the parcel is owned by the state. There was a public hearing in 1961 which designated the parcel as an "access to public water". In August of 1961 a resolution was passed which designated the launch as a road. RSA 235 dictates the town maintain the launch as a Class V Road. This makes it so the state does not maintain every single boat ramp in the state but is the responsibility of each town.
 - Project Plan:
 - The town would need to submit \$400 fee to obtain a permit notification.
 - The town would provide the authorization for Crescent Lake volunteers to complete the work on the boat launch under review of the town road agent.
 - Gregg will work with members and directors in the CLA and organize a small team with equipment to complete the work.
 - A review with the town road agent will occur prior to any work being started and required materials determined. Estimated to be a few yards of medium sized gravel
 - Town would supply the material, TBD
 - Once the permit is approved, the town can authorize the work to be completed by the volunteers and the work will be scheduled. Estimated the work can be completed in less than one day.

Kathi motioned to spend \$400 on the DES permit, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve. Motion passed.***

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): On a motion by Jim seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator