

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

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

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Jennifer Bland, Hwy Admin. Assist.

OTHERS PRESENT: Glenn Elsesser; Frank Emig; Ken Gagnon; Mark Girard; Melinda Loiselle; Bob Porter; Adriane Sturgeon; Gregg Thibodeau; John Tuthill; Carole Wallace

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

On a motion by Jim seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:27 p.m. Motion passed.***

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi stated there is another new person that has come to specifically work with Acworth.
- Mark asked if we have an excel spreadsheet that can be shared on line on which roads are completed and the expenses incurred. Jennifer has a spreadsheet on all the roads.
- Frank asked if we received a response to the letter sent out to St Pierre regarding the failed material. Jim said they stood by their word that it was good material and not interested in negotiating. Kathi said we provided them with the test but didn't address that. They had used the material in several other places and there was no problem. Kathi pointed out that the other towns didn't have it tested and we did. Frank asked what the next step is. The board thought it would cost more money to pursue with legal that what we could get out of it. Frank thought we should at least get an opinion from legal.
- It was noted that the failed material was used by the highway department for a different purpose.
- Consensus was for Charlotte to reach out to the lawyer for an opinion and bring it back at the next meeting.
- Letter to JP Trucking to close out open contracts. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign the contract. Motion passed.***
- Memorandum of understanding from the Engineer. Kathi proposed to postpone this as Erin wasn't there.
- Jennifer stated that they contacted the state bridge guy and said the cold patch used by the highway dept. on Forest Rd. was fine.

MINUTES: Meeting minutes and NPS of 5/15: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. Motion passed.***

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

PAYROLL MANIFEST: 5/22 and 6/5: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Been working on equipment
- Cleaned culvert on River Rd by Wallace's house
- Started checking ditches and culverts
- Waiting for a few more parts for the grader and will be putting it back together. Should be ready by the end of the week. The cost estimate for this is around \$15k.
- Reached out to Continental Paving about going from state line to bridge. The cost would be \$27,368.75.
- Reached out to Bazin and Arlington Paving about grinding Forest Rd. Bazin came in at a total of \$11,072 which includes mobilization. Arlington was \$18,985.
- Kathi mentioned that these three things together is around \$53k. With the money from the state of about \$70k, we have enough money to do these. Collins opinion is that grading Forest Rd. would make it easier to maintain. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray, ***the Board voted to accept the Continental and Bazin proposal. Motion passed.***

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: W Logan M220 L4; J Burdick M208 L6; N&D Cloutier M209 L13; C Miner M202 L26; T&A Ferrell M234 L2
 - Logan: On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
 - Burdick: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to approve and sign contingent on him providing the plumber license number. Motion passed.**
 - Cloutier: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
 - Miner: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
 - Ferrell: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Non-liability regarding building permit for Class VI road: J Burdick M208 L6. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Road improvement: Todd Morse-Black North/Walker Rd. On a motion by Ray, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Abatement: Brandt M210 L034. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Property Tax Warrant: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Reports of Cut: Jennison M233 L9, Bascom M233 L4. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Notice of Offering for Sale: M223 L011. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Easement on town property: M201 L107 & 108 for NHEC to add a pole. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Appointment: appoint Laurie Luther-Houghton Trustee of TF to fulfill D Eaton term until 2025. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Partner w/Sullivan County re: safe streets grant application: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**

DISCUSSION:

- Melinda regarding bank accounts: Melinda gave an update on collateralizing our accounts at the bank which would help cover our funds and protect them from a possible risk of loss. This would offer a considerably higher interest rate. Melinda and Charlotte will discuss this further and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.
- 2nd bidder from last year's auction would like to purchase now: After some discussion, on a motion by Ray, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to allow the bidder to purchase the property at his bid of \$38k and nothing less. Motion passed.**
- Perambulation Acworth/Charlestown town line – Friday June 9th at 9:00 a.m.: Gregg stated that it would be better to meet at the Halls Pond parking area rather than go to the Charlestown office. Charlotte will relay this to them.
- Jim - Beryl Mtn. Rd Bridge: Jim had no word from Cold River Bridges for Beryl Mountain Rd. Bridge but will call tomorrow.
- Email from Gerry DeMuro: Consensus was to let Gerry know that we don't have the space for a display.
- Catalyst Grant update: Gregg said the application is in. He said there are two more grant opportunities out there. One at the state level and one at the federal level.

On a motion by Kathi, seconded Ray; **the Board voted to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator