

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Meeting of September 19, 2022 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, Administrative Assistant; Collin Crosby, Highway Employee; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike & Judy Aron; Gary Baber, Fire Warden; Gregg Bascom; Roger Belliveau; Ian Burnett; Jennifer Bland, Health Officer/EMD; Conan Cook & Brenda Melius; Erin Darrow, Engineer; Glenn Elsesser; Mark Girard; Sue Metsack; Gregg Thibodeau

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

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of September 6; meeting minutes of September 12: on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.***

BILL MANIFEST: Charlotte indicated additions to the manifest. Kathi asked about details on the invoice for Reeds. This was for brake work needed in order to pass inspection. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve with additions and sign. Motion passed.***

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

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Discussion regarding the hazardous trees on Derry Hill that should be removed as they are undermining drainage. Kathi stated that this is covered under RSA 231:145 stating in part that the Selectmen can declare any tree(s) a public nuisance by reason of danger to the traveling public and the abutting owners need to be notified. Kathi stated Derry Hill is a scenic road and generally cutting of trees has to go to a public hearing in front of the planning board. Therefore, the public nuisance is what we are looking at. Erin said she would mark the trees then Charlotte will notify the abutters by certified mail.
- Erin stated that the site visits are complete.

FLOOD LOAN:

- Kathi reviewed the spreadsheets given to the Budget Committee. She mentioned that FEMA has changed the percentage from 75/25 to 90/10 and the state will pick up 5% of the 10% leaving the town only paying 5% of eligible expenses.
- Kathi pointed out the spreadsheet of future repairs won't be done until 2025 and is in the millions of dollars.
- Discussion on the loan due in November. We have not received any money from FEMA yet and probably won't see any money until after the first of the year. The bank can extend the loan for a year with interest. The interest was budgeted for 2022.
- Will need to make a decision on the loan extension by November 1st and would like to meet with the budget committee before then.
- Judy stated there is legislation that we can get a no-interest rate loan from the state. She will check and see if this is possible in order to pay back Mascoma.
- Conan asked if we can extend the loan without going back to the voters. Kathi said we can reach out to DRA and ask.
- Conan asked about the money the town has put out. He said the amount seems low to him. Kathi said we could do a report and let him know.
- Conan asked about the various work around town specifically Charlestown Rd reclaim whether this is reimbursable by FEMA. Erin stated that we have been working with FEMA and went over it with FEMA before proceeding. Erin said Charlestown road has been inspected by numerous inspectors from FEMA and NH HSEM. There is a balance between repairing from the flood and what is making things better to decrease future damages and we are following their guidance.
- Conan asked why the damage inventory from back in January is different. Erin said this is something that is changing as they observed the roads and uncover additional damage. It has increased some projects and decreased others.
- The board will ask the budget committee to attend another meeting before the November 1st deadline.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Collin asked if they could turn the 550 into a flatbed as the dump body is in rough shape. If they did this, it could no longer be used as a sand truck unless we bought a sliding sander. Collin will look at other options.
- Collin asked about going back to 5 days a week. Kathi made a motion, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to go back to 5 days at the next pay period.***

PUBLIC:

ACTION ITEMS:

- Timber warrant: Kuffel M250 L5-1; Bascom M220 L9. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Intent to Excavate: Sawmill Farms LLC. M253 L9. After some discussion regarding the email from DRA recommending a new reclamation plan, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to hold approving until Charlotte checks back with DRA to see if there is a template for this. Motion passed.***
- Building Permit: R. Belliveau, M258 L14. Consensus was to wait until the septic approval is received before approving.
- Compliance: Todd Morse email: Discussion took place on email. Kathi stated that from zoning point of view he is fine with his camper and one other guest camper temporarily. The issue was with transporting his septic. Jennifer says you can't haul your own septic, he has to call a company and the problem is a truck won't be able to make the turn to get there.

DISCUSSION:

- 160 Crescent Lake M201 L77:-Possible build violations: Gregg said it looks like the build was within the original foundation so no violation.
- Zoning ordinance: email from Gregg T: Under general articles in the zoning ordinance it state that the Selectmen have the authority to impose regulations on safety, speed, and traffic.
- Email from UVLSRPC re: appointing 2 people from Acworth to serve as members: Ian Burnett volunteered. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to accept Ian as a representative to UVLSRPC. Motion passed.***
- George Collins removing road side trash and bring to T.S. at no charge: Charlotte will coordinate with Charlie and George.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): 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 (c) at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed.***

Discussion took place on checking at the highway department to see if there were "children at play signs" to place on Cold Pond Rd.

Collin asked about taking the truck home in case there is a unexpected situation with the weather. After some discussion consensus was that if the forecast is calling for bad weather where he may have to come in to check roads then he could take the truck home.

Discussion took place on getting a town cell phone for the highway department rather than using a personal phone. The board agreed and asked Charlotte and Jennifer to look into the cost of this.

Collin stated they are still working on cleaning out culverts. There was some discussion and clarification on the highway budget.

Although there was no formal written resignation from Mark when he walked out of the meeting August 15th, he was given all compensation owed and check was cashed. Therefore on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to officially accept Mark's resignation. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to have Charlotte send Lester an acceptance letter to his verbal resignation on September 15th along with monies owed and send certified mail. Motion passed.***

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): 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 8:25 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion passed.***

Some discussion took place on various pending compliance issues around town. Consensus was to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

On a motion by Kathi, seconded Jim; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant