

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of October 21, 2025 at 6:30 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; Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Carole Wallace

CALL TO ORDER: Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:30

MINUTES: On a motion by RYANNE, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

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

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan (current work completed but not limited to):
 - Graded, ditched, graveled, rolled Gates Mountain Rd.
 - Underdrains were installed on Derry Hill Rd and widened the road by the beaver pond. Also checked and cleaned a culvert and made repairs to a headwall
 - Culverts replaced on Crescent Lake Rd
 - Ditched Heino Rd, checked and cleaned culverts
 - Graded Hoagland, Derry Hill, Nelson and Duncan Rd
 - Inventoried Forest Rd culverts and worked on a plan for the replacement of them
 - Oil undercoated all trucks
 - Switched WS body to winter body
 - Worked in pit prepping for making gravel
- Jennifer said the employee evaluations and highway budget will be ready for the next meeting.
- Jennifer attended a meeting at which she was informed that whether you are a municipality or garage, to adjust air brakes or slack adjusters you must be certified. The NH Motor Transportation Association offers a course. The member price is \$275 for two people and we would need to join the NHMTA to become a member, which costs \$250. She called to get a price at a couple of different trucking companies if we took the trucks to them and was told it would be between \$400-800. Based on this it would be cost-effective to join the association and send two of the crew. Nov. 4th is the course in Concord. It was noted that this all changed due to the inspection process being cancelled. On a motion by Jim, seconded by RYANNE; ***the Board voted to join the NHMTA and for two to take the certification course. Passed.***
- Winter parking ban sign: Parking ban begins Nov 1st. ***On a motion by RYANNE, seconded by Jim; the Board voted to approve for highway to post the signs. Passed.***

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: Kathi. ConCom met on Oct 8. It was a recap on where they stand on various items.

- They are looking at the So. Acworth Forest, and they are finding it may not be cost-effective to do forest harvesting on this alone and may need to put it together with work at the Gove Forest. They are in speaking with the logger and the town forester about this.
- The easement monitoring for conservation easements come up in the fall and they are looking at a schedule.
- Keyes Hollow wetland assessment grant application was submitted.
- Regarding the Crescent Lake water shed assessment, there are 18 property owners that are working on some of the recommendations they can do to protect the lake.
- The survey of town land at Crescent Lake is a long process. There are two more questionable boundaries, and they will be dealt with over the winter.
- Reviewed the public outreach over the next couple of months. One goal is to get an article in each newsletter.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Application for Veteran Tax Credit: M247 L17. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Debit card statement: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Health Trust renewal: Renewal was reviewed, the increase was acknowledged.
- Primex renewal: Renewal was reviewed, the increase was acknowledged.
- Email re: Gove Rd property: Discussion about email asking if he would be allowed to set up a shooting range on the property if he were to buy it. Kathi said there is nothing in the zoning ordinance that doesn't permit this. Ryanne said he would be within his rights and thinks this is a great idea. Consensus was this wouldn't be a problem.
- Fall Mountain Withdrawal study: Ryanne. They met on the 6th and brought forth the minority report to counter the Walpole majority report. For the most part there was a lot of positive feedback for the minority report. There was a person that took serious offense to it, mainly because she drafted the majority report. Ryanne stated that it was taken personally but it was not the case. It was written as a proposal to say we do not support the withdrawal because it was not a good idea financially for Acworth or any of the supporting towns. They did not have time to write a report for Langdon, but their withdrawal report was a lot more evidence based and a lot stronger whereas Walpole was not stable and not as strong. What happens next is the reports are submitted to the Board of Education (BOE). Then there will be a BOE public hearing session where they will review all the reports. It is expected it will be November 13. Ryanne said she has never seen the BOE not approve a request for withdrawal. She does anticipate it will be approved for both towns and be on the ballot for March.

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 (c) at 7:12 p.m. Passed.***

On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Passed.***

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 (I) at 7:38 p.m. Passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened the public meeting at 8:09 p.m. Passed.***

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator