

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of March 6, 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, BOS Admin. Assist.; Jennifer Bland, Hwy Admin. Assist.; Collin Crosby, Hwy Foreman

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; Rep. Hope Damon; Erin Darrow; John Dishong; Glenn Elsesser; Luke Fowler; Torrey Greene; Mary Hildreth; Steve and Lori Murray; Gregg Thibodeau; John Tuthill

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

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Discussion on the RFP for completion of FEMA repairs for paving on Charlestown Rd. Erin looked at the RFP in more detail with Jennifer and made changes based on feedback from Glenn, Prescott and Brenda and suggested the date to change to release the RFP tomorrow and due on March 20th with a mandatory preproposal meeting on Monday March 13th at 1:00 at the Acworth/Charlestown town line.
- Erin provided the town multiple RFPs from surrounding towns that show that it's very typical to have preproposal meetings and for the towns benefit. The town is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on this project and there's questions about transparency there's questions about consistency and by having everybody present for one meeting it really helps to facilitate communications.
- After further discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to submit the RFP. Motion passed.***
- Discussion on Nye Rd mitigation. Kathi said this was a request from FEMA. After much discussion, consensus was this is low on the priority list right now and we can let them know at the next weekly meeting.
- Letter to DES: Kathi said FEMA and HSEM is having a problems with getting needed info from DES and encouraged the board to send a letter to DES. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

MINUTES: Meeting minutes of 2/21: on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.***

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

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Collin said they have been working on plows.
- When plowing, the Dodge hit a soft spot on Nye Rd. and ended up in a ditch filled with water. Tried getting it out with Int'l. Came back Sunday with backhoe and grader and got it out but it is out of commission for four weeks. Needs to get an axle.
- Finished 4000-hour service on the grader.
- Replaced small side dump chains and both bed chains on WS.
- Jim told Collin he received three calls at home this week complimenting the great job the highway dept. is doing.
- Collin hasn't heard anything back regarding the town garage roof.
- Collin asked if we wanted to sell the sweeper, JP was interested. Consensus was it was a good idea to hold on to it.
- Steve Murray asked if we had a master list with an inventory of town roads and their condition. Kathi said at one point we were part of a pilot program with Upper Valley Regional Planning and there would be something in the office.

PUBLIC: The Board acknowledged Hope Damon. Hope is one of our state reps. She gave a brief presentation of various things that have been happening in Concord this year.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits:
 - Dishong M201 L113. The Board acknowledged John Dishong. John shared some additional info regarding his building permit. He didn't agree he needed to go to ZBA for a variance. After much discussion, on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to have Bob Porter look over the application, for the Board to go through the zoning ordinance and bring it back to the next meeting. Motioned passed.***

- Murray M201 L9101. After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- **Renewal of Health Officer:** On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve renewal for Jennifer Bland as Health Officer and sign. Motion passed.***
- **Tax Deed Waivers:** These were from last year which the board voted on but weren't signed. Tax Collector needs for her files. On a motion by Jim seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to sign. Motion passed.***
- **Intent to Cut:** None
- **Compliance:** None

DISCUSSION:

- **Small Roads Initiative Team (SRIT) Update:** Gregg T. said they've been going through the recording from the public hearing, extracting key points and questions and looked at other information that were provided. Doing additional research on cost savings and cost expenses. Looking at some of the other identified impacts and from attorneys' perspective, Realtors, emergency lane some of those key topics that were brought up. The goal is to update the frequently asked questions and provide responses to all of the questions that were received which would be March into early April timeframe to get all this done. All this is posted on the website. Glenn asked whether we have engaged town attorney to address questions. Kathi read the questions: Is it legal for the town to reclassify the roads in question from Class V to Class VI? What is the legal liability to the town? Can land owners bring suit against the town for the reclassification and financial impacts? What is the risk to the town if law suits are initiated? On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to have Charlotte contact legal regarding these questions. Motion passed.***
 - After much more discussion, Jim thanked the team for their work. He motioned to dissolve the team, but clarified he wasn't referring to his road. Motion defeated.
- **Tax Deed Property:** M246 L3 and M223 L11. After little discussion on whether to proceed with tax deeding these two properties which are recommended by the Tax Collector, on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to start the deeding process. Motion passed.***
- **Perambulation of Acworth/Charlestown town line:** Kathi mentioned that Patrick Dembrowski told Charlotte he found three of the boundary markers that line up with the last perambulation. If that's the case, and we can verify that in April when someone goes out to walk it, we won't need a survey done. Ray can attend if it's on a Saturday. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to appoint Gregg Thibodeau to be their representative when the perambulation takes place. Motion passed.***
- **Add solar permits to fee schedule:** Charlotte mentioned that the Assessor agrees it is a good idea to have permits so they can be notated in the assessing program. However, currently the town has not wanted to put a value on solar and if we want to start doing that, he recommends to wait for the reval. year. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to add solar to building permit fee schedule for \$50. Motion passed.***
- **Cold Pond Rd quote from Bazin Bros.:** The first option is \$910k. The second option is \$830k. Kathi mentioned both numbers are above what we can afford in a year. If we have a contract at the end of the year we could do part of it and encumber the remaining funds for the following year. Glenn recommends we leave Cold Pond for a couple years and put money on other roads that are in worse condition.
- **Pursue hazardous & dilapidated buildings per RSA 155-B:3:** Discussion on signing a letter to the property owners of 30 Turkey Shoot Rd to start. ***On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; the Board voted to sign and send the letter. Motion passed.***

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): None

On a motion by Kathy, seconded Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant