

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of September 15, 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/HO/EMD; Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; David Clark; Glenn Elsesser; Jeff Marsden, Bazin Bros; Lori & Steve Murray; Jack Sielicki; Matt Szymanski; Gregg Thibodeau

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

MINUTES AND NPS MINUTES OF 9/2/25: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to approve. 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 Ryanne, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**

FEMA UPDATES: 4624 & 4740 project status. Status of CBR. Kathi thanked Jennifer for the tremendous amount of work she does with this. Jennifer has submitted letters to the state for 50% of the non-federal share they should be reimbursing the town. For the 2021 flood it is \$117,645 and 2023 flood it is \$90,876. Jennifer checks on this every few months and receives the same response, which is they have a plan in place and working on it.

There was an updated list Jennifer provided with remaining projects which we can't request the cost share on until they are completed.

For 2021 we have the Nye Rd alternate project which was redirected to Derry Hill Rd. That work will start in 2026.

Crane Brook paving and shouldering was obligated, and the state is holding the funds. We can't do this until the other work is finished. Jennifer has applied for extension letters to push the project out another year.

For 2023 we have Crane Brook Rd and Sam Putnam Rd. There are permits that were submitted for Sam Putnam Rd. Currently waiting for DES and then hwy can replace two culverts and get it open. Thayer Brook Rd was pending mitigation. Jennifer just signed it to say they agreed to what FEMA came up with and are now waiting for them to advise on how to move forward with that, then we can prepare an RFP.

The Engineer requested attending the Nov 3 meeting to have a public hearing to present the three alternatives for 2.5 miles of repairs for Crane Brook Rd. He is also going to attend the next FEMA meeting as FEMA has questions which need to be answered by him. Consensus was to have the public hearing on November 3rd at 6PM.

Jennifer said we are having a FEMA audit for Charlestown Rd by a gentleman from the inspector general's office next Tuesday for 2 or 3 hours.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Derry Hill Rd bids: Bazin Brothers \$951,321.20; JP Trucking \$1,277,991.70; United Construction \$952,239.80. It was mentioned that JP included two items that were removed in the amended RFP but when subtracted out the total was 1,230,741.70. After some discussion on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi **the Board voted to award the bid to Bazin Brothers.**
- Work report/work plan (current work completed but not limited to):
 - Placed 2 speed limit signs on Crescent Lake Rd
 - Still looking into finding someone to do the crack sealing
 - Changed culvert on Gates Mountain Rd
 - Raked and calcium chloride Ny Rd, off Lynn Hill
 - Graveled, graded, rolled and calcium chloride Campbell, Nye and Currier Rd
 - Graveled, graded, rolled and calcium chloride Bascom Hill Rd from farmhouse to the Langdon line
 - Picked up Freightliner from ATG

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: None

CONSERVATION COMMISION UPDATE: Kathi: ConCom met on the 10th and reviewed the effort at Dodge Hollow for signage. Intent to cuts were reviewed. Annual easement monitoring will be coming up in October. Some members have been gathering information about pollinator projects. Keyes Hollow wetland review is moving forward in the grant application phase. There is a Lake Smart certification provided to the landowners who do the recommended work which is stated in the watershed assessment report performed at Crescent Lake. 16 landowners have begun participation. The survey on the town property at Crescent Lake is continuing. One of the boundary questions with a property owner has been resolved.

PUBLIC: Jack spoke about installing a communication tower on town property at Crescent Lake Rd. Kathi said this would be stipulated in the Zoning Ordinance and handled by the Planning Board. Kathi said we have a telecommunications ordinance, and it would be important to follow the same procedure as is required of anyone else. Kathi said being town property we would need to do more research on how we could proceed. Ryanne asked to put it on the pending item list.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Intent to cut: J Tarmey M250 L1. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Building Permit: M Szymanski M253 L10. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim, ***the Board voted to approve and sign Passed.***
- Demo Permit: D Belluscio M226 L12. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim, ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Sign letter for Davis grant (all members): On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to sign. Passed.***
- Updated 2025 Haz Mitigation Plan: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Fall Mountain withdrawal study update: Ryanne: Had a meeting on Sept. 8th. They were going to vote to withdraw or not but after discussion with the Walpole subcommittee who gave their first draft report that day, the majority felt that Walpole was not ready, including the budget numbers had no detail. They will make a final decision on Monday Oct. 6th. Because this falls on a Selectmen's meeting night the Board will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 7th.
- Demo of building on Turkey Shoot Rd: Charlotte would like to reach out to legal to question the procedure on notifying the former owner/private mortgage holder regarding demolishing the tax deeded building. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve of Charlotte reaching out to legal. Passed.***

A former owner of a tax deeded property inquired on whether the board would waive the 10% penalty for repurchasing the property. After some discussion, no decision was made.

The first Select Board's meeting in October will be Tuesday, October 7th.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator