

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of August 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Jim Jennison; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Jennifer Bland, EMD/HWY/HO; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Melinda Loisel, Treasurer; Bob Porter, Compliance Officer

OTHERS PRESENT: Lori & Steve Murray

CALL TO ORDER: Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:00

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 (a) at 6:00 p.m. Passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened the public meeting at 6:14 p.m. Passed.***

MINUTES AND NPS MINUTES OF 8/4/25: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; Jim is still opposing awarding the contract to JP as he wanted the job to go out to bid again, ***the Board voted to approve. Passed.***

MINUTES-EMERGENCY MEETING AND NPS MINUTES OF 8/16/25: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi, ***the Board voted to approve with Ryanne abstaining as she was absent. Passed.*** Kathi mentioned this was considered an emergency meeting due to a health issue involving an internment of a large farm animal in an inappropriate place which jeopardized surrounding wells and septic and needed our attention quickly. We are now working through the process that is advised by the state and our attorney.

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; Jim asked if we could find out why MSW went out at 6 tons when it can hold 9-10 tons. Charlotte will inquire. ***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.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan (current work completed but not limited to):
 - Roadside mowing on Turkey Shoot Rd, Charlestown Rd, Luther Hill, DHR, Langdon Rd, CBR & Tucker Rd
 - Removed brush on Charlestown, Luther Hill, DHR, CBR, Tucker Rd, River Rd, Keyes Hollow Rd & Underwood Rd
 - Graded, ditched, rolled and calcium chloride Grange Hall Rd, Mulligan Rd, Campbell Rd & Quarrier Rd
 - Continued to work in pit on striping and piling material
 - Ordered all the headwalls and culverts for CPR
 - Ordered culverts for CLR
 - Pothole patching on CPR
 - Finished top coating the library walkway
 - FEMA meetings
- Contract for CPR culverts: Jennifer said JP asked if the completion date could be extended to Dec 15 since there has been a delay in accepting the bid and to give enough time if there is a hold up due to bad weather. The board was at a consensus to move the date. Jennifer will notify JP of this, and they will send over the contract. Charlotte will advise the board once the contract comes in so they can come in and sign it.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: Kathi: They went through the minutes and financials.

- They had a guest who spoke about an incident on the Dodge Brook Trail where he was riding his bicycle and encountered two 4 wheelers. ConCom's recommendation was to put up signage with rules. Every time signs are installed, they are removed.
- There is currently no street sign on Dodge Brook Rd, so the Highway Dept. is planning to install one.
- They reviewed an intent to cut.

- There are a few property owners in town that are interested in conservation land.
- Three of the members are working on a project regarding pollinator pathways.
- They are pursuing a grant opportunity to have an assessment of the town wetlands.
- They spoke on the Crescent Lake watershed assessment. It is complete and the engineer has made recommendations. The lake has reached the tipping point in terms of the level of phosphorus, and it is important to not let that grow and try and reduce it. The two main sources are shoreland properties and town road practices. We will be receiving recommendations for the town.

PUBLIC: Steve asked about the speed study being conducted by Upper Valley. Jennifer stated they haven't installed it yet. Steve proceeded to request that they install it in a different area. He also asked about the culverts and Jennifer said they had been ordered.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permit: Gonzales M201 L88. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; the ***Board voted to refer this to ZBA. Passed.***
- Demo Permit: Pike M221 L9. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Intent to Cut: Luther M231 L11. On a motion by Jim, seconded by RYANNE; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Letter re fence in Town right of way: On a motion by Jim, seconded by RYANNE; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Bob mentioned that at 166 CLR a wooden retaining wall was being removed as well as excavation work within 150' of the water. He said if the Board wants, he could stop and speak to the contractor tomorrow as he shouldn't be doing anything further without a shoreland permit. The board agreed for Bob to proceed with letting them know they shouldn't be doing anything more without permits. Lori mentioned that right where they are digging is the septic and the owners are not often there.
- Fall Mountain withdrawal study update: RYANNE: There were two meetings on the 11th. Walpole still hasn't done anything which is due for the school board to present to the state by October. There were about 25 people at the public hearing. Steve asked RYANNE if there is a way this issue could be publicized more. There was discussion on various places to do this.
- Update on speeding device request for use on state road: The state says it can be done but the town would have to purchase the device. The cost is approx. \$2,600 for a single pole and device. In addition, we would have to purchase a security tag to prevent theft. We would not qualify for a grant because we don't have a local police dept. Charlotte asked about having a speed study like we are doing on CLR and Charlestown Rd, but Jennifer said the state is not willing to do this. It would be HD's responsibility for the maintenance of the radar device. This would include setting it up, checking it, obtaining data, and being in contact with the state police and sheriff's office to provide them with details. The mounting bracket can go on separate poles to get better data, but we would need to purchase separate poles. For 123A we would need a permit stating we could put it in the right of way and then we must sign a maintenance agreement that we will take care of it. If we decide to move it to various locations around town, we would need to advise DOT, the State Police and the Sheriff's office. Jennifer is concerned that if we put one of these devices on the state road then other residents will want one on their road. She does not want HD to spend a lot of time on this. She was not opposed to it, but it will be an added task. If it means dealing with speed limit signs or fixing the roads, the roads come first. Jim does not think it will make a difference. RYANNE doesn't support this, because it wasn't budgeted, it's a lot of responsibility, it sets a precedence, and we must keep following up with it. The Board was in consensus that it is not feasible at this time. Jennifer says she will check again with the highway crew for their input on this additional task.

On a motion by RYANNE and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator