

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Public Hearing and Business Meeting of January 3, 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, Highway Foreman

OTHERS PRESENT: Glenn Elsesser; Gregg Thibodeau

CALL TO ORDER FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Jim called the public hearing to order at 6:05 p.m.

Jim announced that we have received unanticipated funds in the amount of \$64,947.88 for a special one-time bridge payment from the state to be used on repair and maintenance of municipal bridges. There was some discussion on using these funds for repair of Beryl Mtn. Bridge. Charlotte will call Chad at Cold River Bridges to get a quote. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to accept these funds. Motion passed.***

CALL TO ORDER FOR BUSINESS MEETING: Jim called the business meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi mentioned there are some projects that have been submitted to the next level of review and so far, there has been no questions.
- There are still smaller ones that are pending.
- Erin is just finishing up the wetlands permit for Crane Brook Rd. As soon as DES accepts the report, the state will submit the project to FEMA.
- Glenn E commented that in his opinion Crane Brook Rd is not going to hold up. He stated he doesn't believe there was any underdrainage put in. Kathi stated that Jenn could relay this concern to Erin.
- Glenn asked if Erin could provide two lists, one covered by FEMA and one for Hazardous Mitigation.

MINUTES: Meeting minutes and NPS of 12/19: 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 Jim; ***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 the crushing should be done by Thursday.
- Made an appointment for the Dodge 5500 to go the 17th to Keene for warranty work.
- Int'l is down for service, waiting on brake parts. No maintenance has been done on this since it was purchased. Collin says they are now keeping better service records for the fleet.
- One of the roofing companies came in with a quote of \$76k and the other for \$50k. Collin doesn't think this is something we need right now. He said a thumb would help out a lot on the backhoe. He got a quote for \$13,691.40. After some discussion on spending the extra highway money, consensus was to make a list.
- Jim would like to consider a pole barn to keep the equipment out of the weather.

PUBLIC: Glenn asked if Jeff from Bazin Brothers could check out Cold Pond Rd to give us his opinion on what needs to be done. Jim will call Jeff in the morning.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: J Magliano M201 L103. The shoreland permit was received. Consensus was to double check with Mr. Magliano on setbacks referenced on application.
- Intent to Cut: None
- Report of Cuts: D Clark M244 L5; S Clark M244 L4; B Bascom M243 L4. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Equalization Certificate: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to table until next meeting Motion passed.*** Charlotte will provide sales list for the next meeting.

- Pole License for Cold Pond Rd: On a motion Jim, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to approved and sign. Motion passed.**
- Abatements: D Sanville; D&G Stone. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Rules of Procedure for Selectmen: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to adopt and sign. Motion passed.**
- Compliance:
 - Charlotte spoke with Mr. Fong and he wasn't aware of the situation. He thought everything was put in a container. He was going to check with the contractor.
 - Barcomb left a message on the answering machine regarding the letter, Charlotte will call back tomorrow.
 - Pike came in last week questioning the letter. Charlotte asked him to submit something in writing of what their intentions are for building as was discussed at a previous meeting he attended. He said he would. Charlotte also mentioned their permit was June 6, 2022.
 - Sent 2nd notice to Desroisier but haven't heard anything back. Charlotte will look to see if this was received. Jennifer said emergency responders wouldn't be able to get down the road. Kathi said we do have a waiver for Class VI roads.
 - Signs on Thayer Brook Rd are still there. Jim said the gentlemen called at his house and Jim told him the signs would need to come down. The town will get signs that say "no thru way" and "no GPS" signs.
 - There has been no deed or permits for Gove Rd.
 - Discussion on Demuro. Jennifer said that they are working with the highway department as far as turnaround.
 - Jennifer recommends we come up with a stronger ordinance for people that live in campers.
 - Jennifer said there are 2 RV's on the property just bought on Turkey Shoot Rd. Charlotte to send letter.

DISCUSSION:

- Review Draft Warrant Articles: Discussion took place on the draft warrant articles and the amount to increase for the vet credit. After some discussion, on a motion by Ray, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to have a warrant article recommending to increase the Veteran credit from \$200 to \$300. Motion passed.** Kathy brought up that we have increased the vet credit and elderly credit at the same time in the past. After some discussion on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to have a warrant article recommending to increase the elderly exemptions by age group from \$15k/\$30k/\$40k to \$20k/\$40/\$50k. Motion passed.** The other part of this is the income limit. It is currently \$21k for single and \$28,800 for married. After some discussion; on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to include on the warrant article to increase this amount to \$25k for single and \$32k for married.**
- Add holidays to coincide with Federal/State holidays: Discussion on increasing the holidays. Based on the spreadsheet Charlotte provided, the amount of holidays Acworth has is less than neighboring towns, state and government. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to add Presidents day and the day after Thanksgiving. Motioned passed.**

Gregg presented FAQ's for changing Class V to Class VI road. He said this will be used at the public hearing. This will be put on the next agenda for review. Charlotte said she would have it posted in the paper and on the website.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): 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 (b) at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed.**

On a motion by Jim, seconded Ray; **the Board voted to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant