

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 21, 2022 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, Administrative Assistant; Collin Crosby, Highway Foreman

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Bland; Erin Darrow, Engineer; Glenn Elsesser; Mark Girard; Greg Thibodeau; John Tuthill

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

On a motion by Jim seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:33 p.m. Motion passed.

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Erin discussed where things are currently on Derry Hill Rd as well as presenting next year's schedule. Her recommendation was to focus on replacing the Forest Rd. culvert and make this a priority.
- Erin is optimistic on getting money back very soon from FEMA for the emergency repairs on Crane Brook Rd.
- Kathi said that based on the proposed budget for 2023 we would have \$200k of town money for emergency repairs. This amount would not cover all of what Erin proposed for 2023 repairs. Kathi stated that the bank has been clear that the money we receive from FEMA would repay the current loan and not be used for future repairs. For any additional repairs above and beyond what the town can afford, an additional loan would be needed and would need to go to the voters for approval in March. If we don't receive some reimbursement by then, this would be difficult for voters to support.
- Erin talked about the money the town has set aside for next year to do the overlay on Cold Pond Rd and doesn't feel it's efficient use of money. She stated that some sections of the road are beyond the overlay. Kathi stated that this is part of the Planning Boards recommendation for the capital improvement plan and a strong sentiment in town to complete that road.
- Erin said if we have 1.2 million to spend next year, she recommends Forest Rd Culvert and then do some of the reclaims and if there is enough money, pave Charlestown Rd.
- Kathi asked about the contracts on hold. Erin didn't have an amount but recommends we keep them on hold.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of 11/7: on a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; the Board voted to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign with additions. Motion passed.*** Kathi mentioned that DRA stated they still have not received information from the school to set the tax rate and requested a motion from the Board to allow Melinda to get the paperwork from the Bank for a T.A.N. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to arrange for paperwork by the next meeting. Motion passed.***

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Lost lights in the Western Star, Aaron was able to fix that. Noticed today when putting the winter tires on one of the wheel seals is damaged and gear oil and grease are all over the brakes. They are in the process of fixing this.
- The 5500 is losing power, going through fuel and overheating. Aaron said he could do the work to fix it but it may still be under warranty. Charlotte will look into this.
- Collin said that, the clothing allowance agreement that there is concern regarding the last paragraph which states if they get hurt with the clothing they purchased they wouldn't receive workman's comp. On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to delete the last paragraph.***
- Question on removal of "children at play" signs on Cold Pond Rd. Consensus was these could be removed.
- Highway Budget:
 - Jim said he would like to remove the \$10k mowing cost out of the budget. Collin questioned if there is a road that hasn't been ditched and if it wasn't mowed, would it fall back on the highway dept to do it.
 - Ray suggested to have Collin get a list of roads that need to be done and get back to them at the next meeting. Collin will reach out to Darrell who does the mowing.

- Jim asked if the amount for repairs and parts could be reduced now that we have Aaron doing a lot of the work. Collin said it will save a lot of money having repairs done in house but the price of parts and repairs have increased. He wants to leave that amount.

TRANSFER STATION: Reviewed and discussed the updated transfer station fees. Jim suggested adding an amount for a 100-gallon propane tank. Jim also suggested an amount for a heavy equipment tire to be \$250.

Jim said the payment should be at time of disposal and not to have payments can be made with the attendant.

PUBLIC:

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permit: J Dishong M201 L113. Due to the side setback being 8 feet it was recommended to refer to ZBA and request for a special exception. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to refer the building permit to ZBA. Motion passed.***
- Pistol Permit: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign Chief Connors recommendation to issue the permit. Motion passed.***
- HealthTrust 2023 Renewal: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign the HealthTrust Transmittal. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Prouty Property M250 L2: NHMA suggested we go to town council for direction on proceeding with gifting deeded property. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to reach out to the town attorney. Motion passed.***
- Review Small Roads Committee: Gregg asked for the Selectmen's approval with the actions going forward with the warrant articles, public hearing and town vote. Reviewed the list of roads, added Parsons Rd to the list. Gregg pointed out the new column with cost of maintaining the road which consists of normal grading, plowing, and ditching. What is not in there are culverts that need to be replaced which are above and beyond the cost referenced on the spreadsheet and these are minimal costs, not costs to bring the road up to DOT standards. ***On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; the Board voted to support the drafting of the warrant articles, holding the public hearing and as much public outreach as possible. Motion passed.***
- Rules of Procedure for Selectmen: After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to adopt this policy. Motion passed.*** It will be brought up again in a meeting in 30 days for signing.
- Town Hall use of alcoholic beverage: The Towns insurance company use to provide a rider but now doesn't offer this. This part has been removed from the town hall rental agreement and now states it is the responsibility of those who are renting. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to make this change. Motion passed.***
- Email from Helen Frink regarding signs on Thayer Brook Rd.: Discussion on the "private road, dead end closed to public access" signs, by the Wilson's on 8 Thayer Brook Rd. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted for Charlotte to send a letter to the property owner to remove the signs as this is a town road.***
- Review proposed budget: Reviewed and discussed various line items in the budget.

On a motion by Jim, seconded Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant