

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of January 30, 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: David Bascom; Greg Bascom; Ron Demuro; Glenn Elsesser; Frank Emig; Mark Girard; Torrey Greene; George Hebert; Claudia Istel; Melinda Loiselle; Peter & Marcie Maynard; Brenda Melius; Stephen & Loriann Murray; Ben Nelson; Margaret Starks; Gregg Thibodeau; Karen Toner; John Tuthill; Robin Ungeheuer; Rob and Sarah Vogel

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the business meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

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 5:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion passed.***

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 (a) at 6:05 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion passed.***

Guests: The Board acknowledged Sullivan County Commissioner's George Hebert and Ben Nelson. Packets were presented and discussion took place on the top 10 major projects, county-wide programs and opportunities for the county to support municipalities.

FLOOD RESPONSE: Jim announced there will be a public hearing regarding the loan on Feb. 6th. Glenn asked if there was a plan to present on where the money is going. Kathi stated this has been given by Erin and will be presented then.

MINUTES: Public Hearing and meeting minutes of 01/16: on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.***

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

PAYROLL MANIFEST: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray. Jim questioned Jennifer about her hours and asked if she knew the line item was limited. She acknowledged. ***The Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Winter Snow removal and parking ordinance:

- Some discussion on the winter snow removal and parking ordinance. Collin hasn't had a chance to meet with Mr. Murphy yet. Mr. Murphy explained his concern to Collin about the snow not being cut back enough. Collin thought this was being taken care of, he will go down with equipment and take care of this.
- Kathi mentioned the way the ordinance is written, if there is a problem that is solvable, we aren't jumping to give out a fine.
- On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; motioned was to table this until Collin reports back to us.

Clothing Allowance Increase:

After some discussion and agreement with Collin, on a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to keep the clothing allowance at \$250. Motion passed.***

Work Report:

Kathi asked about running out of diesel. Collin said they are delivering weekly but due to the back to back storms they are running out sooner. Collin said it would be better if they come twice a week. Charlotte will check on it.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: None
- Intent to Cut: R Miller M255 L2-1 M256 L1. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Current Use application: Cossaboon M201 L129. On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Hazardous waste contracts: After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray, **the Board voted to approve and sign the hazardous waste agreement with Keene.**
- Pistol Permit: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to accept Chief Connors recommendations and sign permit. Motion passed.**
- Charlotte asked if the Board would like Cinde Warmington to attend a meeting. All were in agreement.
- Compliance:
 - Charlotte mentioned that Sargent/Wilke responded to the letter stating the trailer on his property was his sons and he has left with it and the other one they use when they travel, they don't live in it.
 - Desroiser hasn't responded, doesn't appear he is a resident. No action taken.

DISCUSSION:

- Building permit fee schedule: Jim wanted to go \$25 for any building permit as well as the cost of square footage. After some discussion, Jim said to table this until we can meet with Bob Porter to review with him. Questions were asked about Bob P. role. Kathi said we are planning to use him more for code enforcement. She also mentioned that this is an experiment for our town to see if it would work for us. Charlotte will arrange for Bob to attend a meeting.
- Follow up on small roads team public hearing from Sat. 1/28: Gregg mentioned there was a lot of data they gathered from the hearing that created a lot of topics that have to be addressed at the individual property owner level, the process level, and maintenance numbers. They will have to do additional research. There is a lot of work now to be done. The team's recommendation to the Board is they do not submit the warrant articles for this year but continue with the work to address all issues. There was additional discussion that took place that had already been discussed at the hearing.
 - Jim stated that there is less than 2-1/2 miles of road and about \$15k involved and wants to know why we are doing this.
 - Robin Ungeheur stated that she would like to keep Polly Hill Rd. on as a warrant article to discontinue. Jim asked Melinda if she had a rebuttal to this. Melinda read the letter she sent the Selectmen. Her mother, Joanne Smith is a neighbor and discontinuance would be a hardship for her. Robin stated that she had no problems with Mrs. Smith, there is another way to go which wouldn't inconvenience her and didn't agree with the arguments presented.
 - Kathi stated that per Charlotte's headcount there was about 55 people that attended on Saturday and at town meeting there is usually between 150-200 voters. There are people in town that feel the maintenance on these small roads seem unfair. Those people need to have an opportunity to participate in this also. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to accept the proposal to proceed to the next step that was presented by Gregg and do not have them as warrant articles this year. The team will come back to the Board with their findings.** There was more discussion. Jim made a motion to amend the original motion he thanked the team for all the hard work they did and recommended to take this off the warrant forever. Frank mentioned that Jim needed to recuse himself as his road was on the list. Jim said he would recuse himself on his road only. **There was no second to this. The original motion passed.**

After hearing from Melinda on discontinuing Polly Hill. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray, Charlotte mentioned this could be put on as a petition warrant article. **The Board voted to reverse their vote from last week to have a warrant article discontinuing Polly Hill because there was not enough information and there are still a lot of questions on the boundary. Motion passed.**

Recommending the warrant articles will be done next week.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): None

On a motion by Jim, seconded Ray; **the Board voted to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau, Administrative Assistant