

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 7, 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: Gary Baber, Fire Chief; Jennifer Bland & Dave Bland; Ray Leclair; Mark Girard; Steve Mannix; Brenda Melius; 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 6:24 p.m. Motion passed.*

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi gave an update on the weekly meeting call with FEMA/HSEM. Still collecting information.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of 10/31: 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 Kathi; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Collin said the highway department is in good shape. Got all the trucks undercoated.
- Fuzzy Brothers should start crushing soon.
- Collin and Eddie went to Gates Mtn. Rd. and it's now ready for plowing.
- A new part was ordered for the town office generator and is now working. Kathi mentioned that if the power is out, the school is instructed to come here as we have the generator. Charlotte will coordinate with highway on this. Collin said there are step by step instructions on the wall on turning it on.
- One person come out to look at the roof, they will send a quote. Another person will be coming out tomorrow.
- Discussion on whether changes should be made to the clothing allowance receipt. Charlotte will send to the highway dept. for their review.
- Reviewed the 2023 highway draft proposed budget. Kathi mentioned that the highway maintenance budget is currently down from last year by ~\$50k. Most is due to the fact we are running a 3 man crew and not 4. This amount includes provisions which is under discussion about adding an admin position for highway which has proven valuable in the past several months. Kathi asked about the gas line amount, Collin said they use gas for some of the equipment. It was noted that although the cost of highway general expenses is up by ~\$20k, mainly due to inflation, the bottom line for highway maintenance is down ~\$50k with a total net decrease of ~\$30k.
- Discussion took place on whether the \$15k estimated for culverts would be enough. Kathi asked if Collin could make a list and note the ones they would prioritize and how many could be done in a season. It was noted to include the cost for headwalls.
- Greg asked if we were going to try and pursue the culvert inventory to see if we could get grants. He offered to help with the grant portion. Kathi said the PB recommendation would be that ConCom would be the overseer of this.

PUBLIC:

The Board acknowledged Steve Mannix. The Board reviewed his reclamation plan. Kathi said this is something that needs to be presented and approved by the Planning Board and the next meeting is November 28th.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permit: S Mannix M253 L9: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*
- Intent to Cuts: N Jennison M233 L20; B Bascom M233 L4; J&C Comeau M227 L1: On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; *The Board voted to approve all and sign. Motion passed.*

- Appointment-Alternate PB Member: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign the appointment for Frank Emig as an alternate on the Planning Board. Motion passed.***
- Adopt Rules of Procedure for Selectmen: Kathi asked for more time to review. Tabled until next meeting.
- Thank you letter: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to sign the thank you letter to Judy Aron.***
- Compliance: Sign RV Noncompliance letters: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign the letters to Pike, Desrosiers, and Barcomb.***

DISCUSSION:

- Prouty Property M250 L2: Greg presented the ConCom's assessment on their recommendation on options for this town land. They recommend the property be conserved due to its conservation value and adjacent location next to Honey Brook State Park. There were five options presented with pros and cons of each. Their recommendation is that the property be conserved by gifting it to NH Dept. of Forests and Lands to be added to the Honey Brook State Park. There was question on whether this requires town meeting vote. Charlotte will look into this.
- Review Small Roads Committee's recommendations: The goal the SB assigned, was for the committee to determine if Class V roads are correctly classified or should they be changed to a Class VI or private road. Greg presented their findings on the roads they recommend reclassification. It was noted that some of the roads presented do not have adequate ROW for maintenance, plowing and emergency vehicles, others have limited public use and many don't meet DOT minimum standards. There were 19 roads that were reviewed. Out of this, they recommend 10 roads be reclassified, 4 roads have other actions taken to improve maintenance and emergency vehicle right of way and 5 roads would stay the same. The 10 roads are: Breier Hill, Echo Valley, Hoagland, Langdon, McWethy, Meader, Nelson, Polly Hill, Russell, and Coffin Hill. The savings would be over \$1M to bring these roads up to DOT standard, ~\$19k on annual road maintenance, and ~\$3k for average annual wear and tear vehicle cost with an annual loss of \$2,656 in state revenue. They are recommending each of the roads have their own warrant article. They would also like to have a public hearing to review these. There was discussion on the other recommendations for Gates Mtn., John Symonds, Royce Hill and Ryan. Discussion on moving forward with the warrant articles.

On a motion by Kathi, seconded Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant