

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of June 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent

OTHERS PRESENT: Glenn Elsesser, Bill & Mary Hildreth; Steve & Lori Murray; Peggy Starks; Rob Vogel

CALL TO ORDER: Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- No weekly check in today. We have a few outstanding projects for 2021. One is a multi-road project, the other is category Z which is administrative expense and the loan interest.
- Another road which is outstanding is Nye Rd. For the first time last week FEMA discussed the idea of an alternate project. We have continued to put Nye Rd at the bottom of the list because at town meeting we made other arrangements and the residents are pleased with that. FEMA presented a concept of an alternate project where if we didn't want to spend a million dollars to fix Nye Rd, the money could be used somewhere else. Kathi said it's yet to be seen how it's going to work out.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi said Bowers Brook is complete and looks amazing. Fuzzy Brothers donated loam and seed so the area around the two buildings can have grass. There is now a stone way which we can use if we start seeing sediment collecting causing the brook to rise. Mark Girard has implemented a technique that provides the ability to take measurements.
- There was talk about a multi-year wetlands permit that will allow us to go in and do that type of maintenance.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS of 6/3/24: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve. Motion passed.***

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

PAYROLL MANIFEST: 6/3/24: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Collin spoke on crushing and that he would like to do this now. They're all set with gravel and sand but don't have anything to line the ditches with. Had a meeting with the owner of the quarry and they agreed that Ben from Fuzzy Brothers could bring his equipment there to process the material and highway can truck it to the garage. Kathi asked if there was any liability. Collin said it would still be under Ben's MSHA coverage and the property owner is also covered under MSHA. Kathi asked Collin if he could get that info from Ben and get it to Charlotte and we could bring it back at the next meeting when Jim is here. Glenn said Alstead does it this way, they use Garland's pit and they also store it for them. Collin said he doesn't see it's any different than getting the material and bringing it down to the garage to process. They would just be bringing it already processed.
- Collin said he over spoke when the board asked previously if they would need the Ford F550. The crew was using it for work-related activities and now have to use their own vehicles. He doesn't mind using his personal truck but the others don't want to use theirs. They would like to get a small run about used pick up. Regardless, they wouldn't be able to use the F550 after September because it wouldn't pass inspection. Charlotte will contact Primex to see if this is a liability to the town for using personal vehicles for company purposes. Ryanne asked if the \$5,300 could offset the purchase of a small used truck. Kathi asked Collin if he could get a sense of what is out there.
- The Int'l went to Reeds but they didn't fix the transmission problem. There is a place in Concord that specializes in transmissions. They plan to bring it to in order to determine if it can be repaired rather than replaced.
- Collin asked about the letter in regards to Stebbins Rd we sent to the state stating we maintain the first 300' of it. Collin says highway doesn't maintain Stebbins Rd at all. Charlotte said that we mentioned Stebbins because that is what the state appeared to show on their maps, they don't have a Langdon Rd listed. Kathi said we need to go back to the state and make that correction. There is confusion on the name of the road. Kathi and Charlotte will get together and clear this up with the state.
- Ryanne noticed on the highway report there is mention of road signs being stolen. She asked whether this had been reported because she knows that other neighboring towns have had the same issue. Collin said it had been reported.
- Had a winning bid on the 2012 Ford F550 of \$5,300. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to accept and sign the title and bill of sale. Motion passed.***

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: Ryanne. They met Wed. June 12. Reviewed and discussed several intents to cut as well as the pending Clark's driveway permit application and how it would effect some wetlands and habitat. Discussed other wetlands. In concert with recent newsletter on pollinators, the library has created a shelf called Gardening For Pollinators and they appreciate their efforts to work with them.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Road agreement: Signed road agreement that was omitted last meeting.
- Building permit:
 - Miller M234 L7. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - Letter to McShane re: building permit: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Report of cut: B.M.F. M233 L8. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Letter to Governor Sununu: Regarding the 5% reimbursement from the state. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign contingent on Jim signing as well. Motion passed.***
- Corrective abatement: Nash M221 L6: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Compliance Letter: Fowler M247 L31. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign contingent on Jim signing as well. Motion passed.***
- PA-16 Reimbursement for forest land: Kathi mentioned this is something done on a yearly basis which allows us to receive a small amount of money for our forest land. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- PA-28 Inventory of taxable property form: Kathi mentioned this is also a form done on a yearly basis letting DRA know we don't use this form. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Application for appointments to boards/commissions for review and consideration: Kathi said this is in response in part from the questionnaire that went out to the planning board and one of the responses was hiring and appointments be made outside the same circle of people in order to bring more people into town government. Mary asked how many other towns have an application. Charlotte said she found applications on about 8 other town websites. Mary thought it would deter people from participating. After some discussion, there was agreement from the board that the form looks great and would be useful, but consensus was to have the other boards take a look at it and get some input. Ryanne asked if this would reside as a pdf on the website. Charlotte said it would. Ryanne said the first thing she looks for when wanting to run for a position or volunteer for something is a form on a website where she could print it off and submit to show she's interested and was in support of this.
- Statistical reval scope of work and cost for 2025: Kathi said as previously mentioned, our sales ratio has been dropping as property values have risen, which DRA picks up on. They are recommending we have a reval in 2025 instead of 2026 due to this. The scope of work is coming in at \$24k. We save for this and have the money to cover this in CRF. This would reset the clock so the next reval would be 2030. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to go forward with this. Motion passed.***
- Revision to building permit application: Changes were made to conform to state requirements regarding septic in order for clarity on the application. The other change was at the top where it states owners and contractors MUST comply with NH building and fire code's minimum requirements per RSA 155-A:2 I and VII.
- Local building code ordinance: Charlotte mentioned this is an ordinance to adopt in order to have a building inspector for inspections or occupancy permits. We have people moving into town, building homes who are requesting this in order to get loans on their home, which is a requirement by the bank. Every city and town in NH must follow the state building and fire code per RSA 155-A:2. Towns may adopt by ordinance per RSA 674:51 any additional regulations provided that they are not less stringent than the requirements of the state building and fire code. The town building code draft states in part it is adopted to ensure public safety, health and welfare and enforces the NH State Building Code as defined in RSA 155-A, as may be amended. Kathi mentioned this is a process. This is the first time we have had a chance to put these together. This will go to the Planning Board and will be a stand-alone ordinance. The Planning Board will be the ones to act on this process per RSA 675:3.
- Public hearing for Forest Rd Bridge by HEB: Consensus was to have the time at 6PM on July 29th.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7.42 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted, Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator