

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of March 20, 2023 at 6:30 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.

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Darrow; Frank Emig; Gregg Thibodeau; Robin Ungeheuer; Carole Wallace; Vicki Wuest

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

FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Erin discussed the preproposal meeting and some questions that came up:
 - Project escalation factor. Allowing for a factor to be applied from a base cost amount from the time of project award to the time of actual project implementation. She recommends that if it complies with FEMA we are better off with the escalation clause in the contract and it's mutually beneficial. She wanted the Board to make that decision. Kathi brought up that if we do get approval to have an escalation clause from FEMA, that we include this clause because we'll get more reasonable bridge. Consensus from the board to go with what FEMA says.
 - Pike wanted to know if there were locations where the trucks could be washed out. Erin recommends that the town state the contractors are responsible to find a location for washing the trucks. All were in agreement.
 - Another question was providing the Engineers estimate. Consensus was to share the information.
 - Kathi brought up about the FEMA sheet that needs to be provided with the contract. Erin will provide that for them.
- List of unfinished projects: Jennifer said we need a letter for FEMA stating to extend our time for the unfinished projects.
- NHDOT Bridge funding opportunity letter. This is for Forest Road over Great Brook. NHDOT bridge aid is a ten-year plan and is funded 80%/20% Cost is approximately \$1,426,800 so town's portion would be \$285,360. Some discussion took place on this. Erin stated we don't know where we stand with FEMA on this. There is still info she needs to provide to FEMA but said that if we can work with FEMA on this we will have more flexibility in our options. If all goes through she thinks this will get done with FEMA in 2024 contingent on funding and reimbursement. Kathi asked if we should wait or respond we are not interested as we need to respond by April 15. Consensus was to wait and discuss at next meeting.
- Carole asked about the reimbursement money from FEMA and what the holdup was. Kathi stated it's held up by DES right now.

MINUTES: Meeting minutes of 3/6: 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 Ray; ***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:

- Discussion on the various repairs for the trucks.
- Kathi brought up the delays in getting the walks done. She confirmed with Jennifer that Randy will be keeping in touch with the Highway dept. so in case he needs any back up equipment for shoveling. Jennifer will reach out to him before a storm and make sure he will be here and have him check in with her when he gets there.
- After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to have Collin join the Road Agent Association. Motion passed.***

PUBLIC: The Board acknowledged Gregg T. Greg discussed the "drift track" proposed to be developed on the border of Acworth, Marlow and Lempster. He attending the meeting with the conservation groups about this. Greg stated that it seems as though all the proper steps are being taken and there wouldn't be any impact to Dodge Brook or any wild life concern.

The Board acknowledged Moderator John Luther. John was thankful that Mike A arranged for the postponement of the original meeting date due to the winter warning. John asked Charlotte for a warrant in bigger print. The Selectmen confirmed they would be there. Discussion on the count of secret ballot for the loan article and that the voting needs to stay open for an hour after the vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits:
 - Fong M201 L106. Gregg T. questioned whether they are using the proper controls to limit exposure to the water in the Lake. He also noted that based on field work that was done on the town property which abuts Fong's, they are intruding on town property. He said a boat is parked on town property and they leverage about 60x20 yards to maneuver boat and vehicles. We don't have final survey results yet. Consensus was to wait for the final results and we'll reach out to Mr Fong then. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - Scott/Laskevich M234 L3. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - Dishong M201 L113. Kathi stated the space on the tax card is less than the amount he wants to build so he needs to go to ZBA. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to refer John to ZBA. Motioned passed.***
- Accept Chief Connors recommendations for pistol permit: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and signed. Motion passed.***
- Municipal Resources Contract: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and signed. Motion passed.***
- Location film agreement for Book Sisters Productions: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and signed. Motion passed.***
- Current Use Application: G. Elsesser M233 L10. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and signed. Motion passed.***
- Compliance:
 - Dodge Brook Trail blocked due to snow plowing, preventing access to the trail. Consensus was to send letter along with copy of snow removal ordinance to the abutters on Dodge Brook Rd. The Board felt the abutters should remove the snow.
 - Carole mentioned that the town should have a warming shelter in cases where the power is out for a while. Kathi mentioned that in our emergency management plan there is an understanding that it could be in the hall or church. The hall has a generator. Jennifer said that Charlestown and Walpole fire department had a center. They got the generator going for the town hall but it doesn't support keeping the hall warm. She said we need a stand-alone generator in order to do this.

DISCUSSION:

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): None

On a motion by Jim, seconded Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant