

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of July 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Jim Jennison; Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Jennifer Bland, Hwy Admin/EMD; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: David Clark; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Steve & Lori Murray; Gregg Thibodeau

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- There are 3 projects left, Nye Rd, administrative costs and loan interest
- Nye Rd-alternate project w/FEMA funds. The town has continuously moved Nye Rd to the bottom of the list since it was addressed at town meeting and the residents are happy with the outcome. FEMA has determined that Nye Rd damages are ~\$1.1 million and informed us we could use that money on something else in town that is road or equipment related. Kathi asked Collin and Jenn what is on their list if we decided to apply these funds to other projects. There was discussion on culverts on Derry Hill and Cold Pond Rd and getting a small run around truck. The board asked Collin and Jennifer to put together some numbers for the meeting on the 15th. ***On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim the Board voted for Jennifer to notify FEMA that we are interested in the alternate project and are prepared to sign a letter detailing what we are planning to use the money for and have the letter ready for the 7/29 meeting.*** Charlotte asked the board their thoughts on spending money that is not appropriated. Kathi stated that based on emails that were provided, any money which has come in from FEMA or sale of truck is not touchable until next budget session. Charlotte said she understands that money would go into fund balance and warrant articles written to use that money at town meeting. Jennifer said FEMA is saying something different. They say if we pay for a project and are receiving reimbursement we are not held to those standards. According to FEMA the alternate project is different. Charlotte said she would like to reach out to legal for confirmation. ***Motion passed.***

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

MINUTES: Meeting of 6/17/24: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***Ryanne mentioned there was a sentence from previous minutes that needed to be removed. The Board voted to approve with this change, Motion passed.***

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*** Kathi pointed out that the detail YTD and the departments are looking good, everything is coming in at the high 40%, low 50% of budgeted amount.

PAYROLL MANIFEST: 6/17/24: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Highway Report: Finished all the grading, now ditching Grout Hill. Cleaned culvert at the end of Gove Rd and culverts on Lynn Hill Rd.
- Gravel Crushing: Instead of hauling material from quarry and having it crushed at the pit, they have permission from the quarry owner allowing Ben to crush at the quarry. Then highway can bring final product to pit. This material will be 6-7 inch rock to line ditches. They have enough sand and gravel. Consensus was to proceed with this.
- Russell Rd to private: Jim asked Charlotte if she could look in to whether this is a Class V or VI road.
- Gove-Coffin Hill Rd-Chase:
 - Collin went to the site and Mr. Chase did what the permit said but it was a lot and the road is now the size of Rte. 12. There is a large excavator there, roots are exposed, and the stone wall is damaged among other things. Collin wanted to know what the next step is as he is being asked by a lot of people about it.

- Gregg mentioned it's an odd situation where someone that doesn't live in the town requests to improve a road in our town so they could get to their Lempster property. They could have come from the Keyes Hollow end in Lempster.
- Kathi mentioned that we do often issue permits to the snowmobile club and the property ownership criteria is not something she was able to find in the statute and doesn't think it could be used as a foundation for an argument. This leaves us with what we actually gave him permission to do. One thing that was written in the permit was that he needed to be in touch with Collin.
- Jim noted all the work was done before applying for a permit, which is stated on the application.
- Kathi said he has overstepped the permit and suggested we ask legal if there is anything we can do.
- David Clark asked if something will be done on Currier Rd. It is like a river bed and is wrecking his vehicles. Collin said they are planning on working on it. He also said Crane Brook Rd needs some work before there is more damage.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Kathi: The meeting was last week and discussion was on the driveway permit to R Clark. PB has ongoing work on the master plan. There was some discussion in regards to previous editions and found things that have changed factually. There would be some type of summary to these changes. MP to include something with water shed maintenance. They took a brief once over look at the building code ordinance and the PB role in this.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: None

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant: After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve the certificate of authority and grant agreement with the sub-applicant share being \$933.30. Motion passed.*** Jennifer said Upper Valley Regional Planning will pay up front and when the grant comes in, they will take the grant so the Town doesn't have to come up with any money up front.
- Appointment Deputy Treasurer: Melinda said no one else showed an interest. She is happy not to have a deputy, if the Board chooses not to accept her recommendation she is fine with that. It is not mandatory but there should be a second signer. She has checked with other towns without a deputy and they have a Selectman as a second signer. She has been without for a year. Kathi asked if she is recommending or not? She said there seemed to be a lot of turmoil last month when the board didn't accept her recommendation and there was quite an uproar after that which made her want to withdraw the recommendation entirely and leave everything as is. Ryanne said she felt they were just putting it on pause until the word was out to give an opportunity for anyone who might have been interested. Now that they have gone through these steps, on a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve the recommendation. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Compliance-Kelin: After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to send an email stating we need a date of when the septic and well are planned and send them a copy of the signed agreement. Motion passed.*** Jennifer says they have a porta potty and no water plumbed in so they are not violating anything there. She also state they are violating the agreement with the town and the town would be the victor based on this. Consensus was to also reach out to legal to find out if there is anything that can be done for not following the agreement.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7.30 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator