

**TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Selectmen**  
**Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of April 20, 2026**  
**Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover; Katy Haas

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer Bland, Hwy AA/EMD/HO; Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Greg Bascom; Roger Belliveau; Gerry DuBreuil, R&D Paving; Glenn Elsesser; Melinda Loiselle; Jeff Marsden, Basin Brothers; John Mattson; Steve Murray; Lori Pimental; Gregg Thibodeau

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

**MINUTES:** On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve. Passed.***

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

**PAYROLL MANIFEST:** On a motion by Katy, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

- Work report/work plan (current work completed but not limited to):
  - Graded bottom of CBR
  - Pothole patching Allen Rd, center of town, CPR and around library
  - Ditching Forest Rd and replaced culverts
  - Took core samples on Forest Rd and CLR
  - Marked Forest Rd & Crescent Lake Rd for Digsafe
  - Picked up new truck 4/3
  - Moved waste blocks on Thayer Brook Rd
  - Pre bid meeting for CPR
  - Collin and Jennifer worked on the road maintenance plan for 2026
- Collin has been in touch with BDM Sweeper Service for sweeping at Crescent Lake. They charge \$180/hr with a 4-hour minimum and can start any time.
- Collin asked if we have money to cover the grinding on Forest Rd. There were funds encumbered, Charlotte will check what that amount is and advise at the next meeting.
- Bids for CPR: Bazin Brothers-\$407,965, \$93.40 per ton; Peckham Paving \$414,889, \$94.26/ton; Pike \$387,742, \$89.55/ton; R&D Paving \$418,954, \$95.50/ton; Springfield Paving, \$379,372, \$86.04/ton. After much discussion, on a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to award it to Springfield Paving due to being the lowest bid price.***
- Update on speeding and signs: Jennifer said they met Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. They won't put any additional signage in the village but will be doing a speed and traffic test. They will be putting up a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of 123A and Hill Rd. The lilacs are in the state right of way so it's the States' responsibility to remove them. If things continue and there is support there are speeders, the only other option they have is to do curbing through the village, which would reduce the store entrance to 50 feet and make the downtown area narrower.
- Kathi asked about the status of Grout Hill bridge. Jennifer said Cold River Bridges is looking at the beginning of June to start the work, but it would depend on the level of water because they need to get in the water.
- Kathi proposed that the Board go on a ride with highway to see some of the road work that's been done. Jennifer & Collin will arrange this.
- Road improvement application: G Bascom, Derry Hill. Greg has already been in touch with Collin about this. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

**PLANNING BOARD:** None

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:**

- The RFPs developed by ConCom for Keyes Hollow wetlands are being released and the proposal will be going back to ConCom. Kathi stated that Tracy Brook has changed its course, so water is coming down Keyes Hollow Rd and fish are in the road. In addition, it starves the wetlands of having the water from being directed that way which is a flood buffer. There are 2 RFPs, the assessment and the restoration. ConCom will be able to make recommendations in the fall.
- ConCom is working on a logo to be used for signage and promotional purposes.
- ConCom is working on the building permit which the board sent to ZBA for the workshop building at 6 Beryl Mtn Rd. and making recommendations for the ZBA public hearing taking place on 4/22.

- There has been activity at 407 River Rd. in East Acworth. ConCom has confirmed this in the conservation zone.
- Green up day is scheduled for 4/25 and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ConCom talked about adding to the list for the PB to discuss for the ZO is solar farms.

**FMRSD UPDATE:** Ryanne said that at the last school board meeting they were trying to figure out what to do with the budget deficit because the budget failed. They came up with a proposal for a way to do that and the board accepted some of the proposals, one being closing one of the Walpole elementary schools and moving the SAU there. The BA decided to look again at the numbers, and it changed our tax rate because the number of students was miscalculated. When we all voted in March, we had the wrong information. Originally, we were looking at a \$0.22 difference we are looking at an estimated increase of \$1.32. The estimated tax rate will be \$9.51 for the new default budget vs \$8.19 in 2026. The Board asked Charlotte to invite Sarah Vogel to a meeting.

**PUBLIC:** Gregg mentioned they will be working on minor maintenance of Bowers Brook. There is still money to cover this.

John asked that the Select Board or any staff of Acworth not use the Crescent Lake Association Board to convey information as there is no guarantee on how the info will be communicated to its members. He stated the CLA board members are not available all the time, have a particular point of view on certain things and none are Acworth voters. He pointed out that not everyone at the lake is a member of the CLA or full-time resident, that CLA is a voluntary social organization with no enforcement capabilities and they shouldn't be getting involved. His recommendation was the Town send out notifications, post on the website or organize a meeting for ways to distribute information to residents. Steve agreed with this assessment. Steve said that he and John will get together to see what they can come up with for a better strategy for communication and bring it back to the SB. Kathi mentioned that Jenn and Collin felt they had a good connection with communication last year. Steve agreed but said it was with a very narrow group of people who only communicate when they desire.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Letter to Freiburger re: Demo on Beech Rd without a permit: On a motion by Kathy, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

Building Permits: R Belliveau M258 L14. Kathi mentioned to Roger that the ZO does allow the mobile home while constructing the house but once the changeover of the utilities is done the mobile home would need to be removed. On a motion by Kathy, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

S&A Donahue M229 L11.1. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

Vet tax credits: A Pilon M236 L4. On a motion by Katy, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

CU application: S Warburton M247 L26. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

Credit/Exemption reports: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to approve and sign the Vet credit reports. Passed.*** On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne, the ***Board voted to approve and sign the elderly exemption Report. Passed.***

TOTF Voucher request: Kathi stated this is the money voted on in March for the 1<sup>st</sup> year payment of the new truck to come from the highway CRF. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

Debit card statement: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve and initial. Passed.***

Letter re: approving store liquor license: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

Abatement R&C Swain M258 L9: According to the assessors this abatement application was not disputing the assessment of the property rather that education taxes be removed as they are in violation of NH Constitution. Charlotte could send them a copy of the letter from the assessor which states it relates to legal matters and can't be processed through an abatement. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted for Charlotte to send a copy of the letter from the Assessor to the Swain's. Passed.***

**DISCUSSION:**

Draft MS-535: Kathi pointed out that on the last page, it shows all the revenue and expenditures and looks at difference and shows at all the asset and liabilities and looks at the difference and according to DRA's formula if those 2 differences are the same our books have reconciled. She then pointed out at the bottom of page 8 that the unassigned fund balance is 1.2 million. We have used some of the fund balance in our warrant articles so this amount will go down in the fall when DRA sets the tax rate. This will be submitted and the final version will be presented at the next meeting for signature.

Charlotte mentioned that she received a call from the owners on 407 River Rd after being served the cease-and-desist order on the demolition. They told her they are aware they need permits and planning to apply before demolishing. They had just cleared trees and removed things from inside the building during a slow time at work.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Comeau,  
Town Administrator