

**TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Selectmen**  
**Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of January 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** Jim Jennison; Ray Leonard; Kathi Bradt

**STAFF PRESENT:** Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Jennifer Bland, HWY Admin/EMD

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Greg Bascom; Rob DeValk; Glenn Elsesser; Melinda Loiselle; Mark Girard; Steve Murray; Rob Vogel; Jonathan Ashley; Sarah Whearty (DuBois & King); Christopher Fournier; Jay Poulin (HEB)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jim called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Selectmen interviewed both DuBois & King and HEB who responded to the RFP for Engineering services for the 2023 flood repairs.

**2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:** There was a check-in last week, this week was a holiday. Crane Brook (~\$970k) and Derry Hill (~\$330k) has been obligated. Collecting information on the last category which is Admin. Also provided them information needed to reimburse the loan interest.

**2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:** Next step is to have a meeting here with FEMA which includes site walking.

**MINUTES:** Public Hearing and Minutes of 1/2/24: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes. 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 Ray, ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

- Work report/work plan:
  - Working on trucks. Lost 4 wheel drive on the Ford, have fixed it. The sander quit on the WS but Brian got that fixed. Losing hydraulic fluid on the International so not lifting wing up on the plow correctly. Have made several calls to Viking, waiting for call back.
  - Still crushing until the end of the month, taking longer due to the weather.
  - When not working on trucks, they're cleaning ditches and culverts. There are quite a few culverts that need to be changed.
  - Collin said that if all culverts need to be done on Cold Pond Rd before paving, it will be hard to do all of them this year as well as everything else that needs to be done. His suggestion was for highway dept. to grader shim the road which will help hold it up a few more years.
  - Kathi said the budget committee will be meeting with Glenn about the CIP to see if there are any other options such as doing the drainage in one year and then come back another time for paving. They may be changing the warrant article to drainage which will reduce the dollar amount.

**PUBLIC:** Steve M asked about the culvert on Crescent Lake Rd. Collin is aware of this and been discussing this with the property owner. After much discussion Kathi mentioned that we are doing what we can right now but it is winter and we are starting a list of spring maintenance. Suggested involvement with Crescent Lake Assoc. regarding property owner's potential violations.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Appointments for Inspectors of Elections: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*** Jim will be at polls on the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00- 1:30, Kathi 1:30 – 4:30 and Ray 4:30 on.
- Vet Tax Credit: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Intent to Cut: Bassinne M236 L8, M239 L5&6: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign contingent on notifying the state as this area is a state road that was just resurfaced. Motion passed.***
- Tax map maintenance agreement: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

## DISCUSSION:

- RFP for Engineer: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; after little discussion, ***the Board voted to engage HEB for an Engineer as they have the most experience with disaster work, FEMA and hazard mitigation. Motion passed.***
- Date of public hearing for bond. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to hold the bond hearing on the same day as the budget hearing which is February 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30. Motion passed.***
- Placement of “Welcome to Sullivan County” signs: Consensus was to meet with county manager Derick Ferland regarding the signs at the Feb 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:30.
- New Consultant needed relative to the sand & gravel excavation site: Consensus was to ask if he could provide any referrals.
- Capital Reserve-Building and Grounds. Discussion on getting estimates on a container or cost of pole barn for the highway dept. to protect equipment. There is about \$10k in the capital reserve fund for B&G and because the Selectmen are Agents to expend, they can authorize expenditures throughout the year. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to get estimates. Motion passed.***

Kathi reviewed the Town’s ratio study received from DRA which is sales vs. market value. Our last reval was in 2021, the next one is scheduled for 2026. Before COVID our value didn’t drop much lower than 90% and we are now in the 60% range. What that means is all the people that received tax bills in the fall which state their property is valued at a certain amount that amount is lower than what the house is actually worth. There could be a market correction but where this catches up with us is when we have a reval. This could be shocking when the new assessed values become closer to real market value. DRA could recommend we hold our reval sooner. Kathi pointed out this is state wide.

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Comeau  
Town Administrator