

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of August 7, 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, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Jennifer Bland, Hwy Admin. Assist.
/EMD

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; Linda Christie; David Clark; Glenn Elsesser; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Melinda Loiselle; Steve & Lori Murray; Gregg Thibodeau; Robin Ungeheuer

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi mentioned FEMA is requesting an updated letter stating the failed materials on Crane Brook Rd were removed and replaced with qualified materials. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi said she looked over the letter again from the state which helps with funding for the Forest Rd Bridge. Mr. Willeke, Municipal Highway Engineer from DOT reached out to Jennifer to say the offer is still valid and he could work to accelerate the availability of funds. He told Kathi that due to our current situation, we could have a finished bridge by 2025. The engineering would take place after 2024 town meeting. Kathi mentioned there are 3 major projects, Thayer Brook, Crane Brook and Forest Rd Bridge. If the board decides going into the town meeting that Forest Rd Bridge would rise to the top of the list and given that the loan is paid off, we could request an interest free state loan for the engineering portion of the Forest Rd Bridge. With the pricing information the engineering would produce, we could go into the 2025 town meeting with another request for a state loan for the construction.
- If the town indicates they are interested, we would come in under municipally managed projects which means the state appoints a project manager who walks us through getting an engineer and then reaching out to contractors.
- We don't have to decide right away but if we give them the heads up, they will appoint a person we could start talking to and then if we decide we want to concentrate on something other than Forest Rd Bridge we can tell them it won't work out.
- Consensus was to put this on the next agenda after giving it some thought. There would be no cost to us until after an engineer is hired.
- Mr. Willeke said we would be getting a bridge that will not end up on the red list and will be built to last the type of weather we're getting now.
- David Clark showed pictures to engineers at the company he works at and they told him it would be about \$1.5M to replace and for a temporary bridge probably around \$500k. In his opinion it would be a waste of money for a temporary bridge.
- Gregg T mentioned that although South Acworth damage is private property, a state road and state bridge, he doesn't think it is getting the attention it needs. Kathi agreed and suggested a letter be sent from the Board.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS of July 31: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve. Motion passed.***

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

PAYROLL MANIFEST: None

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Collin said they are planning to work on Cold Pond Rd and Heino Rd tomorrow. Then they will go to Derry Hill.
- David Clark asked if Collin could dump a load of crushed gravel at the bottom of Crane Brook Rd so people don't drive up there because currently they are moving the signs and driving up.
- Collin brought the rental dozer back and got a rental excavator.
- Kathi brought up the CIP plan and the Planning Board brought up Climate Resilience needs to be treated as a capital project. She asked Collin what a capital project would look like that would put us in better shape for these types of storms. Collin didn't know where to begin. She asked what he would work on. He said he would work on replacing the 4-ft culvert on Lynn Hill Rd by Nye Rd.
 - Glenn believed we already have too many projects to take care of rather than adding more money into a new CIP fund.
- Discussion on the emergency lane. Greg B suggested to keep Crane Brook emergency lane open for now from the sugar house to the dairy farm. Consensus was to keep it open for now. Highway will put up signs "travel at your own risk".

PUBLIC:

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: McShane/Hackman M229 L5. Consensus was to deny due to presumed state septic approval needed. M Woodruff M218 L5. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Class VI Road Improvement: J Burdick M208 L6. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- MS-535: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Emergency Management Director Appointment: Discussion on sending a letter to Ken Grant recommending granting him EMD Emeritus Status. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi, ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - Discussion on changing Jennifer's status from Deputy EMD to an EMD position. Kathi suggests we build out that team so Jennifer is not doing everything alone. On a motion by Kathi, seconded Jim; ***the Board voted to appoint and sign the form for Jennifer to be the EMD. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator