

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Emergency Meeting of July 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
With Highway and Emergency Management re: flood damages from July 10, 2023 rain event
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./Emergency Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Baber, Fire Chief; Bruce Bascom; David Bascom; Greg Bascom; Kevin Bascom; Dave Bland; Rob DeValk; Brenda Melius; Lori Murray; Gregg Thibodeau; John Tuthill; Robin Ungeheuer; Logan Yeatman

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

FLOOD RESPONSE: Per RSA 91-A:2, II an emergency meeting was called in order to address the findings of the damages sustained from the rain event of July 10th.

- Jennifer said that Homeland Security should be here in about 45 minutes. The response has been drastically different then the last time, she was talking with them at 10:00 last night.
- The Commissioner of DOT has already been out here.
- Spoke by phone with the State Police. Once they get out here we need to know how to proceed. Whether we can see about getting Army Corp of Engineers here.
- The Governor is aware of the storm damage. He was on the 9AM briefing call. Kathi asked if they were close to a disaster declaration in Concord. Jenifer was told it's a work in progress and it doesn't happen overnight. Kathi said it took 3 months before.
- Jennifer said there are millions of dollars of damage. Crane Brook Rd is gone again, Forest Rd Bridge is completely gone.
- The top priority is to get 4 people out that are stranded.
- Collin doesn't even know where to start with only 3 guys and the excavator stuck on the other side of Forest Rd. Alstead is trying to get Cobb Hill open so Collin can get to it. He said we need help, there is too much damage.
- Discussion on using an emergency access lane behind the Bascom's to Langdon.

Kathi stated that the first thing to do is for the board to make an emergency declaration. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to make an emergency declaration. Motion passed.***

Kathi suggested we put something in writing like we have before to the town of Langdon to use the Class VI road that runs from Bascom Sugar House to Holden Hill Rd for an emergency lane.

Jennifer has spoken to anyone working on roads to take pictures, GPS, keep track of their hours, equipment, and who's there.

Charlotte stated that the Sullivan County Sheriffs dept. is offering drone coverage. She will contact them.

Jennifer felt between her and Collin they will be able to do the damage assessments and there is not a need for an engineer to assist with this.

Discussion on the upcoming paving on Charlestown Rd. Consensus was to contact the Contractor and cancel the upcoming paving operation as this road is damaged and now needs repair. Also, the reclaim on Forest Rd will have to be put on hold.

Consensus was to keep the highway dept. labor for all these repairs at a minimum and hire a Contractor in order for highway to do other maintenance work. Also, to do what we can afford a little at a time as we still have no FEMA reimbursement from the flood 2 years ago and we don't have any more borrowing power.

Greg Bascom offered to help with some of the repairs.

Discussion on having volunteer labor to help. There is a volunteer form which they can get at the office.

Consensus was that if people need material to fix things in their driveway, this could be requested. Jennifer said they could create a receipt, they would sign it and it would go in the road file. Ask them to photograph and GPS the damage.

Discussion on hiring seasonal help. He said Henry can help on occasion and will contact him to see if he has any more availability. Currently Ray is helping with driving a truck.

Jennifer said the Engineers name is on all these roads and they haven't been able to work on them without getting permission from her with instructions on how to complete the repairs. Do we need to continue doing this? Consensus was for Jennifer to check with FEMA.

Gregg T said he could help to apply for a permit to DES for an emergency authorization to work in wetlands which we will need.

It was decided to meet again on Thursday, July 13th at 3PM

On a motion by Kathi, seconded Jim; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Comeau".

Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator