

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Meeting of April 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Jim Jennison, Ray Leonard, Kathi Bradt

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

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (NPS): On a motion by Kathi seconded by Ray; *the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 6:30 p.m. Motion passed.*

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; *the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion passed.*

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Administrative Assistant; Mark McIntyre, Highway Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike & Judy Aron; Gary Baber; Joel Bishop & Gail Lavoie; Jennifer Bland; Chris Cassidy; Conan Cook & Brenda Melius; Erin Darrow, Engineer; Glenn Elsesser; Helen Frink & Fredrick Wolf; Mark Girard; Joe Ruggiero; Gregg & Denise Stone; Gregg Thibodeau

FLOOD RESPONSE: Erin presented a plan for the replacement of Forest Rd. bridge. She stated that if we signed a contract now, the project wouldn't start until next spring. She believes that as long as we have a plan in process and keep monitoring it, we may be able to continue this way until then. May have more answers after the zoom meeting tomorrow w/FEMA. Can't make any decisions until we know if FEMA will pay for it. Erin said that a replacement in kind is not feasible. Kathi asked if we need to put this out to bid. Erin said if a project is considered an emergency you don't need to put it out to bid but it's up to the Town. Erin said the Form 4 is what DOT uses which is a load rating for the bridge. It expires April 15 unless there is a plan and requires consistent monitoring which she has been doing.

Erin stated that Josh Perry would like to start working on Crane Brook Rd on Monday. He would like to close the road from Clark Rd/Ryan Rd up to Bascom Hill Rd and have it closed Mon.-Fri. and opened during the Bascom's open house. Kathi will notify the school district. Ray asked why we couldn't wait until school was over. Erin said it was due to the wetland permit expiring June 1

Josh currently working on Luther Hill and will then work on Charlestown Rd. Ray asked what he is doing on Luther Hill. Erin said there is additional ditching to complete and discovered two culverts that were damaged from the storm and need replacing.

The Board acknowledged Joe Ruggiero. Joe stated that he needs to increase the trash removal rates. Currently the rates are haul-\$190, disposal-\$88. The increase would be haul-\$250, disposal \$98, C&D and MSW will remain the same. He said he would like to make it effective immediately due to cost of fuel and staff increases. After little discussion, on a motion by Kathi seconded by Ray; *the Board voted to accept the new rates with a contract for a year. Motion passed.*

MINUTES: Minutes of March 21, 2022: on a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray, *the Board voted to approve the meeting minutes as written. Motion passed.* Non-Public Session minutes of March 21, 2022: Kathi asked to add to the NPS that the action taken was due to a 60-day probation positive review. On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray; *the Board voted to approve the NPS minutes as corrected. Motion passed.*

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

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

Kathi made an observation that looking at the YTD expenses, all of the departments are appropriately positioned in the expenditures for the first quarter.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mark asked if the Board wanted to make the 20 mph speed limit signs on Charlestown Rd. by Luther Hill permanent. After some discussion there was consensus to remove them.

Mark said the 2012 F550 will cost about \$30k to replace the body and \$2k to replace the fuel tank. He said it is handy to have the truck and may be worth it to replace the tank. Jim asked if the HW guys can put the tank in. Mark said they don't have the equipment and the price was a quote from Gendron/Fisher. Glenn said he knows someone that specializes in plastic tanks for diesel. The Board agreed for Glenn to talk to Scott Gendron about this, get a price and let the Board know at the next meeting.

PUBLIC: The Board acknowledged Denise Stone. Denise asked about the legal concern the Board has regarding the Champney property for abutter sale. Kathi said two properties they have as selling to abutters have specific reasons, one is landlocked and the other is a wetland. She said they realized they made an error on the Champney property and plan on reconsidering the vote to include it for public auction. Gregg S. asked why properties are not offered to abutters first as in other towns. Kathi said legal services advised that in order to offer property to abutters there has to be a reason that makes them not useable. She said that because the property has road frontage it is a useable lot and we can't deny others the opportunity to bid on it. Charlotte will send the email from legal to Denise. On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Jim, ***the Board voted to reverse the vote taken two weeks ago on the Champney property and restore it to the list provided by ConCom of properties to go to the auctioneer for a total of five properties, Jim seconded. Motion passed.*** On a motion by Jim and seconded by Kathi, ***the Board voted to go with the new date of June 4th for the auction. Motion passed.***

The Board acknowledged Helen Frink. Helen presented a map of a property on River Rd that is for sale along with the realtor's description stating that it is a buildable lot subject to town approval. Others have looked at this and don't think it is a buildable lot and not worth \$70k. Jim said the Board has no control over the realtor's listing. Kathi mentioned that Mark G. gave a really good analysis on the property two weeks ago and asked if he would speak on this again. He did not want to due to the fact the tax payer was not represented. Chris C. asked about the possibility of subdividing the back and front. Kathi said it doesn't fit in the subdivision regulations, it doesn't have the road frontage to create a new lot.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Building permits: MacLean-on a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray, ***the Board voted to approve. Motion passed.***
Bain-extension-on a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray, ***the Board voted to approve extension. Motion passed.***
2. Pistol permits: On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Jim, ***the Board voted to accept Chief Connors recommendation. Permit signed.***
3. Compliance: On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray, ***the Board voted to sign the letter to Mr. Bell. Motion passed.***
4. Revisit Town Hall rental Covid restrictions: On a motion by Jim and seconded by Kathi, ***the Board voted to lift all restrictions on the Town Hall. Motion passed.***
5. DRA MS-232: On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray, ***the Board voted to sign. Motion passed.***
6. Sign AVFR contract: On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Jim, ***the Board voted to sign. Motion passed.***
7. Correspondence: All agreed to send follow up letter to John Herpel.

DISCUSSION:

1. Brenda expressed concerns about the increase of tractor trailers going to Bascom's. After some discussion, Jim said he will talk with David.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: On a motion by Jim seconded by Ray ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Administrative Assistant

The next Selectmen meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2022, 7:00 at the Town Hall