

**TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Selectmen**  
**Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of November 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Charlotte Comeau, TA; Jennifer Bland EMD/HO/Hwy AA; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Judy Aron; Greg Bascom; Gary Baber; Glenn Elsesser; Antonia Hernandez; Chris Manjang; Gregg Thibodeau;

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jim called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:**

**2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:**

- Jenn stated that the site inspections are done by FEMA and the state. In the coming weeks they will be assessing whether they can provide the town mitigation.
- Review RFQs for an Engineer for Forest Road Bridge: Kathi mentioned there are 3 candidates and recommended we have a meeting next Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 for interviews.
- Bowers Brook-Need for Project Manager: Some discussion on the outcome of the meeting with FEMA and the state. Kathi said the church has written a draft letter saying they will work with the town on whatever has to be done on their property. Kathi said they need someone to step in and oversee this.
  - Glenn asked why the town is doing work on this since it is private property. Kathi said the town is the one that has requested the state to take a look at this and is trying to protect the village. Glenn asked if we will have town employees working on this or would it be volunteers. Kathi said we need an engineer and when the state left they were going to see if there was any state funding to engage an engineer. Glenn is concerned we would spend money on private land when we have plenty of roads that need repair.
  - Gregg said DES and DOT made it clear that in order to get funding from the state they need an agency like a municipality to identify funding sources where the money can come from.
  - Kathi said our job is to be a point of contact and get it launched and doing what we've done so far which is lobbying our state depts. and state representatives.

**MINUTES:** Meeting and NPS minutes of 10/30 and 10/31: 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: Changed tires on Dodge, passed inspection. Prepping for crushing. Two others hauling from Derry Hill to bring material down. Collin and Jenn have attended many site visits with FEMA. Next week they will be removing debris from the Forest Rd Bridge. Darlene from DES said they can remove it whenever they want.
- Road Improvement Application: Collin and Jennifer went out to meet with R Chase (Lempster property owner) last week. They are not providing any material because it is a Class VI road. R Chase is aware and will be taking care of it and Collin will be going out to oversee to make sure it gets done correctly. Collin wants him to smooth things out and not have the water bars there.
  - Gregg said he wrote to the Lempster Selectmen because RC created a bad situation on the Lempster side as well. Trees are pushed on town property and other people's property. His dwelling is in Lempster and will only be there 2-3 months a year so all emergency services would have to come from Gove Rd in Acworth which is in terrible shape. Gary said if it is in Lempster emergency services would be coming from there and they would have to go all the way around.
  - Jennifer said you can't get an ambulance or fire truck there.
  - Kathi motioned to approve and sign as amended by following the advice of the Road Agent and not dealing with the brush which is believed to belong to abutters, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

- Email from Helen re: tree removal: Gregg said if the tree is in the town right of way the town can decide; otherwise if it's not they don't want any trees taken because it "constitutes natural habitat". Consensus was to let her have it if it's in the town's right of way.
- Winter Parking: Discussion on inconsistency between the ordinance and policy. Charlotte said the ordinance which was just established in Feb had both date and time and policy has only time. Consensus was to add the date to the policy.
  - On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray, **the Board approved for highway to post the winter signs. Motion passed.**
- Gregg mentioned there are 2 culverts at 284 Crescent Lake Rd, after the boat launch that are blocked. Jennifer will let Collin know.

#### PUBLIC:

- Jim acknowledged C Manjang and A Hernandez. They were there in response to the letter which was served about the junkyard situation at their property. They passed out packets of before and after pictures of work that had been done so far. Also included were invoices showing amounts spent on renting dumpsters. This was reviewed by board. There was much improvement. Jim said it looks like they've been busy, did a good job and followed protocol of what they were looking for.
- Judy asked if highway was going to do anything with the new entrance to her property because of the bridge. She said it's a class VI road she is responsible for maintaining. There is a dip in the road she was planning on having repaired. She would like to coordinate something with Collin.
- Judy said there is a utility pole there. Liberty has been out and they are going to leave that pole there but put another one up to transfer the live wire on to it.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: D Kelin M211 L6.
  - On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to approve and sign the solar permit. Motion passed.**
  - On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to approve and sign the 8x48 storage container currently on site and the 12x60 temporary construction trailer currently on site and build a house contingent on receiving septic design approval (Charlotte will hold permit). Motion passed.** They did not approve to bring in any additional storage trailers. Gregg noted that there is a pending DES potential permit violation for not having a permit to dig in wetlands.
  - Gregg updated the Board that Fong did more digging and the excavator was in the water digging vegetation off the shoreline. A complaint has been filed, DES acknowledged it so they will check it out. Gregg talked with Mr. Fong several times, Mr. Fong brought his engineer back in to assess and understands he needs DES permits to do this type of work.
- Report of Cuts: Bascom Maple Farm, M242 L6 & 1. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; **the Board vote to approve and sign. Motion passed.**
- Intent to Cuts: D Kelin M211 L5. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to approve and sign as long as a road agreement letter is signed by owner. Motion passed.**

#### DISCUSSION:

- DOT culvert replacement on 123A-phasing or full road closure: Kathi mentioned the general consensus after the meeting was to close the road which would be 4 weeks rather than phasing which would be 8 months. **On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi, the Board voted to close 123A for 4 weeks. Motion passed.**
- Fire Dept. contained burn on 123A: Gary told the Board this was on the schedule for Sunday.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Jim; **the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed.**

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed.**

Kathi reminded the Board that when they are out and about in the town they are just like any other citizen and need to be careful not to give instruction to employees. This is something that needs to be done by the Board.

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator