

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of September 18, 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.; Bob Porter, Code Enforcer

OTHERS PRESENT: Judy Aron; Greg Bascom; Linda Christie; Bill Creed; Mark Girard; Steve & Lori Murray; Gregg Thibodeau; Robin Ungeheuer; Rob Vogel

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Charlestown Rd-R&D Paving: Jennifer spoke with Jerry at R&D who said there would be a slight price increase because everything is going up. We would need to let him know as soon as possible if we want them to pave. With no discussion, on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to get in touch with R&D Paving to get Charlestown Rd scheduled.***
- Judy hasn't heard anything more about the reimbursement of 5% state portion.
- Linda asked if we are getting paid for the paving of Charlestown Rd. Jennifer said we are receiving \$534k from FEMA for the work already submitted. The upcoming paving is the final top coat and shoulders which will finish the road.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Amount of damage from the 7/10/23 flood: Jennifer said Acworth has \$1,900,000 in damage to the roads they inspected and reported in the preliminary damage inventory (PDA).
- Kathi mentioned we have an email from HSEM stating they will be advising towns on how to proceed.
- Jennifer said grants portal now has a number applied for this disaster.
- Judy spoke with DOT Commissioner Cass. Next week he will be meeting with DES Commissioner Scott to discuss the Bowers Brook situation. They will be looking at the work that needs to be done, who is responsible to repair the damage and the cost.
- Kathi mentioned there is a petition being circulated around town to request DOT and DES take action on Bowers Brook.
- Judy spoke with DES and they said there doesn't need to be a permit for removing woody debris around Forest Rd. Bridge. She asked if highway was going to remove the debris to prevent blockage from further rain storms. Collin was told they couldn't do work in the wetlands. She will forward the info she has regarding this.
- Gregg asked where we are with funds left for flood repairs. Kathi said we have about \$140k left in the emergency management line last time she looked. Gregg asked if this included the \$200k we had set aside for the catalyst grant for Cold Pond Rd. Kathi said the \$200k was included in the \$300k which was earmarked for capital improvement and because the catalyst wasn't approved, that's where they're planning on taking the money for R&D Paving.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of 9/5: On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; ***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 with the addition of a bill for \$2,007.50 bringing the total to \$220,072.19. 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:
 - All the trucks are fixed and passed inspection.
 - Tomorrow they will be going to River Rd to patch pot holes to get ready for Continental Paving.
 - Shop is cleaned and organized.
 - JP is still hauling stone.
 - Fuzzy Brothers will be in to start crushing in November.
 - Kathi asked about the truck being serviced. Collin told them to start the repairs and if there was anything internal to let him know.
 - Steve M asked what the weight limit is on Crescent Lake Rd. Collin wasn't sure. He said the sign on both Unity/Lempster side is posted for 8 tons.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Compliance: Sanville M210 L37: The Board asked Collin if he had checked this out. He said he didn't see anything which was in the town right of way. The stone wall is still there, electric fence is on her side of the stone wall but there may be a problem when plowing with the fence being close to Cold Pond Rd. There is debris along Cold Pond Rd but about 30' off the side of the road. Consensus was for Collin to talk with her about the fence first and then will let Charlotte know if there is a need to send her an email. Charlotte will respond to email from neighbor.
- Building Permits:
 - Haynes M201 L7: Kathi concerned about the setbacks being 10' and zoning ordinance requires 20'. Charlotte will contact them regarding the setback requirements. Gregg questioned why DES was not applicable when the entire property is within a 250' shoreland. Charlotte said she was told by DES that because there is no digging, the shed just sits on the land, it's 50 feet from shore and less than 150 square feet no permit is needed. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to table the permit for more information. Motion passed.***
 - Creed M201 L27: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - Medrick M246 L21: Discussion on distance being only 160' from Cold River. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign contingent on ConCom looking at it. Motion passed.***
- Demo Permit: Bildstein M202 L9: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Land Use Change Tax:
 - Williams M229 L14: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
 - Laskevich M234 L3: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Sign MS-1: Kathi pointed out the town value has increased by just over \$900k. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Road Improvement-Troian M245 L3: After some discussion regarding the need for subdivision which the Planning Board would be reviewing on Monday, on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to postpone approving until after the PB meeting. Motion passed.***
- Report of Cuts/Timber Warrant: Bascom Maple Farms M233 L7; S Sirkin M201 L145; J Burdick M208 L6: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign all timber cuts and warrant. Motion passed.***
- Sign Acworth Town Forest Management Plan Work Order: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Sign thank you letter to DMS Quarry: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Timber tax abatement form which was approved at the last meeting was signed.

DISCUSSION:

Email from S Murray: Regarding insert in tax bill to communicate about DES requirements for shoreland permits and building permits. Kathi mentioned that currently there is going to be a survey inserted and that Charlotte didn't think it would be appropriate because it is starting to get into the area of policy which is denied by statute to use the tax bills for that purpose. Charlotte said the RSA is 76:11.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: On a motion by Jim and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 7:45 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator