

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of December 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: Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Jennifer Bland, Hwy Admin. Assist.

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; Glenn Elsesser; Melinda Loiselle; Judy Aron, Gary Baber

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Jennifer provided an update noting remaining projects are being regrouped. It was noted an additional reimbursement had been received.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Jennifer provided an update.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of 12/4: 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. Motion passed.*

PAYROLL MANIFEST: 12/18: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: Collin described current truck issues and estimated repair costs.
- Collin noted the Heino Road/Cold Pond Road intersection culvert needs replacement. Certified culvert maintainer certification should cover DES requirements. This is expected to be a spring project with large equipment rental needed.
- Glenn asked about Cold Pond Road culverts needing replacement before paving can be done. Jen's inventory shows 10 replacements needed. It was suggested culverts be purchased in the 2023 budget year if there is room in the budget and that additional costs estimates be available for Town Meeting discussion of CPR paving.
- Gary thanked Highway for prompt response to his recent call for assistance and Judy thanked them for removal of flood debris from Forest Road Bridge which prevented overflowing in recent rain storms.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permit: None
- Report of Cut: David Bascom, M244 L2: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; *the Board voted to approve and sign, Motion passed.*
- Sign 2023 DRA assessment certificate: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.* It was noted the majority of sales exceeded the assessed value which might indicate a future overall Town value increase.
- Fall Tax Warrant signed: It was noted the total combined rate decreased from \$25.81 to \$25.33.
- MRI annual contract for assessing: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*
- Sanders Searches annual contract for registry lien research: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*
- NH DOT Registration for Routine Roadway Maintenance: The DES form for work on a culvert on NH123A was reviewed.

DISCUSSION:

Review of RFPs for engineering of 2023 flood damage was postponed until parcels held at the post office are released.

There was a review and discussion on the operating budget including the following:

- Increase Account 4312/Crack sealing to \$5,000 to cover Beryl Mountain Road;
- Increase Account 4909/Road/Town projects and paving by \$10,000 designated for grader shimming Derry Hill Road;
- Decrease Account 4195/Cemeteries by \$3,500. Due to duplication of Tree Work under that account.

It was noted with the above changes the estimated tax rate for the operating budget is \$7.42 which is one dollar lower than the 2023 Town tax rate. Tax rate impacts for each of the money warrant articles were reviewed including \$3.50 to shim Cold Pond Road; 32 cents to replace the F550; 8 cents to fund the fire truck; 28 cents to fund the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; 4 cents to add to the Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund; 8 cents to add to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund; and 92 cents to fund the engineering of the Forest Road Bridge replacement. It was noted that 80% of the Forest Road Bridge expense will be reimbursed by the State Bridge Program and that they pay within the fiscal year, unlike FEMA.

There was consensus by the Board to forward this budget and warrant articles to the Budget Committee to begin their review.

It was also recommended that a public hearing be held at the beginning of the next meeting to accept recently received State Bridge funds and it was questioned whether these new funds can be applied to the Forest Road Bridge engineering article for Town Meeting?

It was recommended the Board's next meeting be held Tuesday, January 2 to avoid the New Year holiday.

By consensus; ***the Board agreed to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Bradt, Selectman