

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

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Charlotte Comeau, TA; Jennifer Bland EMD/HO/Hwy AA, Collin Crosby, RA

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael & Judy Aron; Greg Bascom; Bill Brodne; Richard Chase; Linda Christie; David Clark; Glenn Elsesser; Torrey Greene; Katy Haas; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Claudia Istel; Carolyn Jerard; Richard Kangas; Mike & Lillie LeBlanc; Frank Linnenbringer; Melinda Loiselle; Ted Marple; Steve & Lori Murray; Jim Neidert; Janet Slocum; Gregg Thibodeau; Karen Toner; Robin Ungeheuer; Ruth Ward

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ray called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**Public Officials/Informational Meeting:** This was presented by Jason Ayotte and Joseph Bieja from DOT and representatives from Hoyle Tanner regarding NH Route 123A Culvert Replacement. Explanation on time frame and options of road closing. One being a phasing plan which would allow one lane to stay open. This would have additional temporary wetland and private property impacts and take 8+ months to complete. The other option is complete road closure which would have the least overall impact and be closed for only 4 weeks. The board wanted to wait until next week when Jim is there to make the decision.

**2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:**

- Received FEMA reimbursement for Charlestown Rd on 10/25 in the amount of \$534,888.33.
- \$42,417 has been obligated and we should have it in about a week.
- At the last meeting the Board voted to extend the loan for 12 months. Paperwork from the bank was presented for signature.

**2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:**

- Kathi mentioned that we did have a 2 hour meeting this morning for what is called a “recovery scope meeting” for the 2023 flood. FEMA is doing something new and Acworth is a pilot program. They have assigned us a team which will see us through the 2023 disaster instead of us having a rotating representation we had for the 2021 disaster. They know they made mistakes and this is their way of trying to do better. Site inspections have been scheduled for 2 days this week and 2 days next week. They are anxious to get the site inspections done before the winter weather. This is a big difference as the last time it was 10 months before site inspections were done.
- 10/31 at 3PM: Ray pointed out there is a meeting on this day with DES, DOT and HSEM at Bowers Brook.
- RFP for Engineer: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray the **Board voted to approve to release the RFP. Motion passed.**

**MINUTES:** Meeting and NPS minutes of 10/16 and 10/23: 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 Jim; **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: Collin said they finished Luther Hill, Charlestown Rd. and Allen Rd. Now working with FEMA on the damaged roads from 2023 flood.
- Close Emergency Lane: After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; **the Board voted to close the emergency lane for winter travel. Motion passed.** Jennifer will notify mutual aid and Gary Baber.
- Ray told Collin the pre-trips look good.
- Gregg asked about putting salt in the sand. Collin said he doesn't add salt.
- Greg asked about Putnam Rd. Collin said it's on the list but was told not to do anything until after FEMA looks at it.
- Torrey thanked Collin for repairing Allen Rd.

**PUBLIC:** No comments

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

Road Improvement Application: Richard Chase, Lempster resident working on Acworth Class VI road. Discussion on the road improvement application submitted. Mr. Chase said he already did the work on the road, pushed trees back, dug ditches, and smoothed roads, now at the Lempster Rd. He asked if the town would be willing to donate material for him to fix the ditches he dug. Collin will check it out. Gregg said it's about 150-300 yards. He also said the trail is passable but is getting worse. The Board tabled this until next week after Collin has a chance to look at it. Ray asked Gregg his thoughts. He said that RC has made the road impassable with the work he did. Something needs to be done. He needs to be told he needs to fix it. Gregg said he is using topsoil material.

Intent to Cuts: P&D Rhoades M252 L11 & 12, M252 L8, M259 L5. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

Sign Broadband mapping initiative: One of the purposes of signing this is to identify underserved places that did not get broadband. Gregg stated this also helps 911. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

Tax deed waivers: Three tax deed waivers were presented. Charlotte said these were recommend by Marianne to waive until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Two of the property owners are slated to get assistance that will pay their taxes in the near future. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

Notice of Violation: This was signed.

Forest Rd Bridge Certificate of Authority: Charlotte explained that at the last meeting there was a vote to give her and Jennifer "certificate of authority". She was advised that the Cert of Authority is for the same person that signed the Project Agreement which is Jim. So now there has to be a vote that Jim is the cert of authority. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve for Jim Jennison to be the certificate of authority. Motion passed.***

## **DISCUSSION:**

- Review Primex Rates: The workmen's comp and unemployment rates are down and liability is up.
- Review HealthTrust Rates: Kathi mentioned that in seeing the 7 year average of 5% she felt that was reasonable. She didn't think we would get better coverage going someplace else. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to authorize Charlotte to sign the transmittal. Motion passed.***
- Review County Rate: The county bill decreased \$37,507 from last year. This is due to assessments increasing.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** On a motion by Ray and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Kathi and seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator