

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of December 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Stephen Mingils; Griffe-Noire Wyldflowers

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE: None

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE: Adding a standpipe for the Forest Rd Bridge: The Board liked this idea. Charlotte asked about the cost. Kathi suggested to discuss with Chris. Charlotte said she would reach out to Gary or Jennifer.

MINUTES: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve the minutes of 11/18 with minor changes for clarification. Passed.***

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; Kathi asked if we are involved in the group buying plan with the FM school district to get discounts. Charlotte said we are. Kathi asked what last years county bill was, Charlotte believed it was around \$320k and will check the exact amount to reflect in the minutes. The exact amount was \$319,639 and this year it is \$382,315. Kathi noted that this is a large amount of money that goes out every year and feels it's important that taxpayers know where some of their tax dollars are going. ***The Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

PAYROLL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: Collin said the Dodge is still in Keene and has been there 2 weeks. They're going to keep calling every day. The WS had hydraulic lines break during the storm and they are planning to get the parts to fix it tomorrow. Collin said the new truck was great and it's a good thing we have it otherwise they would be plowing with one truck.

PLANNING BOARD: Kathi

- There were a couple of applications to review. A subdivision application for Kelin was approved but waiting for the surveyor to generate the mylar and once that's done, the PB will come by the office and sign it, so he won't have to wait for the December meeting.
- Went over the CIP, nothing from the draft was changed so Kathi will get that to Charlotte in the next day or two.
- The PB fee schedule was updated.

CONSERVATION COMMISION UPDATE: Ryanne thanked Kathi for bringing the liaison item to the PB for ConCom. The consensus from the PB was that they would receive ConCom's agendas for notice regarding items of mutual interest.

TRANSFER STATION:

- Compactor maintenance quote: Charlotte said she started looking into this a few months ago because we weren't sure if we needed a new compactor. Atlantic Recycling came out to look at it and said it was in perfect shape and with our limited usage we should be able to get 25 years out of it and we've only had it since 2013. Annual maintenance was recommended. They also stated that we should be able to get more tonnage which would decrease trucking. They estimate we should only need to truck out every 6-8 weeks if it was running properly and currently we truck twice a month. Charlotte estimated the amount we would save on trucking would more than cover the cost of an annual maintenance plan which she has built into the budget. Currently the compactor is not working at all and MSW is going into C&D. Atlantic Recycling is aware and Charlotte is waiting to hear from them and will reach out to them tomorrow. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne, ***the Board voted to approve the maintenance agreement and for Charlotte to sign. Passed.***

- Closed Wednesday Christmas and New Year: Charlotte asked if there is another day to be open instead. Consensus was that it would be closed these two days and to put up notices. RYANNE asked if we could get a note on Facebook as well. Charlotte said perhaps John could help Charlie on Saturday and she would ask Charlie about it.

PUBLIC:

- The Board recognized Steve Mingils, 272 Milliken Brook Rd (class VI part). Steve expressed his concern with a neighbor that has 2 RVs on his neighbor's property and there is talk of a third one. Kathi said according to our zoning ordinance, a property owner can have their own RV and 1 guest RV for 90 days and then it needs to be moved. After further discussion, the consensus was to draft a letter saying it now has been 90 days, and the guest RV needs to be moved.
- The Board recognized Griffé-Noire Wyldflowers. He asked if we had the contact number for Mark Girard who may be able to help with the flood elevation situation for the yurt on River Rd. Charlotte went on the website and provided the number. Kathi thanked him for working on this and keep us informed.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: C&M McKinnon M201 L95: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by RYANNE, it was noted that the setback was 30' and should be 40' unless consistent with other homes in the area. ***The Board voted to approve and sign contingent on Bob finding whether it's consistent with other houses next to them. Passed.***
- Report of Cuts: B Bascom M233 L16, M248 L5; D&B Bascom M239 L9: On a motion by RYANNE, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign all. Passed.***
- Sign CRF deposit request to TOTF: On a motion by RYANNE, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Sign letter of support for UVLSRPC: Kathi mentioned not all their programs apply to Acworth such as the food scrap assistance and training. However, on a motion by RYANNE, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approved and sign the letter of support.***
- Encumber \$5k for UVLSRPC for the SADES Stream Crossing Assessment: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by RYANNE; ***the Board voted to encumber these funds. Passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- Tax bills: Charlotte said the school district is supposed to be submitting their report today to DRA and hopefully DRA will call with a tax rate this week. If that is the case Charlotte would like the Board to come in and sign the warrant so the tax bills can go out. Consensus was that the Board agreed they would come in and sign the warrant.
- Review draft proposed 2025 budget: There was some discussion on using some of the unassigned fund balance which is from the FEMA reimbursement funds we've received to offset the operating budget expenses. Charlotte will check with DRA to confirm this can be done.
- Kathi asked if we heard from J Torres. Charlotte said they will be applying for a shoreland permit.
- Kathi asked about the Crane Brook Rd contract. Charlotte had more questions she would be asking Chris first.
- We are still looking into finding someone to shovel for the hall and Library.

On a motion by RYANNE and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator