

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of March 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Jim Jennison; Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandra Brewer; Lori & Steve Murray; Gregg Thibodeau

CALL TO ORDER: Charlotte called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to nominate a chair and vice chair. Ryanne motioned to nominate Kathi as Chair and Jim as Vice Chair. Seconded by Jim. Jim motioned for all nominations to cease. ***The Board voted to approve Kathi as Chair and Jim as Vice Chair. Passed.***

HOUSEKEEPING:

- Designate Ex officio's to PB, ConCom, and BC: Jim motioned to reinstate a liaison for the highway dept., and he would like to be that person. Seconded by Ryanne. Ryanne would like to see the liaison give an update. Charlotte asked Jim what he would be doing. Jim said the board is their bosses and nobody goes into the shop to check on them, no one has a key to get in for an emergency. Kathi stated this is not historical. She said we've at times had that position, but it hasn't always functioned successfully, and she had some misgivings about it. When we hire a Road Agent, we are establishing a position that we have confidence in what he does. If he has an issue he comes to the board. Most of the time we have a representative of the highway dept. here at the meetings, so it seems redundant to have a liaison too. Kathi asked Jennifer for her thoughts, and she said she feels the highway dept and board of selectmen should work together and if this is what we need to do then she doesn't see a problem.

Ryanne said if having a liaison doesn't help that she would like to revisit it and would hope the highway dept would let them know. ***The Board voted to approve Jim as highway liaison. Passed.***

Ryanne asked Charlotte to update the agenda to include the highway dept. update that Jim will give. Jennifer said this may be redundant, but Ryanne asked Jim to find something to tell us.

Consensus was for Ryanne to be the Ex officio for the PB but she asked if it gets to where the school board ramps up the feasibility study and she can't make it due to this, could we revisit it. Jim said he could cover it if need be. Kathi will be the Ex officio for ConCom.

Kathi stated that she would like the full board to participate with the budget committee. All agreed.

- ConCom appointments: Request recommendations for appointments to BOS for April 21: Gregg said Janet Slocum will run again, Charlotte will have an appointment paper for next meeting.

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE: Jennifer said we should be hearing shortly from HSEM regarding the funds FEMA will be releasing for the alternate project.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE: None

MINUTES: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve. Passed.***

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

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: Jennifer said there is an issue on Class VI portion of Black North Rd. which was posted. There is someone working on the road without a permit. They spoke with the company that hauled, and they didn't know there wasn't a permit. They were supposed to run early in the morning while the road was frozen, but it wasn't frozen enough, so they created ruts in the road. The other issue is there is trucks hauling on CLR. Highway called around to different companies today and advised them that they are not allowed to go on the roads until further notice.
 - Kathi asked if we should send an application for road work to the owner on Black North Rd. Jennifer said the property owner is going to have to fix the road because it isn't passable as is. The consensus was to draft a letter saying they need a permit and ask what the plan is to repair the damage to the road. Sandra said they are destroying the road, there are 3 culverts, one

has collapsed, and 2 others need to go in. She continued to say if someone can't hire an excavator to come there to dig a trench then they shouldn't be down there. In addition, she didn't think they should continue to get permits when the rest of the road is challenged. Consensus was that if the letter is done sooner than the next meeting the board would come in and sign.

- CLR is adequately posted for load limit, and they have reached out to contractors and Lempster highway dept. Kathi recommended that we let the owners on the road know.
- Jennifer said they are looking into renting a sweeper for CLR as our sweeper would not be able to handle it.
- The crew has been going to check culverts on a regular basis because some have ice in them, and we don't have the equipment to melt the ice.

• **PLANNING BOARD UPDATE:** None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: Ryanne. At the last meeting they discussed minutes and bylaws. Greenup day is April 26th and 27th with a sign-up sheet and bags at town hall. They talked about stream crossing and culverts. UVLSRP evaluated 94 structures.

- Gregg discussed in further detail what UVLSRPC performed in their study and different options they are looking into on how this can be shared and updated with highway.

Kathi mentioned that we have \$100k in the budget for bridges. She asked Jennifer where we are on the best place to use this money. Jennifer said they have asked Mitchie to come out and look at Grout Hill bridge because it has been red listed. She is also working with the state for training the crew on bridge maintenance.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Merger of town lots M201 L107 & 108: This is the town owned land on CL. Gregg said it is a total of 18 ac. It is the last undeveloped lot that provides for waterfowl and loons. What is found in the survey is lack of evidence that these are two separate lots. The deed does not adequately describe this. Kathi said the merger involves this board because the town is the owner of the property. After SB signs it will go to the PB. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne and after further discussion the **Board voted to approve and sign the application. Passed.**
- Veteran credit application: Charlotte explained this was denied due to not having the required medals or being in certain conflicts. If we had adopted the "all veterans credit" it would have been approved. Perhaps this is something we could consider adopting at the next town meeting. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; **the Board voted to sign the denial letter. Passed.**

DISCUSSION:

- MS-535 draft: Consensus was to finalize and submit for signature. Kathi thanked Melinda for doing this.
- Purchasing town owned land: Kathi mentioned receiving a letter from a young Acworth person who is interested in purchasing some town owned land. She said we haven't activated the ConCom review in the past couple years of town owned land that could be sold. She recommended we pass this on to ConCom for review and see if we want to have a sale of town owned land. Charlotte will email Gregg the map and lots in question.
- Ambulance update: Alstead did put it on the warrant as a feasibility study and it did pass so they will be working on that.
- Abandoned car: Jennifer said it doesn't belong to anyone at the church and State Police said if we want it towed, we would have to pay for it. If it is claimed, we could be reimbursed. After some discussion, the consensus was to wait and see if it was still there at the next meeting before deciding.
- There was discussion on getting quotes from other attorneys. Charlotte said she would like to continue with who we are with and doesn't think there will be much difference in price. We have had history with this firm for a long time and they know a lot about our town and zoning ordinance. Consensus was to take this off pending items.
- Beehives: Consensus was for Charlotte to reach out to Rob T to ask him what the next step is.
- Debris on CPR: Consensus was for Charlotte to prepare a letter to the land trust regarding the debris which consist of a shed, a produce stand and small refrigerator.
- Coffin Hill Rd.: Gregg said he doesn't think Mr. Chase has been doing much at all recently. Kathi asked if there are specific things we want him to do on the Acworth side. Gregg and Jennifer will walk it again.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator