

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of December 4, 2023 at 6:00 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.

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Bascom; Glenn Elsesser; Melinda Loiselle; Mary Lord; Peter Maynard; Steve & Lori Murray; Sharon & Bill Symonds; Peggy Starks; Gregg Thibodeau; Christopher Troian

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

On a motion by Jim seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 5:55 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:28 p.m. Motion passed.***

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Kathi mentioned there are two projects in the system that are close to reimbursement. Crane Brook reimbursement is just a little over \$900k and Derry Hill is a little over \$300k.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE:

- Bowers Brook: Kathi presented the steps outlined at the last virtual meeting. The first step is to submit a wetlands permit. Gregg T is working on this. DES has waived several of the time requirements. DES is looking at this as preventing future infrastructure damage. The brook will be reworked so water flows into the channel the bridge was designed for and not have it wash away the road and buildings. The town needs to be the applicant because there are multiple properties involved and the state cannot be their own applicant, they need another entity to be an applicant.
 - Gregg drafted the emergency authorization. Kathi said they would need to vote to submit this application. Jim asked if the town's name is on this, will it cost the town money. Kathi stated the first step is apply for the permit. It is a permit only and not a binding contract. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to authorize the submitting of the application for the wetlands permit. Motion passed.***
- Kathi said once we have a wetlands permit, Gregg and Mark G are working on plans to protect the church side of the river with boulders. The plan will need to be reviewed by the abutters and board. Once we tell DES we are ready, they will arrange a meeting with the state departments. Once DOT sees the plan, they will do the costing information and will let DES know what they expect this to cost. The funding will be ARPA money and not FEMA.

MINUTES: Meeting and NPS minutes of 11/20: 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 Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

PAYROLL MANIFEST: 11/22 and 12/6: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: Collin said a lot of equipment is breaking so spending a lot of time in the shop doing repairs. Couldn't sand with the 550. Had to replace pump. There is a lot of money being spent, especially on the 550.
- There was a complaint about a driveway at 195 Crescent Lake where water is coming from and freezing and making a mess of the road. Recommend a letter be sent.
- Collin told the Board he does use salt on Charlestown Rd, Luther Hill, Cold Pond, Crescent Lake and River Rd. Jennifer says that she talked with DES and the state said if the roads are asphalt they get salt. Collin said he hasn't changed anything from what was done last year. Consensus was for Collin to continue what he has been doing.
- Collin said the road closed signs were taken down at the bottom of Crane Brook Rd. The signs belonged to David C. Highway put signs on a telephone pole but will be going there tomorrow to put them on a pole.
- Collin asked if they were okay with him putting a cable across Sam Putnam Rd. This way when Bascoms use that road they can remove the cable rather than jersey barriers. Greg B will plow and maintain this. Consensus was in agreement with this.

- Collin asked if they could use some of the money from the special highway block grant to purchase tines for the rake. The Board agreed with this.
- Glenn E asked about cleaning the culverts on Cold Pond Rd. Collin has reviewed them all and has the list.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permit: Luther M231 L11. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.*** Morse M204 L5 renew. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to renew the permit. Motion passed.***
- Intent to Cuts: Signed road agreement from last meeting.
- Road Improvement Permit: C&L Troian M245 L2&3. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Encumber funds for R&D Contract: \$274,987.50: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to encumber funds. Motion passed.***
- Encumber funds for UVLSRPS Culvert Inventory: \$4,437.50: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to encumber funds. Motion passed.***
- Compliance:
 - Kelin, Gove Rd. After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to grant 6 months to install well and septic. Motion passed.***
 - ***Hackman/McShane.*** Reviewed email stating they will be removing RV 1st or 2nd week in Dec. They have contacted designers the last couple months but no responses yet. Eventually will work with NHDES Subsurface Bureau once they find a designer.

DISCUSSION:

There was much discussion on the operating budget and warrant articles. Kathi mentioned the PB had completed their recommendations on the CIP. Most discussion was on capital projects and flood repairs. Kathi suggested taking CPR out of the operating budget and put it as a warrant article. By eliminating this and adding 150k of it to emergency management, it would be enough money to fund the engineering for Crane Brook Rd and it would reduce the operating budget. As a recap:

- Increase the operating budget by 350k or
- Put CPR as a warrant article separate from the operating budget giving head room we need to increase emergency management so we can afford an engineer for the 2023 flood. FEMA has told us they are waiting for us to hire an engineer before they can put their hazard mitigation people with the engineer.

Kathi mentioned that the next meeting is the last of the year and the budget needs to be finalized in order to present to the budget committee.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: On a motion by Jim and seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted by roll call vote to enter into NPS pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator