

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of June 19, 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: David Bascom; Greg Bascom; Glenn Elsesser; Frank Emig; Luke Fowler; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Melinda Loiselle; Lori & Steve Murray; Gregg Thibodeau; John Tuthill; Carole Wallace

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 (c) at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 6:33 p.m. Motion passed.***

FLOOD RESPONSE: Collin mentioned that Erin wanted to reduce the load rate on Forest Rd to 6 tons and make a single lane. This would mean the trucks couldn't go over to plow. Collin asked about 10 tons. She will look into this.

MINUTES: Meeting minutes and NPS of 6/5: 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 Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- The grader is repaired and back, will be going out to begin grading tomorrow.
- Ordered culverts
- Continuing with roadside cleanup from downed trees and branches
- Organizing shop. Have found some inventory that is not being used and would like to put on muncibid to sell.

TRANSFER STATION:

Jim stated that Charlie approached him two weeks in a row and wondered if he can inspect bags going into the hopper. DES told Jim it has to be a policy from the board. Charlie thinks there are things going into the hopper that shouldn't be. After some discussion consensus was we aren't equipped to do this.

PUBLIC: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits: Bascom Maple Farms M232 L1. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Intent to Cut: Bascom Maple Farms M242 L1. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ray; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- Deed of Conveyance: Hood. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***
- ACH for NH payments: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Motion passed.***

DISCUSSION:

- House on Turkey Shoot Rd: Discussion on whether to abate taxes to the lien holder if he were to foreclose. The Board said this is a legal matter between the two parties. Charlotte asked if they would abate the taxes if he were to foreclose. Kathi said he could file an abatement application and go over it with the assessor.
- Bank accounts: Additional discussion on information Charlotte received from Mascoma Bank. Both she and Melinda agree the collateralization of the accounts is the best way to proceed in ensuring the Town's money is protected. In addition the town will receive interest rate of 1.5% on all accounts rather than 0.3% on the money market and 0.1% on the savings account. Consensus was to get the paperwork from the bank and reach out to town counsel for an opinion.

- Beryl Mtn. Rd Bridge: Charlotte has reached out to Daniels Construction and waiting to hear from one of their estimators on cost to sound the bridge.
- Grant funding opportunities: Gregg T said there are two other grant opportunities that are relevant to the town but he would not be able to pursue them.
- Small Roads: Gregg went through the handout with the final findings. There was question on how the Board wanted to proceed. Kathi mentioned that there is a significant difference between the original \$20K a year to now the \$3k-5k. Originally the Board was looking to ways to make our highway money to go further, that \$20k is significant but \$3-5k is not. This doesn't represent the savings that we thought we could get. After much discussion, Jim motioned to thank the team but the class VI team is dissolved and does not come up at town meeting. There was no second. Gregg said they are working on a list of suggestions or recommendations that if they don't reclassify these roads we should at least make them safer for the highway crew such as turn arounds. They could provide that list at the next meeting. Kathi would like to have the final list from the team before taking the vote. There was much input from the public on how the vote should be stated. Consensus was we take the time to draft a motion for the next meeting that would include the various things recommended such as gratitude that we have and the reason for our decision such as the savings not being significant. The files will be available in the Town Office, and we look forward to receiving the final highway dept. notes that the team has.
- Perambulation Results: Gregg said they have confirmation on Unity/Charlestown/Acworth town line and the two corresponding northern points. Liz from Charlestown has agreed to write up the notes. Still need to do Langdon/Charlestown/Acworth up to the northwest corner. They will be getting together one more time. Liz agreed to do the perambulation. Jim thanked Gregg for his time and effort.

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 (c) at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Ray, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to exit NPS and reconvened public meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion passed.***

On a motion by Jim, seconded Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator