

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of February 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: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve & Lori Murray; Steve Murrell

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

2021 FLOOD RESPONSE: Alternate project. Charlotte advised the board that there is currently a hold on the money to be obligated for this project due to the petition warrant article requesting the project be Crescent Lake Rd (CLR) rather than Derry Hill Rd (DHR). She also mentioned that she has asked town council to determine whether the petition article is legal as if it isn't, it could be excluded from the warrant. Charlotte explained that because the project already has a scope of work for DHR from FEMA, even if the article failed at town meeting for DHR, the money would not be able to just automatically go to CLR. FEMA would need to start the process all over again and there is no guarantee the amount of funds would cover it, or whether FEMA would even consider CLR. Currently there is a survey taking place on CLR which would delay any potential FEMA process right now. In addition, it would have to wait until next year's town meeting or have a special town meeting which could cost upwards of \$10k as legal would need to get involved.

2023 FLOOD RESPONSE: None

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

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; *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: None

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: Ryanne: They met on Wed. the 12th and talked about volunteer field events. They are planning to work on boundary markers for Keyes Hollow and set up some type of signage at the beginning of the walkway. They will start to advertise the green-up day, which is in April, at their next meeting.

PUBLIC: S. Murray questioned why he is just finding out about the petition warrant article being challenged. Charlotte said it was just questioned a couple days ago and the reason being is that it is not something that can happen even if it DHR was voted down. We can't just switch over to CLR without FEMA approval. Ryanne stated there is an application process that must be done which is very specific and all the data has been done for Derry Hill by FEMA where they haven't been involved with CLR.

S. Murray said the plows didn't get to CLR until 1PM on Sunday. He did get an email from Jennifer explaining the situation, but he wanted to know if anyone knew when the plows started. Kathi said this gets delegated to our Road Agent and it's not something the Board keeps tabs on. She said her road wasn't plowed until this morning. She also said it was an unusual storm and that she trusts the highway dept. is doing the best job they can consider the circumstances of the storm.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permit: D. Heacock M226 L5. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; Jim asked if the septic would need updated. Kathi said the septic size is usually determined by the number of bedrooms and not bathrooms. ***The Board voted to approve and sign. Jim opposed. Passed.***
- DES SW Annual Report: Jim pointed out that tires were omitted from the report. Charlotte wrote that in. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- MRI Contract for 2025: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Approve Chief Connors Recommendation: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign.***

DISCUSSION:

- Email from Alstead Police about what services are we looking for: Kathi said she had an inquiry whether we can join forces with Alstead. Some of the concerns with the state police is that their response time is affected by how far away they are. S. Murrell said one way is we could do a contract service for a certain number of hours. The other way is whenever they are working, they could cover Acworth too. He doesn't know what this would look like for cost or personnel. He stated that they don't work 24 hours, and the State Police covers Alstead as well when they aren't on duty. S Murrell will do some research on this, stating this is going to take a while.
- Jim asked Charlotte if she found an auditor for the single audit. Charlotte said she did discuss it with an auditor who said they think she would need a full audit which would be very costly, and they wouldn't have time to fit it in their schedule. If it is a single audit, known as a "program audit", they would be able to do it. He suggested she wait for the letter asking if we received more than \$750k in funds and find out if they will accept a program audit. Shen was also given a few names of other auditors in the area.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau,
Town Administrator