

# MINUTES *approved minutes*

**Board of Selectmen Meeting:** January 4, 2021 **Present:** Rob DeValk, Jim Jennison, Frank Emig, Mark McIntire, Gregg Thibodeau, Peter Rhoades, Laura Butson, Donald and Carmin Miller **Approve minutes:** BOS meetings December 21, 2020: Motion JJ/FE to approve, passed. **Sign bill manifest:** Motion JJ/FE to approve with additions, passed. **Sign payroll manifests:** Motion FE/JJ to approve, passed.

## **Public Input:**

1. Gregg Thibodeau summarized the Planning Board's establishing an Acworth Broadband Committee (ABC) and progress he has made as lead to date. GT has contacted surrounding towns most of which are already pursuing increasing broadband, consultants familiar with the Chesterfield broadband project, Consolidated Communications and New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC). At this time Consolidated and NHEC are the most likely sources for increased broadband in Acworth. Consolidated would likely involve financing and NHEC would likely involve federal communications (FCC) grant funding. GT expects 2021 to be taken up with research on the Town's options with action steps in 2022.

## **Highway Department Report:**

1. Work update/plan: Mark McIntire noted 3 culverts needing replacement on Saw Mill, Luther Hill and Nye Roads. Saw Mill and Luther Hill can be done in-house. MM will contact JP Trucking for an update of estimates on file for the Nye Road project. Truck and equipment radios are being evaluated for updating.
2. Backhoe replacement: Previously MM noted brake problems with backhoe which is scheduled for replacement this year. Motion FE/JJ to place replacement order to expedite receipt of machine following Town Meeting vote on replacement, passed.

## **Action items:**

1. Building permits: Welding Unlimited LLC, commercial garage, Grange Hall Road; There was discussion in which Peter Rhoades argued the use is not supported by the Zoning Ordinance and a hearing by the Zoning Board of Adjustment is needed. Motion RD/JJ to approve the proposed building and not the proposed use, passed.
2. Intents: None.
3. Crescent Lake Sno-Riders Heino Road crossing request: Motion JJ/FE to sign permission MOU, passed.
4. Finalize budget and warrant: It was noted the Selectmen's budget lowers the Town tax rate from \$9.66 to \$9.23 (estimated). Motion FE/JJ to forward the Selectmen's budget and draft warrant to the Budget Committee, passed.
5. 2021 Reval: Proposed schedule signed.
6. 2017 Tax deeded properties: Revisit January 18.
7. Skating rink: It was noted the rink may be being prepped for use. Need to revisit concern for holding any regional events (Broom Hockey Tournament) during pandemic.

## **Other items:**

1. Nonpublic: None.
2. Town Meeting: There was consensus to research using the Church in the event there was an overflow due to distance seating in the Town Hall and how to establish an electronic link between venues.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:45PM; Next meeting January 18, 2021; Respectfully submitted, Kathi Bradt