

Monday, August 26, 2024

Board of Selectmen Minutes – FINAL APPROVED



Board Members Present: Dianne Craig (Chair, Selectmen); Alicea Bursey (Selectmen); Derek Tremblay (Vice-Chair, Selectmen)

Guest (s): Dave Eckman; Alan Howe; Derek Grader; Road Agent Shae Simino; Recording Secretary Melissa Salinardi; Chief Ed Andersen (arrived at 6:54pm)

PUBLIC HEARING

See Public Hearing Minutes of August 26, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board signed and reviewed the consent agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

APPOINTMENTS

• Eckman Engineering – Lempster Coach Bridge Update:

Dave Eckman, of Eckman Engineering, presented maps and plans for the upcoming repair of Lempster Coach Bridges. He explained that the two bridges, one over Trow Brook and the other over Babb Brook, would be bid together with the goal of sharing mobilization costs. He explained that although the bridge over Trow Brook was sent out to bid previously, this bridge would need to be rebid as part of the combined project to repair both bridges.

Before continuing his presentation, he asked the Board and the Road Agent if he could bid the bridge over Trow Brook with concrete material instead of just dirt as the concrete would last longer. The Board and Road Agent agreed that the bridge should be built with concrete.

Dave Eckman continued his presentation and shared his breakdown of the bid process. The Board did not have a problem with the combined bid process and plan to share mobilization costs as long as each bid is invoiced separately. Alicea Bursey stated that the funds should be used according to the FEMA guidelines and Mr. Eckman confirmed that the plan took this into account.

Mr. Derek Grader, a non-resident, was in the audience and asked to speak regarding the project.

Alicea Bursey motioned to allow Derek Grader, a non-resident, to speak during this meeting for the purpose of the Lempster Coach Bridge topic. Dianne Craig second the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.

Mr. Eckman continued discussing different sections of the plans including the bid process, bid bond, style of construction, borings, and time table. He stated that since his last presentation, the borings were done and he was happy with the results as they showed 25ft of solid bedrock. He explained that knowing this information

allowed him to design a bridge that can be built quickly by building on piles (spikes). He added that he is planning to apply for an emergency permit to work in the water, which he hopes to receive by the end of September; however, if the permit is not approved, he has a second option of changing the bridge design to extend over the water so that a permit would not be needed.

He spoke about the timeline and stated that he hopes to have the bid process begin within the week and has put a bid deadline to the contractors of September 12th at 2 pm. He explained that once the bids have been submitted, he will send the sealed bids to Goshen. The Board discussed a date to open the bids. **The Board agreed to open the bids during a Public Hearing on September 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.**

Mr. Eckman continued and stated that he hopes for a full completion of the bridges by December 31, 2024 with a six-month final adjustment period where the contractors can finalize their work after the winter months. Dianne Craig stated that the Town may need to get an extension from FEMA but it shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Eckman mentioned that the Babb Brook bridge may need to be closed for two weeks; however, he stated that he would reach out to abutters to discuss this further. The Board also mentioned that abutter notifications could be sent by the Town explaining the plan if needed.

Derek Grader asked if Eckman Engineering will be doing regular inspections. Mr. Eckman stated that regular inspections will be done over all major stages of the project.

Shae Simino remarked about the Trow Bridge deck rebuild and Dave Eckman stated that there was no need to tear down the existing deck but rather build over the existing deck and then build down below the stream bed. He stated that the deck will stay in place and then the bank will be built back up.

Chair Craig opened the floor for additional comments, concerns or questions from the Board and the public. None were made. The Board signed the proposed plans and Mr. Eckman stated that he will go ahead and get the RFPs and bids sent out this week. The Board thanked Dave Eckman for his presentation.

Derek Grader, Alan Howe and Dave Eckman left at 7:21 p.m.

ROAD AGENT REPORT

- **Road Maintenance:** Shae Simino reported that the Highway Department has been working on rebuilding part of Center Road. He added that they are building up the area and replacing culverts as they go or when necessary. He also added that the roller has been fixed after several years of not being functional thanks to Mr. Caron's efforts. The Board was happy to receive the report that the roller was operational.
- **Lear Hill Road Repair:** Shae stated that he resent emails to potential vendors to see if they were interested in submitting an estimate for the partial repair of Lear Hill Road. Unfortunately, he did not receive any other estimates and decided to go forward with United Construction. He mentioned that the estimate given from United Construction was a little higher than the original estimate; however, more of the road will be able to be repaired. Shae stated that he is going to move forward with the project. When a contract is received, he will present it to the Board for signing.
- **Roadside Mowing:** Shae mentioned that he, once again, reached out to several vendors for estimates regarding roadside mowing; however, no vendors responded to his request. He stated that his own business, SS Groundworks, would be interested in the job in its entirety or he would be willing to rent the equipment to the Town. The cost for Shae to do the work through his own company would be \$8,000 or the Town could rent

the equipment from SS Groundworks and the Highway Department could complete the mowing for \$5,200. The Board agreed that renting the equipment from SS Groundworks and allowing the Highway Department to complete the mowing during regular hours would be the best option.

Derek Tremblay motioned to waive the procurement policy and secure the bid of SS Groundworks for the purpose of the Town's roadside mowing due to a lack of bids. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried-yes, 3-0.

- **Transfer Station Can Repair:** The Board discussed an update regarding the damaged cannister at the Transfer Station. Melissa Salinardi reported that the cost of the current, used cannister from Naughton was \$200 per month. The Board thought it best to continue renting the current cannister from Naughton and draft a warrant article for a new cannister at the next Town Meeting. The Board encouraged Shae to shop around for newer cannisters and see if fixing the cannister could be done at a more affordable rate.
- **Highway Helper Position:** The Board discussed that the highway helper position needed to be clarified; however, the Board decided to allow the Road Agent to make the final decision regarding wage increase as long as his budget could support the increase.

APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

- **Police Department:** Chief Ed Andersen reported that two speed signs have been ordered and he hopes that they will be installed within the next month or so. He stated that the new signs will help track data and record speed. He added that the total cost of the speed signs is roughly \$7,300 and additional costs may be needed for installation and set up of the signs; however, he believes that the total cost will not exceed the appropriated amount.

The Board discussed placement of the signs and Chief Andersen suggested that one be placed on Route 10 coming into Town and the other be placed on Route 31 coming into Town for now and then they can be moved around to different locations around Town. The Board agreed with the placement of the signs. Chief Andersen will continue to prepare for the installation of the signs and update the Board accordingly.

Chief Andersen mentioned that the Board may want to consider writing a warrant article regarding the Town road speed limits as they are currently not all set at 25 MPH. He suggested the speed limit be specified and defined in a Town ordinance to comply with the State regulations. The Board agreed to research this matter further and draft a warrant article to be reviewed at a later time.

- **Gunnison Lake Enforcement:** The Board discussed the recent problems that have been occurring at Gunnison Lake. The excess litter and disregard for the "after dusk" policy have been a concern recently brought to the Selectmen's attention. The Board discussed the option of updating the recreation ordinance with language for stricter fines for those who may violate the law. The Board agreed to draft an ordinance that will specify the rules of the recreation area and also indicate the penalty for breaking those rules.

Chief Andersen suggested that there may be a grant for an electronic gate that the Town could apply for. He stated that the gate could be set to open at a specific time and then closed at a specific time which might help restrict individuals from breaking certain rules. After further discussion, the Board agreed that this might be a solution and agreed to research this matter further. Chief Andersen stated that he will research the cost of electronic gates and offered to work with the Selectmen on this project. The Board thanked Chief Andersen for his time and efforts.

Chief Andersen and Shae Simino left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Review of Minutes (August 5, 2024):

Dianne Craig motioned to approve the Public Hearing meeting minutes of August 5, 2024 “as is”. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATES

- **MS-1:** Melissa Salinardi stated that she had hoped to have the MS-1 report ready for the Board to sign as it is due to the state by September 1st; however, she remarked that she is still waiting for the assessing company to complete their side of the information. She will have it ready for the Board to sign before the end of the week.
- **Intent to Cut:** The Board discussed the recent intent to cut and there was some concern regarding the total acreage of the cut. Melissa will reach out to the State Timber Appraiser and update the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Hazardous Building:** The Board received an update from a property owner regarding a hazardous building in Goshen. The owner has mentioned that he is hoping to move forward with a solution to the problem. The Board will follow-up in a few months.
- **Resident Complaint:** The Board received an email from a resident complaining about the property condition of a neighbor. The Board will ask the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer to follow-up on this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Health Officer Position:** The Board signed the Health Officer Nomination form and discussed the possibility of posting the position in the future to give other residents an opportunity to fill the role. As of right now, Mr. Bruce Nadeau has agreed and been signed into the position until further notice.
- **Utility Update:** Alicea Bursey reached out to the Consolidated Communications representative but has not received a response yet. She will keep the Board updated.
- **Handbook:** The Board will continue to work on finalizing the handbook.
- **FEMA:** No new updates at this time.

STANDING ITEMS & OTHER BUSINESS (Some standing items may not have been discussed during the current meeting).

- **Monthly Budget Review:** The Board reviewed the status of the budget. No concerns were had.
- **Veterans Monument Repair**

- **Planning Board Update:** Derek Tremblay stated that a Public Hearing to review a major subdivision proposal is scheduled for September 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Melissa stated that she posted that a quorum of Selectmen may be present at the Planning Board meeting but that no business will be discussed.
- **Brickyard Road Bridge**
- **Abandoned Property**

Derek Tremblay motioned to adjourn. Alicea Bursey seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi