

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 13, 2020

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., which was held via Zoom, the following people participated: Stanely Holz, Peter Corey, Shawn White, Rob Larson, Mike Bean, and Tom Ladd.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Rob Larson said he wanted to discuss with the Board the Hazen Road bridge project. Rob said the RFQ he recently sent out was to explore their qualifications, technically you can't ask for a price. Rob said he is cautious and he doesn't really want to use the NH bridge money for several reasons, but mostly because the funding is obviously going to be very expensive. Rob said he likes Mike Bean's proposal although we are still going to have a money issue, but not so much of a money issue. He has reached out to Northern Borders and they will fund 80% of the project. The only restriction is as we already have a Northern Borders grant out there, we will have to wait until 75% of that is expended. It looks like that will be around September before we can apply for the Northern Borders money. Shawn said in 2015 we were informed in the fall that we had to close the bridge down. We put a temporary bridge on top at that time. We got together with the DOT bridge engineers and they told us with that project in comparison with prior jobs of that size that we would be looking at \$1 million to \$1.5 project cost. Mike Bean had done a bridge for us on Water Street and we started the process of discussing this with the Board. Shawn said things were left up in the air when he left and there was an issue with getting some easements. Mike Bean said he looked at this after we did the Water Street bridge. In December, 2015 he was like at \$275,000, and he priced it again in 2016 and it was \$306,000. Mike said that he cannot control the pre-cast costs. We did have some discussion with the Town helping him with some of the work, i. e. using trucks, providing rip-rap and some things like that. It would save us about \$17,000. In 2018 he priced it for the fourth time and he met with the Board, and he made it clear that the price is where it was and the issue was the easement and he spent some time today to put a price together. Jen McCourt did a lot of work on the engineering. The federal government needs a form to get us off the red bridge list. He needs to get permits from the Heritage Bureau, Endangered Species Bureau, the D.E.S., and we will need an alternation of terrain permit. Jen did a lot of homework and she had it surveyed. They have the plans and topographical information. We were waiting on the easement, and Mike made an effort to keep in contact with us. The last issue was the easement. We thought it would behoove us to come up with a one-page easement, and Jen did draft a one-page easement. Mike said he designs and build bridges all over the country. Mike said Jen's cost is \$15,000, and she will continue to work with the Town on this project. Mike said that he was a little upset when he saw it went out to bid. He has been partial to the Town of Whitefield and has always liked working for Whitefield.

Rob Larson, Public Works Director, said he has a couple of questions: If we were to pay Jen what she is due—how long will those plans be qualified for? Is there a time frame on them? Mike said it will take 3-4 months to get the permits. We need to get the easement signed, and we can't bring it to DES until we get the easements in order. What would the fees be in that part of the project? Rob said he sees this going in 2-3 steps. Getting all these qualifications done with DES, Wetlands, which is fine and will buy us three to four months. Mike said the survey is done, and everything is outdated, and she doesn't feel comfortable without backing up and going back over that. We need the easement from Dodge. What is it going to cost for this portion of the project? She still has \$5,000 of the town's money, and she needs

\$15,000 more. The rules are changing day by day, and it is harder and harder to get this through. It is going to be another \$15,000. Mike said that he needs to commit to the pre-cast so it will be in production and lock the prices in. His equipment and labor is the same, but he can't control the materials and pre-cast prices. Rob said we can pull a trigger on the engineer and how much would he need for the pre-cast. Mike said if he commits to them he can get shop drawings in 30 to 40 days so they can give it to their structural engineer. The Selectmen and Rob have to come up with a plan to get this done and be able to afford to fund it. We have \$200,000 right now in capital reserve. Rob said he has been offered two different grants, one is the Northern Borders and the other one is a shovel ready project stimulus grant. He may not hear on that for 90 days. Can we pay for the engineering and pay for the pre-cast cost now and in that time frame we are pursuing some grant money. This is a project that has been kicking around for a few years so the price is not getting lower. Mike said he is getting us a bridge with footings. We have something that is practical and taxpayer friendly. It is a no-brainer. If we go through the bridge aid program, are we responsible for the cost of the engineer and 20% of the construction costs. The bridge aid program pays 80% of the cost of construction. Peter Corey said he feels that the cost would be the same, whether we go with the bridge aid program or with Mr. Bean. Mr. Bean's project is pretty much ready to go. Mike's project is not eligible for the state aid bridge program. Shawn said if we can get Northern Borders to come through that would be good.

Rob said we can do this in three steps: Get the engineering done with Jen and then we do the pre-cast and pay Mike for that and that is going to take a couple of months. In the meantime, we can proceed with the Northern Borders grant, which would pay 80% of the project cost and continue to look into the stimulus grant. Rob said he feels our chances of getting the Northern Borders is very good.

Shawn made a motion that we continue to move along with MA Bean Associations on the engineering and construction of the pre-cast concrete for the Hazen Road Bridge. Peter seconded the motion. Roll call vote: White: Yes; Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Mike said he will do up something in letter format so we are all on the same page. Peter Corey offered to speak with Jonathan Dodge on the easement that is needed. Mr. Bean said it is basically the downstream headwall is being taken out. We want to saw cut the wing walls. Mike Bean said he is willing to speak with them as well if needed.

Shawn White said the Airport Committee met last week virtually and the only item discussed was moving forward with the engineering form for the runway crack filling.

Peter Corey said things with the Planning Board has been quiet. He said they are having a regularly scheduled meeting via zoom tomorrow night. Peter said that Joyce had sent all the documents out ahead of time so it will be interesting to figure out maps, etc. It has been relatively quiet for building requests as compared to prior years. There was one developer who got an approved subdivision, and they have to put in a short road built to town specs and in a lot of towns they hire a third party to do a plan review and do inspections that get charged back to the developer. Peter asked Rob if he feels competent enough to do that work for this project and others or should we pursue hiring this out? Shawn said it has to be built to town specs and during that time you inspect what is being built. Rob said he is o.k. with inspecting that.

Stanley said EDC met via Zoom at their last meeting. They had Ed Samson, Emergency Management Director, participate to give a Covid-19 pandemic update as far as what the town was doing. Stanley said it was very informative and that was all that was discussed.

Rob Larson has an update to give the Board that we got our approval from DOT to fix Union Street temporarily. We will put a catch basin in that is a band-aid fix until DOT and Rob work out a more dynamic plan and upsizing that draining the way it is supposed to be done. He said he has found grant money to pay for that next year.

Rob said the Middle Street drainage project will break ground tomorrow. Stanley asked about the issue with the pot holes. Rob said that the whole road is getting dug up so the pot hole issue will be taken care of as well. Shawn said there are two spots with sink holes, which he would forward the photos of to Rob. Rob said he will check it first thing in the morning. Shawn said it is near the older poles.

Peter said on Union Street, when we say a temporary fix, he hopes we are going to fix it from the railroad tracks up to Greenwood street to make it a walkable sidewalk. Rob said yes, and that it should be accessible by a wheelchair. Rob said it is going to come to about \$15,000. We are going to use enough reclaim as we can. We have the hotbox we can use. Shawn said Amonoosuc Paving and Ed Stanley have sidewalk machines that might be worth using.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the minutes of March 23rd Selectmen's Meeting and March 27th Emergency Selectmen's Meeting subject to an amendment to modify the non-public minutes to include that the Board of Selectmen approved the recommendation of Chief Samson relative to the police department promotions and salaries. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. A roll call vote was taken: Holz: Yes; White: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

Tom Ladd asked the Board to adopt the posting of draft meeting minutes. The Board said that could be done as long as they are clearly marked "Draft".

The Board said they are o.k. with Chief Samson's request to move forward with the hiring process of a new police officer as long as he remains within his budget.

Chief Samson, Emergency Management Director, posted the town playground on Highland Street as being closed last week. Other area towns have done the same.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter non-public session at 6:50 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II(I) consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. A voice vote was in favor of the motion: White: Yes; Corey: Yes; Holz: Yes. Motion passed, 3-0

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 7:00 p.m.

Shawn White said he spoke at the last meeting about going with You Tube. Stanley said he is involved with the hospital who uses the Zoom meeting format, and he likes the Zoom meetings and it becomes a standardized meeting format and it is easy. Shawn said he would like to look into the Town purchasing a camera that would video the whole room and it moves around when people talk. Shawn said it can be used on Zoom meetings as well. Owlabs.com has some for around \$700 to \$1000 if we wanted to look

into those. It might be good to speak with the IT people at the SAU to see what they use as well. For the April 27th meeting we will use the Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.