

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Wendy Hersom, and Peter Corey.

A motion was made by John Tholl, seconded by Wendy Hersom, to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-a:3,II(d) – consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Roll call to enter non-pubic session: Tholl – Yes; Hersom – Yes; Corey – recuse himself

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 6:40 p.m.

Scott Black attended the meeting to discuss issues with drainage on his property on Middle Street. He said it has been going on for a lot of years between the state and the town. Ray Burton tried to help out when he was in office. It is drainage that was coming down into Scott's driveway from Route 3. It is the culvert across from Quigley's house on Lancaster Road where the issue is. They can't build it up enough to catch the water. Scott said that he has redone his driveway three times. It keeps getting washed away. He just put out 12 inches of loam that just washed out again. He spoke with Joe Kenney and he was going to reach out to DOT. Joe suggested that he speak with the Board because it has been going on for a long time. Scott said that he doesn't know what to do. He has tried to fix it himself. It is not something he has control over. Shawn said we have discussed this as a Board several times. It has been ongoing for a long time. Shawn said there needs to be a paved swale at the end of Scott's driveway. Anything like that is the responsibility of the property owner. Shawn said that Scott is correct and the issue is with the state catch basin. Ray Burton did get involved. Shawn said with the storm the other day, there would not be anything one could do to keep the driveway from washing out. Shawn said before we were told we are not going to put a swale in someone's driveway. If we do it for one, then we have to do it for everyone. Shawn said the state has that road right now on the 10-year plan so it will be 2029 before that Jefferson Road intersection and that hill gets redone. Shawn said this a project he put out. It needs the governor's signature to move forward. John Tholl said that is the problem with the 10-year plan. Shawn said the state has to control their water. Scott said that the Town and state got together for the sink holes and worked together to fix the sink holes. The state has worked on that culvert. It is the water coming off Route 3 that does not go in the culvert and comes right down his driveway like a river. He doesn't want to keep doing the same thing over and over. Shawn said maybe the board could write a letter and support Scott. Scott said at one point he was getting water in this cellar, but the state was able to stop that from happening. Scott said he has done what he can do. He is not going to spend \$100,000 to fix his driveway. Shawn and Judy will work on a letter to the state. Scott said he does not know how high up he needs to go to build up the swale. Shawn said the state's hands are tied because they only get so much money. The drainage on that hill is almost \$900,000. The state went to Shawn and asked him to put it on his 10-year plan. Shawn said it has been an issue. Wendy said we wish we could offer him more than that. It starts at the driveway and just keeps eroding away. Shawn said possibly we can do something with the drainage system from there to Otis Street. Scott was wondering if he needed any permits, and Shawn said technically he needs a driveway permit.

Steve Lafrance of Horizons Engineering attended the meeting to review and update the Board on the Whitefield Water System Improvements project.

Route 142

Steve said in reference to the Route 142 project, the final plans and contract documents were sent to NHDOT District #1 for approval on January 19, 2018. Steve said they did send him a draft excavation permit. He anticipates we will have final approval from DOT as early as the end of this week.

One comment from DOT in their comment letter that Steve feels is of concern to the Town is language from NHDOT that NHDOT will employ a 3rd party consultant at the town's expense: "Due to the scale of the project and staff limitations at the District level, a third party consultant will be retained by the Department to conduct observation during construction within the state highway right of way. The cost for the Department to provide these services will be submitted to the Town for reimbursement. Please provide a schedule of construction to assist the Department in estimating the duration of those services." Steve said at a minimum we need to understand what the cost is going to be and what their responsibility is going to be. Rural Development requires a full-time resident engineer on site all the time. What is the state's engineer responsibility going to be and how to they interface with all the parties? Wendy said are we hiring engineers to disagree on things. Where does it go from here? They want to be sure the work is done within their permit conditions. If there is a conflict between what is done and what is in the contract, he is not sure how that gets resolved. What are we talking about for effort, chain of command, and interface and what are their responsibilities? Peter said what would they normally provide. Steve said historically the district office, Phil or Jimmy, don't typically come out. The road foreman or crew come out and they report to the district office and a district representative comes out if there are any issues. Steve has not been involved in a project that this has been required. What are their responsibilities? Do they have the authority to make a decision in the field? How is this going to be worked? Steve said first thing we should ask them is what are you thinking here. What is wrong with how it has been done? We want to be careful and be sure what is involved. We could get a big bill and it could cause some issues. It is a comment on both jobs, Route 142 and the water project. We are going to be working in the state right of ways for two straight summers.

Steve's response was he said fine but what are you thinking, what is the cost, and how do we interface? Steve has asked that question as part of his response and we will see what they come back with. We want to understand it first and foremost. Assuming we get approval this week or next week, what is the board's pleasure putting this out to bid. The Board felt as soon as possible. We would like to get it started as soon as the ground allows in the spring.

Contract #1 – Water Main Replacement

Steve provided the Board with copies of his response letter to the DOT and Rural Development. They did ask for the work on Route 116 be done this year. Steve said that is not really a problem. Steve said the NHDOT letter has the same language regarding the third-party construction observation at the town expense. Peter thought RD would have a problem with the state consultant engineer. Steve said the state was asking for hydrants every 350 to 600 feet. These hydrants cost about \$4,000 and they are never going to get used. There is a lot of maintenance with the hydrants. Steve Lafrance went over the hydrants with the fire chief, John Ross. We have added four to five hydrants in total. They asked for a few extra gate valves, insulation on the drain line on Brown Street. Fred said the ordinance calls for wrapping ductile iron pipe, and Steve said it is going to be PVC pipe if we are going with wrapping ductile iron pipe. Steve said he has never heard of that before. Peter said we could change the ordinance if need be. Steve said in reference to the comment on Shirlaw Drive, 750 gallons will be the flow. Six-inch will give us good fire flow and it will make them happy. This was a comment from both Rural

Development and DES. They wanted a loop on Knot Hole Road, and he said he wasn't going to do that. If we come back around then we need to drill under Route 116. It is very expensive. DES can't really force the town to do certain things. Their seal is not on the plans, Steve's is. He is here to protect public health and safety and protect the town's interest as well. Steve said he specified class 350 ductile pipe. Rural Development doesn't want us to use this because we have saddles to put on. The pressure class pipe is cheaper. It is still rated for 350 psi, but it was developed about 20 years ago. It is competitive with PVC. Rural Development accepted the explanation to make it more cost competitive. Even with different class type PVC is cheaper. Peter had a question about Jon Harries asking about Mountain View Road north. Steve said what John did not understand was that the pipe replacement north of Mt. View Road was included in the project. The project morphed. There was a letter prepared that put together a justification for project costs. Buried in that was Route 3 north portion of the pipe. It wasn't clear the first time Steve read it either. This was part of the project you approved back in April or May. Steve said his hope is that this week or next week we will get DOT approval and also get approval from DES and Rural Development. The next thing is that Rural Development won't give authorization until all the easements are in place. Waystack and Frizzell is working on this for us. Steve asked Jon Harries if we can go to bid while Waystack and Frizzell works on the easements. In the past they used to let us do that. What he said was I can't give you authorization but you can be at risk when we open bids we have 60 days to sign a contract. If at the end of the 60 days we don't have the easements then we can't sign the contract, they can vote to extend the bid contract. The cost to rebid could be about \$5,000. Steve suggests that we think about, he is not aware of any easements that are going to be a problem. He would suggest we get all the approvals in place and put this Contract#1 out to bid and have a long bid time and let the contractors see it and they know it is out and start work on it. Get it out on the street. We need all those easements within two months. If they can't do it, we will have to look for someone else.

Contract #2 – Pump Stations

Steve said that the plans are about 80% complete. He sent the site plan for the Comeau property to District One on Friday so they can look at that and see if they will be ok with that driveway location. Nancy gave Steve a copy of the driveway permit for that particular location. It was executed many years ago. There was a permit issued for that location. Steve left the subdivision paperwork for the planning board for the February meeting. There were no negative comments at the conceptual hearing. Steve said in reference to the McIntyre property, we will need to get that lot line adjustment approved again. Steve will have the plans done for the pump station in about three weeks. He hopes to put it out to bid in early March. The letter for Dodge was mailed out last week, and Steve said it is going to be important to see if he is ok with it or not for Dodge.

Steve said in reference to the telephone telemetry at the Dodge well, he has been in contact with Eversource and Fairpoint. Eversource is in agreement. If Fairpoint is to own the line, they need to request a third party agreement with Eversource. Fairpoint considers this a construction project and will follow up with Eversource. There is a person at the Lancaster office that will go out with Fred and view the site. Steve gave Fred the contact information.

Contract #3 – Water Meter Replacement

Steve would like the vendors to come up and give a presentation. Steve said he doesn't want to waste their time, but this time it is for real. There are a lot of different technologies available. Steve is suggesting we say to them we have 800 meters we need to replace and would like you to come up and

give us the pros of what you have and see what makes sense for the town and put it out for bid. It has to go to bid. Fred has companies asking about coming in. Steve said the meters are not the priority as it is something that will happen later on. The Board members would like to attend the presentations if they can.

Total Project Budget

Steve gave the Board an updated project budget. He said his report is a little chewy. He has a line for the original budget when the project was originally put together. Some of the numbers have changed. The engineering is per the agreements. Steve said he put in the unit prices and quantities for contract #1, the water main replacement and it comes out to \$3.6 million. When we open the bids, we are looking for the lowest responsive responsible bidder. They check to be sure the references check out and that the bid is not unbalanced. The items need to be balanced and that is part of the process with bid assistance. He increased the pump station line item to \$1 million as those stations are going to be about \$350,000 each. Steve said we originally had \$3.6 million for the water main replacement, but we have 8,000 feet less in pipe, but there no costs included for ledge, boring under the state highway so that puts that cost back to \$3.6 million. Contingency stands at about \$300,000 – we won't know until we open the bids what we have for a contingency. We want to maintain about 5%, where we are at right now.

Trust Fund Project

Steve said he got a call from Randall Souza is reference to the grant funds we are getting from DES. – Steve said he clarified with him that anything we do with their funds will be independent of the projects we are working on now. He was fine with that. They don't have their guidelines in place yet. We don't want to intermingle these projects with their projects. He asked Steve for a scope and schedule for spending that \$4.3 million in the next few weeks for what we see as priorities which were identified in the PER. Steve said that number came from the remainder of that PER, and he adjusted them for inflation.

Fred asked about wrap for the pipe for the 142 project. Steve said he change the spec so the town will supply the pipe but the contractor has to supply the wrap. Steve doesn't think we really need the wrap.

Steve said we are working on finding out if we need a town meeting approval for the land purchases for the water project. We are waiting to hear back from our bond counsel on the issue.

Peter Corey made a motion to approve the January 15, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor 3-0. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the quotes for borrowing and leasing the new fire truck. The rates quoted from the Bond Bank and the bank is less than leasing so the Board decided to go with borrowing rather than leasing. A Public Hearing will be held on February 12th along with the Public Budget Hearing.

A letter was signed for the Northern Borders Grant Match.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.