

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2021

PRESENT: Cindy Silver: Select Board Chair, Kevin Meehan and Norman Brown: Select Board members, all comprising a quorum of the board.

ALSO PRESENT: Kathi Marshall: Assistant to the Select Board, Jason Call: Trustee of the Trust Funds Chair, Terri Larcomb: Deputy Town Treasurer, Mark Dubois: Highway Foreman, Edith Tucker: Coös 5 Representative, Joe Marshall: Historical Society President, Lynne Holland: Town Moderator, Nancy & Will DeCoursey, NH State Senator Erin Hennessey, Executive Councilor Joseph D. Kenney

PRESENT FOR DOT: David Scott: In House Bridge Design Chief, Chris Carucci: Bridge Design, Kirk Mudgett: Project Manager for the culvert and bridge replacement project, Bill Saffian: Senior Project Engineer, Josh Lund and McFarland Johnson: Design Team members, Sam White: Presenter for Design Alternatives and McFarland Johnson: Presenter for Design Alternatives and Cultural Resources, and Christine Perron: Presenter for Natural Resources

Cindy Silver called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL

Norm made a motion to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll items for the week ending April 17, 2021 and to authorize Kathi to pay invoices and payroll. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Norm voting “aye,” Kevin voting “aye,” and Cindy voting “aye.” The motion passed, and accounts payable and payroll were approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

Department of Transportation Presentation: Kirk Mudgett began the presentation regarding the culvert and bridge that are approximately 200-feet apart on Route 2—the bridge crossing over Priscilla Brook and the culvert, carrying an unnamed stream into Priscilla Brook. The project originated with a plan to replace the culvert, but it was soon discovered that the bridge was not in good condition. The team slowed the process for the culvert replacement because they wanted to include the bridge at the same time—they did not want to disrupt traffic flow with two separate construction projects. Funding for the bridge and culvert replacement will be covered by the Culvert Rehab and Replacement Program which is funded 80% by the federal government and 20% by the state. There is no cost to the town.

Sam White discussed the fact that the bridge was constructed in 1900 and was widened in 1979. The bridge carries 2,800 vehicles daily, with 7% of that traffic being trucks. The deck, superstructure and substructure are all in poor condition, being rated 4 out of a possible 9. It was put on the state’s red list in 2014. Due to the culvert’s deterioration there are sinkholes beginning to form on the roadway.

The plan for construction consists of two phases to cover two construction seasons. The first will last approximately nine months and focus on complete construction of new bridge structure and culvert replacement. The second construction season will be approximately 2-3 months and will include final paving, line painting and seeding and slope work.

Christine Perron discussed the effect on natural resources, and explained that wetlands were delineated along the

streams. The bridge and culvert are also located in important wildlife habitats which dictate the need for wildlife passing routes through the construction area in order to keep smaller animals off the roadway. The projected date for completion of the project will be 2024.

Senator Erin Hennessey asked if there were any other projects planned for the Jefferson-Randolph area in the next few years, and Kirk Mudgett said he did know of one project, but wasn't sure about the date for its implementation. He believed it was 2023.

The floor was opened up to discussion or questions. Nancy DeCoursey asked the committee to consider making the new bridge similar in appearance to the one that is presently there. Her property abuts the area where the work will be done. She was very supportive of the committee's attention to wildlife protection. She did add there are times when her property and others have had so much run off there have been huge pools of water on their properties which she believes comes from the deteriorating culvert. She asked if some attention could be given to careful grading following construction to help prevent that type of run off.

Representative Edith Tucker was concerned about the nine months of a single-lane on Route 2. She was especially noting the time of year with tourists, trucking and especially bicycles. She said they are trying to make Route 2 user-friendly for bike riders. The traffic speed on Route 2 was noted as well—traffic seems to be moving faster and faster. She asked about the funding again and David Scott confirmed that it would be 80% federal and 20% state-funded. But they are still seeking other funding. He assured Edith Tucker that no matter who funded the project there would be no matching funds required from the town.

Jason Call was concerned about slowing traffic on that flat section of road so people didn't speed while approaching the construction site. Kirk said they are aware that is an area where drivers likely travel faster than they should. The committee is looking at possibilities such as down-posting speeds upon approach to the site.

Edith also mentioned the effectiveness of the signs now in Whitefield, Lancaster and Gorham that flash your speed as you approach. She felt these were an asset to the town in slowing people down. Norm mentioned it would be a good thing if the government funded those signs. The solar-powered versions are \$2,700 and the battery-run signs are \$4,700 a piece. He said that kind of prices Jefferson out of the market for now.

Joe Marshall/Possible Grant Money: Joe discussed the safe and the vault that survived the fire at the Town Hall, and he told everyone they had finally managed to open them. Joe said the safe hadn't been opened for decades, and the vault not since around 1996. Joe said he has been on the Historical Society for about 20 years and had no idea this paperwork existed. It was quite a find. The material in the safe seemed to be in good shape. The vault contents have significant mold and mildew. Joe said some of the items are irreplaceable. Wednesday Joe has a representative from a company named Belfor coming up to look at the material. He will help to determine the best process for remediation and to prevent further degradation from mold and mildew.

Joe has spoken with NH State Library, and they are involved in the Moose License Plate Grant Program. It offers an annual grant for assessment and preservation analysis. Joe said he would like to try to pull the grant application together, but it will be a tight squeeze as the letter of intent date is May 7, and submission of application will be June 25. Joe said the Historical Society can work on this project under the town's authority. Any documents preserved must be made available for public access.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 4.12.2021

Kevin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 4.12.2021 as recorded. Norm seconded the motion. A

roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting “aye,” and Norm voting “aye.” Cindy recused herself from the vote as she was not present at the previous week’s meeting. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A: 3 (If needed)

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS AND/OR BOARDS

Board members accepted the Highway-Business Office Report for the week ending April 17, 2021.

Mark Dubois did mention that he and Mike had worked at the Town Hall site most of the week, removing debris. They have also begun to sand-sweep the roads, and they also spent a couple days plowing snow. He let the board know that a tire blew on the Western Star, and it would have to be replaced. The tire had a gash in it and Mark assumed it was a rock since they had been hauling pretty large stones on Whipple Road and Turnpike Road. He put on a spare temporarily. He will be on vacation next week and will address it when he returns.

NEW BUSINESS

Assessing Agreement: Kathi presented the Assessing Agreement from Commerford-Nieder-Perkins for board members to sign. She also presented two abatements and one deed for board member signatures as well.

Alacrity/Primex Appraisal Documents: Board members had a copy of the appraisal documents from the insurance company, and Norm said we had some research to do regarding such things as the lighting project in the town hall for which the town had paid \$21,000. Norm said the insurance company needs specific information on projects such as that in order to truly reflect the cash value of what we lost. Norm said the floor was another project that had a high depreciation value. We need to show we had the floor treated every three years or so to help preserve it. These types of issues will help to give us a better figure on our cash value.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Job Posting: Kathi said the job posting was in several places, as well as on the website. She mentioned she had an applicant in that day who took the application home with him. The job has only been posted for a few days and they plan to keep it advertised for two weeks.

Town Report: The town report is being delivered tomorrow, Tuesday. Norm said he wants to get the reports out in public and then give everyone two weeks to read it. Town Meeting can then be scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jefferson Community Center Building. Masks may be required depending on what the Secretary of State’s office tells us. We may not have to utilize big screen televisions and microphones if we are able to hold the meeting in one room.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jason spoke with the fireworks representative and they will be doing a large show in Errol on Saturday, July 3. Jason asked if we could have fireworks on Sunday, July 4. His contact expressed concern that they would be in Errol setting up all day, and then doing the show, then packing up and going to Jefferson to set up for that show. They felt it would be a great deal of work in that short period of time. They asked if Jefferson might have their fireworks on Friday night with Errol on Saturday. Jason told them to work it out, that Jefferson would do Friday. Cindy said it might be a great way to kick off the 4th of July weekend.

Cindy spoke with the Festival Committee about a parade on 4th of July. She gave Kathi the application for a parade permit to send to the Dept. of Transportation.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II

Norm made a motion to go into a Non-Public session citing RSA 91-A:3 II. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting “aye,” Norm voting “aye,” and Cindy voting “aye.” The motion carried and the board members went into a non-public session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon reconvening the public session Norm made a motion to adjourn the weekly Select Board meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Kevin voting “aye,” Norm voting “aye,” and Cindy voting “aye.” The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Select Board will be Monday, April 26, 2021 in person at the Jefferson Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,