

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2025

DRAFT

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Owen Astbury, Chair

Present: Steve Tarleton, Selectboard Member, Nope Martin, Selectboard Member, Randy Kennedy, Road Foreman, Melissa Spear, Treasurer and Nancy Robinson, Clerk

Visitors: Bruce Maxham, Mary Oldenburg, William O. Young, Emma Stanton, VT Standard Reporter and Bruce Martin.

Visitors via Zoom: Pete Fellows, TRORC, Dennis & Joan Wideman, The Martins, Jerry Oppenheimer, Victoria Young, Carrie Bivins (802-291-0992) and other phone #'s 802-772-4589 and 802-353-0056.

Additions/changes to agenda: Radio contract with CVC.

Nope moved to accept the minutes of April 22, 2025 as written. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Scheduled Visitor: Pete Fellows from TRORC via zoom. Town received 1 bid for the sand shed from Naylor & Breen in the amount of \$1,399,222.00. Reviewed options: accept bid, rebid next year or pull out and reimburse approx. \$26,000 in grant funds. Recommends that town build on its own, may be able to build shed for the \$500-600,000 that the town was going to have to come with for co-pay. Either way, town will own the plans. Discussion of size of building, permitting, concrete costs and actual reimbursement costs. Owen moved to exit the grant, pay back the fees and to build on our own. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

Highway Report: Randy had a contract from CVC for new radios. Radios have been tested and work well, good coverage in town except of couple spots in Chateaugay. Intend to keep other radios for communication with Fire Department. Installation costs of \$400 for each radio, \$156.00 rent per month thereafter. Owen moved to approve the radio contract. Steve 2nd the motion and motion carried.

Reported that crew are working on grading roads, Jonathan has been training in the grader, doing well. A culvert needs to be replaced and upsized on Richmond Hill Rd.

Board signed a right of way permit for the Wideman's who put in a culvert a couple of years ago and final paperwork was not ever completed.

Bids were opened for the Hale Hollow/Earle Bridge project, 2 companies attended the pre-bid meeting and only 1 bid was submitted for the engineering from McFarland & Johnson in the amount of \$28,350. Contract information will be forwarded to VTRANS, ANR & FEMA for review and recommendation(s). At this time Nope recused himself from the rest of the bid openings as he has bid on the projects. Left table and sat in visitor section of room.

16 companies attended the pre-bid meeting for the Baker Hill and Pearson Road projects. 8 bids were opened for the Pearson Road Box Culvert project (see attached sheet). The apparent lowest bid was from Barnard Exc. in the amount of \$69,875. All information will be sent to VTRANS, ANR & FEMA for review and recommendation(s). 7 bids were opened for the Baker Hill Erosion project. The lowest apparent bid was from Mosher Exc. in the amount of (project-\$47,421.66 & mitigation-\$26,055.16) \$73,476.82. All information will be sent to VTRANS, ANR & FEMA for review and recommendation(s). No bids awarded at this time until town has received information back from VTRANS, ANR & FEMA.

May 13, 2025 minutes cont.

Hopefully information will be back by Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 4:00 pm so that the board can meet and award contracts and work can get started. All projects need to be completed by middle of August.

Treasurer's File: Expense warrant #25-17 was reviewed and signed. (e-check #'s 2943-2948 and ck's 21824-21855). Paying off balance of FEMA loan and school payment. Paying annual stipends to elected/appointed individuals. March payroll warrant #25-10 was also signed.

Melissa reported to the board that she is hiring Geoff Eckler as her assistant treasurer for 8-16 hours week at \$25.00 per hour. Will start on Monday, May 19th.

Clerk's File: Excess weight permits were approved for Limlaw Chipping and Romano Trucking. Catering applications were approved for 2 wedding events at the OQ Farm to be held on June 7th and 28th.

Old business: None

New Business: Nancy gave the board information regarding an Open House from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Community Center on Thursday, May 15th related to Flood Resiliency. Local Emergency Management Plan was reviewed. Updated annually and sent to TRORC and Vermont Emergency Management. Owen moved to approve the plan as updated. Nope seconded the motion and motion carried.

At this time Owen recused himself from the table as the next item for discussion was the opening of the property maintenance bids. 2 bids were submitted by the May 8th deadline and 1 bid came in this afternoon. Bids were opened from Olmstead Property (Michael) and EA Tree & Lawn Services (Ezra). Olmstead bid only on the Recreation Field. EA Tree bid hourly rate by each site/activity. Steve and Nope decided to ask each bidder to re-submit bid quote by lump sum for the total properties. Nancy will contact both contractors and ask for revised bids.

Visitors: William Young asked about status of MERP project. Pete Fellows from TRORC is administering this project, last reported that he is getting quotes for insulation and heating.

Meeting will be recessed until Thursday, May 15th at 4:00 pm to review and award the 3 FEMA highway project bids allowing time for the bids to be looked at by VTRANS, ANR & FEMA. Board members were in agreement with this plan.

Meeting recessed at 5:45 pm.

The "Owl" audio and visual devise was used for the 1st time and received good reviews.

May 15, 2025

Meeting was reconvened at 4:00 pm by Owen Astbury, Chair

Present: Steve Tarleton, Randy Kennedy, Melissa Spear and Nancy Robinson

Zoom: The Martin's and Wideman's.

Hale Hollow/Earle Bridge bid – Melissa had information from VTRANS, ANR and FEMA that the bid submitted by McFarland Johnson was adequate for the scope of the project. Owen moved to accept and award the bid to McFarland Johnson, Steve seconded the motion and motion carried. A contract was signed by the board members.

Baker Hill Erosion Project – 15 contractors attended the pre-bid meeting. Town received 7 bids. Lowest apparent bid was from Mosher Exc. Melissa had information from VTRANS, ANR and FEMA who found bid information to be acceptable for the job. Steve moved to award the bid to Mosher Exc. Owen seconded the motion and motion carried. A contract was signed by the board.

Pearson Road Box Culvert – 15 contractors attended the pre-bid meeting. Town received 8 bids. Lowest apparent bid was from Barnard Exc. After reviewing the bid paperwork, the board had questions regarding several of the bids. Will table this decision until next meeting to get more information.

Being no other business, Owen moved to adjourn at 4:40 pm. Steve seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson
Clerk