

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Draft

December 19, 2023

Present: William O. Young-Chair, George Spear-Vice Chair, Stephen S. Tarleton – Road Commissioner, Melissa Spear-Treasurer, Nancy Robinson-Clerk, Victoria Young-Administrative Assistant/Lister, & Randy Kennedy – Road Foreman

Visitors: Charlie Shackleton, Brian Bontrager-BACF Board Members, Owen Astbury, Bruce Maxham, Tammy Wardwell, Gloria Martin, Greg Robinson, Pete Fellowes -TRORPC, & Heather Surprenant - Representative

Zoom: Diane Martin, Dennis & Joan Wideman, Lynn Bertram & Marsha Fraser - Lister

Executive Session – Personnel Per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3) William called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

William made a motion to enter executive session for Personnel with Randy & Victoria staying. Seconded by Steve. Out of executive session at 4:30 p.m. William made a motion to hire Martin Machain at \$25.00 per hour – seconded by Steve. Motion passed unanimously. William stated that the town has hired a new highway employee - Martin Machain. Martin's hire date was December 11, 2023. Martin will be on a 30-day trial period with benefits to start at the end of the 30-day trial.

Call to Order: William called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

- ** Additions/Changes to Agenda: Camp Concrete Products Inc.- Estimate – Pearson Rd - This will be added to the Highway portion of the meeting.

Minutes: November 28, 2023 – The Board reviewed, and William made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023, Minutes as submitted – seconded by George. Motion passed.

Highway Report: Steve gave an update -The road crew has been working on damage from Monday, December 18th flooding, we lost the Holiday Farm temporary bridge – a new one is on its way – hoping to have it back up in a day or two. Working on the Pearson Road project. A crane is coming in three weeks to work on the new Holiday Farm bridge.

Lynne questioned if the town could replace culverts on Perkins Road with larger culverts. The current ones do not handle the high water that we have just experienced on Monday's storm. The Board replied that the town plans to install larger culverts in the near future – when time permits.

- Salt Shed - Pete Fellowes – TRORPC – Pete gave an overview of the Salt Shed Grant, plans and expenses so far. The Board must decide if we will continue with the Grants or just build on our own without Federal funding. Costs have almost doubled, and it would mean more out of pocket money from the Town that the Federal Grants will not cover. Pete estimates (see attached notes) a cost of \$850,000.00 (Grant of \$500,000.00) to build with a Federal Grant. If we pull out now - we would have to pay back to the State approximately \$27,800.00 to close out the Grant. General discussion of building types and costs. The Board will ponder the choices and Pete will be back in January.

- **Bids** – Lafayette – Guard Rails – 3 Center Road sites, 2-Dailey Hollow Road. sites & 1 Fancher Road Site

This was the only bid received. Randy had tried others, and no one responded. FEMA has signed off on the one bid. The Board accepted the bid of \$48,855.00 for the guardrails on: Center Road-Bugby Hill, Center Road-Oak Chapel, Center Road by Chip Ballou's, Dailey Hollow Road- Hubbard Bridge, Dailey Hollow Road- Gorge, & Fancher Road. Bugby Hill and the Gorge have been completed – the rest will have to wait till Spring.

Camp Precast Concrete Products Inc. - has submitted a bid for Pearsons Road. The Board will wait for more bids for this project.

- **Jenne RD Temporary Bridge** – Melissa clarified that Cold River Bridges did not intend to sell the temporary bridge to us in September. The \$17,500.00 that we paid for, what we understood was to buy, was only the cost of the I Beams (3) and a charge of \$500.00 per week to rent. Jim Holler (Cold River Bridges) has now offered to sell them to us for an additional \$15,500.00. Or we continue to pay \$500.00 per week to rent – and we will need them for at least another couple of months. The Board discussed that it would be good to have these I Beams to use whenever we may need a temporary bridge in the future. Steve made a motion to purchase the I Beams from Cold River Bridges for \$15,500.00 - seconded by William. Motion passed.

Melissa updated Pearsons Road Project – FEMA has approved a temporary bridge. Randy is working on that and hopes to have it done next week.

- **Excess Weight Permit** – Williams Trucking – The Board signed the Overweight Permit.

Treasurer's File:

- AP Warrant #24-10 - The Board reviewed and signed the Warrant. Manual Cks #2793 - #2797 & Cks #20991 - #21027

Nancy asked how much has been spent on Flood Expenses to date? Melissa said – \$3.6 million. We have only borrowed - \$2.5 million. Nancy has gotten information about the VT Bond Bank - offering 5-yr – no interest Loans. Melissa will look into more funding choices.

Melissa also gave the Board a Budget Status Report to review.

Clerk's File:

- EWP Update (Bank Stabilization Program) – Nancy reported that the two property owners that qualified for the EWP Program have both withdrawn their applications. The Town has now withdrawn from the program.

Lister Updates: Statistical Market Update - Approved by State – Vicky had a Contract for the Board to sign for the Statistical Market Update with Vision Government Solutions Inc. for \$39,500.00 to begin in January for our 2024 Grand List. The State has approved the SMU instead of a full reappraisal.

New Business:

- **BACF Updates** – Brian Bontrager & Charlie Shackleton – Charlie gave an update of the progress made on the building. The Childcare Center is doing very well - currently has 40 children and 11 employees. They have invested \$1.8 million in the building to date. They are currently working in the remaining two old classrooms on the upstairs level - one for Senior Solutions and one for Artistree. They have about \$100,000.00 left in funds to work on these two rooms and other cosmetic repairs. There is a new elevator and handicapped bathroom. The goal is to have a Variance Permit for the building to be used for the Town Meeting in March.

The lease for BACF is due for renewal in January and they would like to renew it with a 20-year lease. (The previous one was a 5-year lease) The Board reiterated that the Lease would still be that the building would be used for Town Meetings and for an emergency shelter. Brian & Charlie were in full agreement with the Town using the building. Vicky had prepared a new draft copy of the Lease for Charlie and Brian to take with them and review/change with their attorney and have them send the Lease back so that the town could have our attorney review before the January meeting to have the Board then sign the new Lease Agreement.

- **Windsor County Sheriff Proposal** – Steve has had some conversations with Ryan Palmer, Windsor County Sheriff about getting some police coverage in Bridgewater. Ryan had sent a proposal for the Board to review and discuss at budget time for the next fiscal year.
- **Lawrence & Lober Electric - Quote** for Replacing existing 100 Amp generator protected panel-with 100A panel with more capacity. All new breakers will be installed in the new panel. Move remaining circuits from 200A main panel to new generator protected panel. The Board reviewed the Quote to replace the electric panel in the basement of the Southgate House for the generator to work better in the whole building - not just spotty coverage. William made a motion to accept the quote for \$1,600.00 - seconded by George – motion passed.

Old / Other Business:

- **Southgate House Plumbing** - We are waiting for A-1 Sewer to give us a price to replace the old cast iron pipes with pvc pipes – Vicky had called and left a message but has not heard back from them. William will contact a couple of plumbers and try to get quotes to do the work. The exterior work of new pipes from the building to the street will have to wait until Spring.
- **Budget meetings** - Will be on January 2nd, 16th and 30th if needed.

Next Regular Meeting: January 09, 2024

Visitors: Gloria had a few questions about trucks and the new sander for the F550 Truck.

Brian will be here on the 9th to finalize the Lease.

Joan asked if she could pick up a budget worksheet to follow along with the budget meetings. Melissa will have one ready for her to pick up.

Adjourn: William made a motion to adjourn at 5:47 p.m. - seconded by Steve. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young

Administrative Assistant