

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2023

Present: William O. Young-Chair, George Spear-Vice Chair (Board), Melissa Spear-Treasurer, Nancy Robinson-Clerk, Victoria Young-Administrative Assistant & Lister

Visitors: Tammy Wardwell, Gloria Martin, Greg Robinson, Deb Ogden, Ellen Quinn, Victoria Reaser, Bruce Maxham - Fire Department & Carol Messier

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

Executive Session – Personnel Per 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(3) Daniel Kennedy

William called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. William made a motion to enter into executive session for personnel with Victoria staying. George seconded – motion passed.

Out of executive session at 4:30 p.m. The Board interviewed a potential employee for the Highway job and will wait for Steve to return to make any decision. The Board also decided to give Kaleb McIntire a \$1.00 per hour raise –bringing him to \$19.00 per hour.

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

- ** Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: September 12, 2023 –The Board reviewed the Minutes and William made a motion to accept as submitted, seconded by George. Motion passed.

Highway Report: Updates:

- Bids: Jenne RD Bridge – Markowski Inc./Carrara- \$451,891.52 - Daniels Construction -\$424,270.00, Cold River Bridges LLC-\$274,755.00
- Bids: Holiday Farm Bridge-Markowski Inc./Carrara -\$434,811.78, Daniels Construction - \$465,345.00, Cold River Bridges LLC-\$292,955.00

After reviewing the 3 bids for the Jenne Road Bridge and the Holiday Farm Road Bridge –William made a motion to accept Cold River Bridges LLC bids for both Bridge replacements seconded by George –motion passed.

- Pearson RD –Markowski Excavating Inc.- Will hold for more bids to come in.
- Temporary Bridge - Cold River Bridges LLC- William made a motion to purchase the temporary bridge materials for \$17,500.00, seconded by George - motion passed.

The Board is hoping that the temporary bridge will be in place at the Jenne Bridge site soon. Blocks should be delivered soon and by purchasing the I Beams instead of renting them for \$500.00/week - we will have them available to us in the future for pretty much any bridge in town except for the Mill Road bridge. Some general discussion ensued.

- Worrell – Access Road – Permit #24-02 - Signed by the Board.
- Miller – Access RD – Permit #22-04 – Signed by the Board.

Treasurer's File:

- Expense Warrant #24-05 – E-Cks #2765-2772, Cks #20811-20836 – Reviewed & signed by the Board
- Payroll – September 2023 –E-Cks# 5079-5095 & Cks #3798-3816 – Reviewed & signed by the Board

Nancy asked Melissa how much FEMA Expense's do we have to date? Melissa reported \$1.7 million. Hopefully, FEMA will reimburse 87% and the State 3%. Melissa also asked the Board about the Fire Station-Bruce Maxham had asked about getting the heating system serviced – which in the Lease states that the Town will pay for. Bruce wanted to check with the Town about getting it done and if the town preferred who would do the work. Melissa asked the Board to have Bruce make this decision in the future without having to ask. The Board agreed to Bruce handling it.

Clerk's File: Nancy advised the Board that she would be occasionally out of the office in the next few months –going to training for the upcoming election year. She expects to be going to many training sessions to be ready for the March 2024 Presidential Primary. Some BCA (Board of Civil Authority) members would also attend some of the training.

Lister Updates: Errors & Omissions – Mojeski Parcel #04-061.001– Vicky had a Lister Errors & Omission to bring before the Board for a property that had a camp on their property that the town was not aware of because it was situated on property currently enrolled in the Current Use program. The building was found when our 911 Coordinator was working on the new 911 numbers for Stone Hill Road – close to this property. The property has now been corrected in the 2023 Grand List, and the owners have been made aware that Current Use property must have at least two acres excluded for a camp or any development. Current Use Department has been notified of the development and will get it corrected in the Spring. Marsha had hiked up to the property this afternoon. A Revised tax bill has been sent to the owners. William made a motion to accept the Errors & Omission for the Mojeski property – seconded by George. Motion passed.

New Business: Deb Ogden had questions about her property – the culvert/ditch - Melissa told her that FEMA representatives will be here Friday - and will look at her site if possible. General discussion ensued. Carol Messier is concerned about Dailey Hollow road- it is very narrow in places, and she needs to get a fuel truck to her property before winter. William told her that work is being done along the Gorge Road / Dailey Hollow Road area and is hopeful that it will be done soon. We have gravel at the ballfield in the Center that will be used to fix the roads in that area. We are also hauling more gravel from the Martin (previous Jonas) property that the new owner has donated to the town. We will be stockpiling that gravel for future sites. The rock crusher is leaving for a month because they have another job to do – but will be back to crush the new stockpile that we are hauling there now.

Deb also asked about a pile of dirt that Johnson's had left on her property and would like to get that moved. William will talk to Randy about it –and try to get it done. William told the visitors that the town is working our way into the back roads- fixing as we go along. And it is going to take time - we are doing the best that we can. Ellen Quinn was concerned about Highway employees - William told her that we had hired one new guy two weeks ago and interviewed another one tonight. Ellen suggested asking Jeff Eckler about looking for employees - as he is good at that. The Board will look into that if needed.

Old / Other Business: MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) – Energy Resilience

Assessment- Southgate House & Highway Garage – Vicky reported that we have been approved for the MERP program and we will be hearing from our regional commission soon to get things started with that.

Next Regular Meeting: October 10, 2023

Visitors: Tammy asked about Brailey Road - William said that we will get there as soon as we can. Victoria Reaser expressed her gratitude for Randy's dedication to our town and the long hours that he has put in after the flood this summer. William agreed and said that Randy has been here for almost 30 years, and we are very appreciative of his service to the town. Gloria asked if our roads are safe for the Fire Department and Ambulance to get through? Bruce responded that he thought that they were. Nancy asked about Barnard Chateauguay Road? Same answer – we are working our way there. As soon as we can.

Adjourn: Being no further business before the Board- William made a motion to adjourn at 5:13 p.m. - seconded by George. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young,

Administrative Assistant