

**OWN OF BRIDGEWATER**  
**SELECTBOARD / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 2024**

**Location: 45 Southgate Loop – Selectboard Room**

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

**Visitors:** Bruce Maxham

**Zoom:** Joan Wideman, Brett Yates & Andrew McCleod

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

- \*\* Additions/Changes to Agenda: Add- Notice to Proceed for T & H Forestry LLC -Taylor Farm for Change in existing access.

**Minutes:** August 20, 2024- Board reviewed and accepted as written.

**Highway Report: Updates:** Randy reported that they have been working on Dailey Hollow Road and Stevens RD - ditches cleaned out and stone-lined them- new culverts on the Dailey Hollow RD. Also grading on Goldcoast & part of North Bridgewater Road (Sawyer Hill).

There was discussion of the work on Stevens Road, Better Back Roads Grant # BR1032, that must be finished by September 30, 2024. The Grant is \$33,000.00 - Total estimate of the job at the time of the Grant is \$45,130.00 - town's match in kind is \$8,250.00. The town received two bids – one from Barnard Excavating for \$81, 175.00 and one from Noyes Company for \$67, 615.00. Melissa reached out to Rita Seto at TRORPC about extra funding to cover the cost difference due to the rising cost of materials. Rita responded that since the town received an estimate – to go ahead and get the project done, time is of the essence. There will be no additional funding from the State- so the town will need to cover the difference. The Board decided to use the recent funding (50k) that we received from the State that was applied to our “materials” line in the highway budget to cover the difference (\$34,615.00). William made a motion to accept the bid from Noyes Company #TOBB005 for \$67,615.00 - seconded by Owen – motion passed.

Discussion also of additional work on Steven's Road - FEMA Project- December 2023 Flooding Event – Randy had a Proposal from Noyes Company for \$51,125.00 and a Proposal from Barnard Excavation for \$59,725.00 to do the repair of a river washout embankment. After discussion of doing additional mitigation work to this project, where the town would be 100% reimbursed by FEMA – Noyes Co, submitted a revised Proposal including the additional mitigation work for \$98,007.40. William made a motion to accept Noyes Proposal #TOBB004A for \$98, 007.40 - seconded by Steve- motion passed unanimously.

Nancy asked about a wash by the Hoisington bridge – Randy is aware of it and will get it fixed. Discussion also about winter plowing and our need for a third employee. With no one interested in the job, it was discussed hiring Olmstead's to help with winter plowing as needed. Randy said he would contact Mike and let them know that we will need their services.

- Salt Shed Discussion- The Board received an email from Pete Fellowes (TRORPC) with the Bid Proposal for the planned new Salt Shed. Pete was not able to come to this meeting. The Board reviewed the projected cost of the building of \$875K and the town's share of cost at \$400K. The Board will invite Pete to come to the next meeting if he is available for further discussion.
- Notice to Proceed – T & H Forestry LLC- Taylor Farm-The Board signed the Notice to Proceed for the Taylor Farm - change in existing access.

Also, some discussion of a new access off Dailey Hollow Road that has not submitted an application for the new/changed access. The Board asked Vicky to notify the owners about the Permit Application needed.

#### **Treasurer's File:**

- Expense Warrant #25-03 E Cks # 5187-5232 & AP Cks #4049-4068 Reviewed and signed by the Board.
- Payroll Warrant – August 2024 – E Cks #2868- #2876 & PR Cks #21426-#21462 (Note-E Ck #2874 not issued) Board reviewed and signed.
- Melissa noted that the Fire Department requested a check to purchase a 2005 KME Pumper Truck for \$99,500.00 - the funds came from their Fire Truck Improvement Reserve Fund. Leaving a balance in that fund of just under \$140,000.00. This truck will replace their 1989 truck. Bruce Maxham gave information on the purchase of the new truck.
- Melissa also reported that the town had to change Checking accounts at Mascoma Savings Bank because of a breach at the bank. New check numbers for AP – old account last check was #21416 – new account starts with #21426. Payroll last old check was #5195 – new account starts with #5230.
- FEMA Update- Discussion was during Highway time.
- Melissa gave the Board a Budget Status Report to review. Taxes are coming in – we have received \$621,404.00 to date-almost 67% of taxes in the General Fund. Also, \$31,000. In delinquent taxes have come in. Discussion of Sheriff bills and traffic fines.

#### **Clerk's File:**

- **Catering permit application for 716 Cox District Rd** for a wedding on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. William made a motion to approve Application #47557 at Westwind's Farm. On September 21, 2024 – Seconded by Steve. Motion passed.
- **Town Clerk/Elections Grant for \$2,500.00 from Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL)** Nancy reported that she had applied for this Grant and had received \$2,500.00. It is a grant for Election purposes only. She wants to use the grant money to purchase an outside mobile ballot drop off box and for additional staff on election day. Including for security- hiring the

Windsor County Sheriff's Department for extra security during the day and evening. Joan asked if a security camera would be appropriate to monitor the ballot box using some of the grant money? Nancy said the camera would be used for only the 30 days prior to election day and would be an expense for a short time.

**New Business:**

- **MERP- Update-** Vicky updated that we had received an email from the State of Vermont- Department of Buildings and General Services, notifying us that because of the big interest in this program – the State is awarding "only communities designated high and highest energy burden in the 2019 Efficiency Vermont Energy Burden Report will be eligible to apply." Our application was done in 2023, so we will not receive any grants at this time.

**Old / Other Business:** Steve asked about the status of the solar panels for the BACF/Fire Department. William said he thought they changed the plan to only put the solar panels on the Community Center building and not the Fire Station. We will try to get an update on that for the next meeting.

**Visitors:** None

**Adjourn:** Being no further business - William made a motion to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. Seconded by Steve – motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young

Administrative Assistant