

APPROVED

Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes May 21, 2014

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 4:10pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 by Chairman Warren Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Ken Story; Town Administrator Melissa White; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Bridge Engineer Erin Darrow; Michael C. Hansen; and C. Peter James

ADMINISTRATIVE

- 2014 Tax Warrant (first issue) - \$5,791,216.63

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: Bridge Engineer Erin Darrow informed the Board of Selectmen that on May 8, 2014 at a pre-construction meeting at the Old Farms Road Bridge, shop drawings for the precast concrete bridge from Michie Corporation were reviewed. At that time, Mike Hansen, of Hansen Construction, expressed a concern that the re-located utility poles and lines were going to cause problems for the installation of the end section units of the bridge which weigh 58,000 pounds. Hansen indicated the crane should be 20 feet from the utility lines for setting the precast pieces. He also said OSHA requires a 10 foot setback from the crane.

A subsequent meeting was held on May 16th with representatives from PSNH and Fairpoint Communications to discuss various options for relocating the utility lines. One option would be to set the utility poles temporarily twenty (20) feet over so there would be a ten (10) foot clearance for the construction. This option led to some issues with the poles and wire being on abutting properties and not within the town's right-of-way. The utility companies said in this case, the town would be responsible for the cost of moving the utilities. Also, because it is not town property, easements would have to be granted. Darrow said another option would be to move one utility pole over approximately eight (8) feet which keeps it within the town's existing right-of-way and move the other pole to the lower guy wire location which is also within the allowed right-of-way and remove one of the eight (8) foot sections from the bridge which would modify the grading slightly and move the bridge upstream approximately eight (8) feet. Darrow said she believes this would give the needed ten (10) foot clearance. Darrow continued that at the closest section there is the tip of the part of the wing wall that is within ten (10) feet but depending on how it is held by the crane and how the pieces are put together, we should be able to have the 10 foot offset. The closest point is still approximately eight and one half (8 1/2) feet but we might be able to tweak that somewhat. Darrow believes we could still keep the concrete bridge but it would require modifications of the shop drawings with Michie Corporation. Darrow added she also spoke to them about making the end section lighter. Right now it's the heaviest unit at approximately 58,000 pounds. Michie said they could manufacture it so the two walls are separate and the arch would be its own piece.

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Darrow also suggested looking at using smaller blocks and/or stones instead of a precast wing wall which wouldn't require a crane. Darrow informed that Fairpoint said they are eight weeks out when receiving a request to move utilities and she wouldn't be surprised if it was longer.

White asked Mr. James if he had any ideas about who to talk to at Fairpoint Communications to fast track moving the utilities. James suggested calling the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to get a specific name.

Hansen stated that this project was supposed to be done last July (2013) and it was postponed one year. He reported he had a slow summer because of that and made it clear that he is not going to go through that again so if this project goes forward, work has to begin in July. He stressed that the pole relocation will take months and cost about \$100,000.00. Hansen said most of this is out of his control, however, one solution would be to install either a steel stringer bridge with a concrete deck or a timber bridge. He said his company does their own pre-casting in house. He added that the utilities would not have to be moved and work could begin in July. White reported the problem with that would be the change in scope of work. Selectman Jones asked if anyone has spoken with our FEMA representative. White said she spoke to our FEMA representative and she said she could review the request for change in scope of work and would see if it could be expedited but there was no guarantee that it would be approved. There was discussion about how this would affect the permits that are in place and Darrow said she is concerned about the impact this would have on the FEMA Grant and the wetland permits. Road Agent Jeff Hastings asked how much our financial obligation is to Michie Corporation. White answered about \$34,000.00. Hansen asked if they would refund any of that money and White said she hasn't explored that yet.

There were questions as to if this new proposal would change the location of the road or the height of the bridge from the water. Darrow reported that if we change the configuration, she would need to revisit that with the wetlands bureau. She said she would need to verify this with the permit inspector but there is a possibility that there might need to be an amendment to the wetlands permit which could take 30 days.

Selectman Jones asked if it would be better to wait another year to make sure everything is in place and in order rather than trying to hastily make changes to put a bridge in this year. Hansen stated that the project should be re-bid if the town decides to wait another year. Darrow and Hastings both questioned whether its right to change the whole scope of work as suggested without re-bidding the project. After discussion, the Selectmen, White and Darrow agreed to contact Michie Corporation and the various agencies over the next few days to find out if it is possible to make the proposed changes and proceed with the project this year. The Selectmen will make a final decision by May 28, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Story; **by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 5:20 pm.**

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The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 28, 2014** at 5pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant