

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 8, 2023
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

Gerry Vachon, Chairman
Charlie King, Vice Chairman
Ann Titus
Penny Morin
Doug Staples

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator
James Reinert, Fire Chief
Kelly Heon, Finance Administrator
Chris Rouleau, Firefighter
Erica Dickie-Yelle, BOS Secretary
Ed Brannan, Highway Dept. Supervisor
Josif Bicja, Hoyle Tanner Sr. Engineer

1). Non-meeting with Town Attorney- 5 p.m.

2). Call to Order:

Chairman Vachon called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

3). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Staples, Titus, Morin-aye) at 5:28 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Morin) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:11 p.m.

4). Reconvene Public Session:

Chairman Vachon reconvened the public session at 6:15 p.m.

5). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6). Public Input: None

7). Swearing In of New Fireman:

Fire Chief James Reinert said they hired Chris Rouleau as our third full time Firefighter so tonight they will be doing the swearing in and pinning ceremony and Finance Director Kelly Heon will do the oath and his dad will do the pinning after he is sworn in.

Mrs. Heon and Mr. Rouleau came forward and Mr. Rouleau raised his right hand and took the oath of office as read aloud by Mrs. Heon. Mr. Rouleau and Mrs. Heon then signed the required documentation.

Chief Reinert asked Mr. Rouleau's father to come forward and noted he is a retired Firefighter

from Pease so it runs in the family. Mr. Rouleau then pinned his new badge on his son followed by picture taking by family and friends and applause from everyone present.

8). Review of Minutes:

May 1, 2023- Non-Public Sessions A & B- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to approve the minutes as written passed 5-0.

9). Old Business:

Retroactive Pay Increase Approval- Mr. Dickie said when they reviewed the Firefighters they approved the pay raise and Chief Reinert is looking for the board's approval to make it retroactive back to the Town Meeting.

Chief Reinert said they should have a spreadsheet from between Town Meeting and the Selectmen's meeting that he attended for the approval of the pay increases so that would have been the difference.

Mr. King said historically they have done this and when he was on the board prior they did it. He said they have 2 officers he assumes are full time Cameron Drew and Christopher Waite and Cameron Drew has almost 55 hours of overtime and asked if that's something that's customary. Chief Reinert said no and they are down 4 people that are out on personal leave and in that span they were short so the part timers filled in and Mr. Drew picked up the majority of the available time and those people are back now.

Mr. King asked for his total overtime budget.

Chief Reinert said they budgeted \$4,000 and because they had the 3rd position not filled since the beginning of January through Town Meeting it was roughly \$12,000 in that line item for overtime.

Mr. King asked how much they have spent so far.

Chief Reinert said as of last week when he sat down with Mr. Dickie and Mrs. Heon it was around \$6,800.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to make the retroactive pay back to Town Meeting for the officers listed with the amounts listed below totaling in the amount of \$1,684.23 passed 5-0.

Mr. King noted for the record that is divided by 19 employees.

Mr. Vachon asked to have the spreadsheet attached to these minutes.

Bridges- Hoyle Tanner Sr. Engineer Josif Bicja said last week they talked about different options and he summarized them to Mr. Dickie in an e-mail on Tues. and asked if they got that e-mail. Mrs. Morin said yes.

Mr. Bicja said he was here for the board to make a decision on which way they want to go.

Mr. King said he reviewed it and it's either option #1 (conventional design-bid-build method) or option #2 (design/build method) and option #3 (Town works with local contractors to get these projects done) isn't very viable. He said he was considering option #2 for the reasons he discussed at the last meeting.

He said one thing he would disagree with in Mr. Bicja's memo was that he wrote that he feels that there is a conflict if they require the engineering to be done by the company that is doing it and he disagrees. He said for example the Public Safety Building was design built and the engineering was done and overseen by the contractor and if they do a building expansion on the Highway Dept. garage typically that is part of the responsibilities and he has not seen any issues with that being done if we have a reputable firm.

Mr. Bicja said you just never know who you are going to get.

Mr. King said for those areas the engineering firm that has done it pretty everyone uses the same people out of Portsmouth. He said this is a different area and he didn't know who was in this area that provides engineering services for bridges besides Hoyle Tanner.

He said there have been some examples that they've used that shows that they've been successful when they have done it that way. I understand your opinion but from experience with the right contractor we would be fine he said.

Mr. Bicja said if they are going to go with that option he could update the previous agreement.

Mrs. Morin said the timeline doesn't change anything.

Mr. King said they would potentially add in 2 months for the preliminary work but the ending may not change because of when the construction was done. He said it gives them an opportunity to see some pricing as soon as possible and if there is an issue they can address it because if they went out with option #2 the pricing they may see should be consistent with what they see if they had a fully engineered plan for the total cost but maybe not.

Mr. Bicja said contractors get paid on risk so the more work they do up front that's why they recommended that they at least do some of the initial field work for the borings, the survey.

Mr. King said that makes sense because they need to define the scope of work and what the flows and soils are so they can have a clear expectation and if they do go with the design build they would probably need somebody to look at what they're doing and potentially they would be that firm where they would say we want some oversight of their engineering that we may put as a requirement that we agree with it and we would audit or have some approval level of us saying their design is solid. Us looking at it is not going to pick up on something that could be a significant deficiency that they put in unintentionally. Everybody makes mistakes he said.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to proceed with the Hornetown Road and River Road Bridges with option #2 as presented by Hoyle Tanner and to revise the contract as necessary;

Discussion: Mr. Bicja said he would update the agreement, get a hold of their subcontractor New England Boring and who is doing the survey, schedule them and let the board know how soon they can do it. He said in the past week when he was scheduling another job with them they said it was about 2 months so he just needs to check with them and see where they're at. Mr. King asked if Doucet Survey has done work on this already.

Mr. Bicja said they haven't done anything and they give them the scope and the fee that was about \$5,000 or \$6,000 so he just needs to give them the go-ahead now to schedule it. I

anticipate that you'll have it in about 2 months he said.

Mr. King said if there is a timing lag they may want to consider somebody else for surveying if they haven't done any work already if they can't do it in a timely fashion.

Mr. Bicja said he didn't think it would take more than 2 months and the same thing with the drilling they have to do for the borings and he would keep them posted as soon as they schedule that. He said he talked to Mr. Dickie about having a couple of your guys do the flagging when they do the borings so there is going to be 2 days when there will be some traffic disruptions out there when they drill down 50 ft. below the pavement.

Mrs. Morin asked when he goes out to looking at the surveyors if its 2 months or more he is going to look at other places as well and not just stick with the one person that he knows.

Mr. Bicja said they can do that and he has used Doucet for a long time and they do a good job, they give you a fair price and if their schedule doesn't work within the time frame they talked about he will reach out to other ones. He said there is no guarantee that the pricing from others is going to be that it could be more or less we don't know but he will keep them posted.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bicja said he would get the revised agreement to Mr. Dickie tomorrow.

Mrs. Titus asked Mr. Dickie if the Town was going to do the flagging for him.

Mr. Dickie said they would work that out and they may subcontract that out.

Road Conditions- Highway Dept. Supervisor Ed Brannan said the good news is that it's not going to rain this week. He said he put together somewhat of a work schedule.

Mr. Dickie said he asked Mr. Brannan to review July 4 because we are not working on the 4th and there is also a holiday in June called Juneteenth when they also won't be working.

Mr. King asked if we adopted Juneteenth as one of our holidays.

Mr. Brannan said it's a federal holiday now.

Mr. Dickie said he thinks the previous board adopted it.

Mr. King joked he will sponsor a warrant article to un-adopt it.

Mrs. Titus asked if they have July 3 and 4 off.

Mr. Dickie said they have just the 4th off.

Mr. Vachon asked if they got any answers on the street sweeper and what they were using.

Mr. Brannan gave him a handout and said it's a mechanical unit that doesn't have a vacuum.

Mr. Vachon read that it is a mechanical unit with a belt.

Mrs. Morin said she saw that the report says they were out on Poor Farm Road today and it says repair driveway.

Mr. Brannan said there is one driveway right there by where the culvert was washed out and that's probably the last one that people couldn't get into. He said they didn't put that one very high on the priority list because the house is under construction and nobody is actually living in it. We tried to focus on what we thought was most important first he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if that is our responsibility.

Mr. Brannan said yes.

Mrs. Morin said last week when she asked about all the dirt from Ten Rod Road landing in someone's pond he said they couldn't work on private property.

Mr. Staples said NH DES will not allow us to take dirt out of a pond.

Mrs. Morin asked even if it is our dirt.

Mr. Staples said they do not care.

Mr. Brannan clarified what they did wasn't on private property. He said anything they did with driveways was all on the road side of the ditch. If the driveways were washed out on their side because of water from their yard that's on them he said.

He said most of the driveways that washed out there was a culvert issue and it actually washed out the road side. He said a lot of the time the driveways and culverts are supposed to be maintained by the owners and it's kind of a gray area the law says the culvert but it doesn't say the ditch. If they do something on their own to plug up the culvert or the ditch in front of the culvert it would probably have to go back on them but I think our first priority to make sure the road is filled back in and is safe to travel he said.

Mr. King returned to the sweeper and asked Mr. Vachon if the equipment they are using is acceptable and if we would get what we are paying for.

Mr. Vachon said it's going to sweep the streets but it's not a vacuum or regenerative air like they asked for. He said when they read off the contract it didn't specify vacuum but it was for regenerative air the way it was worded which would be a vacuum unit not a mechanical broom with a belt.

Mr. King asked if they awarded it to this firm and they don't have that equipment.

Mr. Vachon said they didn't award it yet they were waiting for an answer on that.

Mr. Brannan said they were the only ones that responded (to the Request For Quotes).

Mr. King asked if the RFQ said that's what we want and they quoted it did they ask if they can provide what was in the RFQ.

Mr. Brannan said he doesn't believe they can.

Mr. Vachon said if that is what they sent us that is probably what they have and most people run the mechanicals. They're not as efficient by any means but they're cheaper than the regenerative air that's why most people run them he said.

Mr. Brannan said they don't get the finer dirt and dust.

Mr. King asked the Chairman for his opinion on what they should do-go back out for RFP's or accept this bid which is a lower standard than what they asked for.

Mr. Vachon said they could go back out to bid there are companies that have them but obviously Farmington isn't a big enough piece of the pie for them to waste their time if they didn't quote it in the first place. He asked Mr. Brannan for the bid price quote.

Mr. Brannan recalled that it was for 60 hours at around \$10,000.

Mr. Vachon said it will sweep the streets it's just not as efficient and is not what they asked for.

He said with the regenerative air it's one pass and it's done because it's a vacuum that sucks everything up where if it sticks somewhere that may take multiple passes to get it kicked up and broken free. He said the mechanical unit kicks it on to a belt and the brushes turn this way and puts it on a chain and the chain puts it in the hopper. It's just a conveyor belt he said.

Mrs. Morin said it sounds like if they don't use this then they don't use anything.

Mr. Vachon said from that company and suggested they call around and see who has a regenerative air sweeper.

Mr. King asked who they used last year and if they got anybody with a regenerative air.

Mr. Vachon said it was a Pelican out in his area which is a 3 wheeled mechanical unit and that he didn't think he has ever seen a vacuum in town and that its always been mechanical.

Mr. Brannan said he could find who did it last year. He said it may have been a time issue too because the RFP wanted it done by Memorial Day.

Mr. Vachon said that will do a better job than what they have in-house that kicks it back on people's lawns.

Mr. King said he wasn't suggesting that we try to do it ourselves he was just asking a question because they asked for something that's not what they got bid so they would have to accept that and they haven't awarded it yet.

Mrs. Morin asked if they wanted to go back out to bid.

Mr. Vachon said they already put it out to bid and nobody qualified and repeated his suggestion that Mr. Brannan call the sweeping companies and see who has a regenerative air unit.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to table the award of the bid for a period of 2 weeks to give Mr. Brannan time to research and find the requested equipment;

Discussion: Mrs. Morin asked how long this company would keep their bid valid for, if there was a time frame on that bid or if the bid was from now until May.

Mr. Brannan said he assumed that it had a time in the bid specs as to when it was going to be awarded.

Mr. King asked when they furnished their quote if it said it was valid for a fixed number of days.

Mr. Brannan said he was not sure if it said it in the RFP as he didn't have a copy with him but it was to sweep prior to the Memorial Day weekend and for 2 days right around Hay Day.

Mr. Vachon said the price should be good for the season then if that's what they quoted us. He added with a more efficient sweeper they can get more done in the timeframe.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Brannan said one thing on the work schedule is shoulder work and ditching and he looked at the prices for excavators and it is anything from \$6,700 to \$8,000 per month. He said the one for \$6,700 is a one-piece boom 44,000 lbs. machine and is kind of big and it would be in the middle of the road when they are working.

Mr. King asked if it has an articulating bucket.

Mr. Brannan said it has a ditching bucket with a wrist. He said it's a wide bucket with a smooth

cutting edge and it will turn from side to side.

He said the one for \$8,000 is a much nicer machine, its smaller probably 33,000 lbs., it has a two-piece boom and has a 360 bucket that will spin around and you can dig backwards.

Mrs. Morin asked what the budget is for a rental.

Mr. Brannan said \$15,000.

Mr. King asked where he got the quotes for the rentals.

Mr. Brannan said the CAT Rental Store had the 44,000 lb. CAT machine and the Volvo was thru Chad with Bay Ross and he also got a quote from More Tracks.

Mr. King asked if he tried Milton Rents.

Mr. Brannan said he tried Milton CAT but they would not get back to him.

Mr. King said difference is from \$6,700 to \$8,000 and asked if that was for one month.

Mr. Brannan said it's a big hit and they are looking at an extra \$2,600 and he didn't know if that bucket would justify that much more efficiency.

Mr. King said but having a machine too big on the job is a problem.

Mr. Brannan said they will be stopping traffic and they will be waiting because if they have to move for every car as it comes along that's going to hold them up. He said the thing with the 2 piece boom is it actually brings your work area closer to the machine. He said the boom on an excavator is curved and it fixed and the 2 piece boom has a pivot point in it and you can bring one point back and one point in and you're bringing the pivot point where the stick is and the bucket is back closer to the machine so your overall work area is much more compact you're not stretched out as far and you don't have to be so far from the work that you're doing. He said the whole purpose of the 2 piece boom is just for ditch work and the only thing you ever see them on is rubber tired excavators and its so that you can get the machine closer to the shoulder or the ditch and stay out of the other lane.

Mr. King said he was more in favor of renting the right piece of equipment for the job instead of something that is going to be more problematic because of its size and is not as useful. You have only have so many days he said.

Mr. Brannan said even with renting it they still have to take care of other stuff and there will be days when it won't get used. He said there is no way they will get the full 40 hours a week on it they just don't have the crew because there are a lot of other things that keep coming up they have to deal with as well. We have to get out there and take care of these shoulders and ditches and that is the most efficient way to get it done he said.

Mrs. Morin asked when he is proposing to rent it and if there is a time frame like June and July that he would want to do it.

Mr. Brannan said they become a high commodity item real quick. He said the driveways are pretty much all set and most of the roads they have gotten back to 2 lanes where they can and there are a few areas where they have to fill in the shoulders and there are a number of places where they lost some pavement because of the washouts. He said it's inevitable because once

you lose the dirt under it the pavement is gone you might get a little bit of time but you're going to have to cut it out and patch it there's no way around it.

Mr. Vachon said the whole point of getting a wheeled one is to see if that is something down the road we'd be interested in as well.

Mr. King said they can't do ditch work on paved roads readily with the track machine unless it had rubber inserts on the pads.

Mr. Brannan said the track machine is not efficient. He said with a wheeled excavator they can go down the road at 20 mph and drive from spot to spot that's a quarter or half mile away and it would take 5 or 10 minutes as opposed to a half hour every time you have to load the machine. If you walk an excavator on tracks a quarter of a mile you're going to be there the better part of a half hour or an hour. You're not going to be efficient that way he said.

Mr. Vachon said they are going to be over on that line by \$1,000.

Mr. King said that's just the start of it and asked about road side mowing and if they rent a piece of equipment for that or contract it out.

Mr. Brannan said he didn't even know where they could rent a piece. He said they have something goes on the front of the skid steer and the Tool CAT is not rugged enough to handle it because of the boom set up. He said the problem with the mower they have is that it's on a fixed boom that will go from side to side and he thinks you can tilt the mower but you can't tip it down or up because it's on a fixed arm.

Mrs. Morin said so there would be no roadside mowing this year.

Mr. Brannan said they are going to have to do something at some point and he hasn't given up on the idea and he will still keep searching. He said any company that has rented them in the past they're out because of the amount of damage the machines sustain and the liability for the insurance and it just wasn't profitable for them.

Mr. King asked if anybody was doing that as a subcontractor.

Mr. Brannan said there are a few people out there and they had somebody stop in but he didn't know who it was or what kind of machine they use. He said they got a quote from Fairfield for a new unit that would go on the Tool Cat that's on a 2 piece boom arm you can rotate left, right, up and down. He said you could do the inside and outside of a ditch with it but it is questionable if it would get high enough for all the clearance you need for big trucks.

Mr. Vachon said it should be at least 14 ft. off the road.

Mr. Brannan said that was in the \$40,000 range. He said because of the lack of the availability of rental machines every town around is looking at trying to purchase something.

Mr. King said trying to find one do it all solution to do ground level, horizontal up 14 ft. is the wrong answer. He said it needs to be done as roadside mowing and the rest is trimming-its 2 different things. He said a lot of residents are not a fan of having their trees along the edge look like somebody beat them with a stick. Chain saw and a chipper, cut them down and a chipper not blast them apart and beat them to death he said.

Mr. Brannan said when you do that a lot of that stuff ends up in the ditch but if you do the trimming and then come back with a roadside mower if everything you're trimming is green you don't have that problem. It's when the limbs get big enough to turn brown is when they end up being sticks. Right now we have to concentrate on protecting the roads first and that would be with an excavator with a ditching bucket he said.

Mr. King said they need to get the right tool for the job even if it takes \$1,000 a month.

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to authorize the rental for two months for the Volvo EW 130 for ditching purposes;

Discussion: Mr. King said they could get in an area where they don't have any clearance or boom clearance for wires.

Mr. Brannan said when it comes to wires it's not a matter of if it's a matter of when.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Brannan said before he agrees to that with this guy he will try to get the price down. He said he could get the extra \$1,000 out of the gravel road maintenance line as they have quite a bit in there and a lot of that is for calcium and right now our tanks are pretty well full.

Mr. Vachon asked with the mower if he has looked at one for the trackless.

Mr. Brannan said the one he quoted for \$40,000 was for the trackless.

Mr. Vachon asked if that included the double tire set up that would be required for that.

Mr. Brannan said yes it does. He said it gives it more stability because you're going to have a lot of weight hanging off of the side of it. He said the quote was from this past winter so he was sure the numbers have changed.

Mr. King asked if they have even used the one we have.

Mr. Brannan said he couldn't answer that for sure but guessed it would be very, very little.

Mr. King said they bought that new with the Tool Cat and asked if it doesn't tip down and only goes out and left to right.

Mr. Brannan said it is a fixed boom and it will go left or right and the head will tilt but the boom that it is on does not go up or down.

Mr. King asked what the issue is when they go to use that.

Mr. Brannan said when you swing to the side it's going to be at the same level as the machine you're not going to be able to drop it down to get closer to the ground or pick it up if you want to get the back side of a banking or stretch out. It doesn't do any of that he said.

Mr. King asked if the one we have lacking an option we could have had or retro fit to this.

Mr. Brannan said he didn't know if they have an option for that and he'd be surprised if they did not but you would have to have a pretty good size machine to handle it.

Mr. King said he said it goes out but it can't go up or down.

Mr. Brannan said it doesn't go up its on a fixed boom. He said its designed to mow straight ahead in front of you because you can pick it up and go up a banking or down over a banking but when you pitch to the side with it you can't lower it or raise it.

He said the Tool Cat itself is a pretty versatile and a good in-town machine, it's easy to get around with and it works really good. Some of the attachments were not so good of a deal as far as doing the sidewalks with it, it's too big he said.

Mr. Brannan said he sent the gravel RFP's out and they should be coming back in a few weeks.

Mr. King asked if he sent them to the list of people they have on file and if they have been using the same person a lot of the time.

Mr. Vachon said the last few years they have used the same company but he couldn't recall their name.

Mr. Brannan said he has heard back from one company but has not heard from the others yet.

Mr. King said on his list he has a bunch of things that are possible subcontract work and asked if they are developing a rough scope of work and putting it out to bid.

Mr. Brannan said they are going to have to for the shoulder gravel. He said R & D does the shoulder gravel when they pave the roads and they have gotten another contractor to give us a price on shoulder graveling. He said they will have to post it and see what they get for bids.

Mr. King suggested they put Advanced Paving on the list of potential bidders. He said he used them for his paving and they were very good and had the best price.

Mr. Brannan said the work on Cross Road and Dick Dame Lane is construction work on culverts and they might need some help with that. He said they have to focus on trying to get the roads secure, ditches, shoulders and if they can get a mower somehow.

Mr. Staples asked if it was our guys that filled the holes with gravel on Dick Dame Lane.

Mr. Brannan said that road is in rough shape and they did fill all the holes with gravel but he didn't know if it was worth it to put cold patch or pavement in especially if they are going to grind it all back up. He said they are looking at \$70-\$80 a ton for pavement and cold patch is \$114 a ton and we have a pile of gravel. It may not be the best thing and it may not make people all that happy but they're not driving through 6 inch potholes he said.

He said there is a logging operation going on right now at the end of Dick Dame Lane and he tried contacting them to see what their time frame was. He said they are working right now and they just started within the last day or so and hopefully they are going to get in, do their thing and get out because they don't want them driving on a freshly paved road.

Mr. King asked when that is slated to be ground and paved.

Mr. Brannan said he still has to put the paving out to bid and that will go out this week and they have to take a good close look at the work. He said there a 3 ft. culvert that needs to be replaced, that's another culvert that's failed that had a sink hole on it.

He said the culvert on Juniper Lane plugged up again with this last rain and washed some gravel out into the road so that's something they are probably going to have to address at some point. He said he didn't like the idea of going on private property but if we need to get an easement to maintain it to save ourselves extra work.

Mr. Staples said we're the ones that did that work and we just put that one in.

Mr. Brannan said it's not the culvert there's a lot of debris getting in front of it that should be pulled out and hauled off.

Mr. Vachon said they need to notify the property owner that they need to maintain their culvert.

Mr. Brannan said he spoke to them before and they are in their 70's.

Mr. Staples said there are 2 houses on that road.

Mr. Brannan said he didn't know who they were but he thought they were older too.

Mr. Vachon said to put them on notice.

Mr. Brannan said they have another culvert catch basin at 30 Charles Street right across from Webster Street. He said it looks like it might be on private property but the Town has done work around it, they have replaced the pipe going into it and they have cleaned it. He said the question is whether we own it or took ownership of it.

Mr. Vachon asked if that is an old barrel block structure.

Mr. Brannan said he thinks it is mostly rocks and brick.

Mr. Vachon asked if the structure failed or the pipe failed.

Mr. Brannan said the structure failed.

Mr. Vachon asked about the number of pipes in the structure.

Mr. Brannan said it has 3 pipes in and one pipe out. He said what the Town should have done if they did run a culvert pipe into it is just to remove all that and run everything into a basin.

Mr. King asked if this road is 50 ft. or a 35 ft. right-of-way. He said if it's a 50 ft. it's probably in the r-o-w.

Mr. Brannan said even if it was 50 ft. it would be darn close but that is North Main Street.

Mr. King asked if the travel way is 10 ft. between the yellow and the white (lines).

Mr. Vachon and Mr. Brannan said it is 12-13 ft.

Mr. King said that makes the case even more because you're only a little bit further than that to get to that.

Mr. Brannan passed around some photos of the culvert and noted you can't get a good picture of the inside but you can see the rocks. He said there are 3 pipes that come in that are very close together and you can see underneath all 3 there is nothing there.

Mr. Staples asked if this is on Rt. 153 and if this is a state problem.

Mr. Dickie said the Town owns from Webster St. down.

Mr. Brannan said it's about 100 ft. below the state's edge.

Mr. Vachon said they wouldn't be getting a pre-cast structure for that because the 3 pipes come in side-by-side so that would be a handmade structure.

Mr. Brannan said the problem they have there is the power lines are right over the drainage main and there is a pipe that runs into the main but there is no basin there. He said if they can get that patched up so it's not leaking in there is plenty of room for the people to get in and out. Our best bet would be to just patch it up so that it's not eroding and plan on putting a

basin right in the main line and just extend those 3 lines into the basin and get rid of that catch basin and you'd have a better tie-in point he said.

Mr. Vachon asked where those 3 pipes are coming from.

Mr. Brannan said 2 of them are from his backyard and he was not sure about the third one. He said he didn't have time to figure out where they're all coming from today and it's something the Town probably acquired that they really shouldn't have.

Mrs. Titus said it looks like it's on their property but she would like him to find out if its Town property or not.

Mr. Brannan showed the board another photo on his phone and said they could see where the Town paved around it.

Mrs. Titus said in the past they have had people do things and then ask questions and she would rather be safe than sorry to make sure if they're putting money into something that's in their driveway.

Mr. King asked if he was saying there are drainage pipes coming in that are not Town drainage pipes.

Mr. Vachon said they didn't ask where they came from they came from the guy's backyard.

Mrs. Titus asked if they are draining water from their property into it.

Mr. Brannan said yes.

Mrs. Titus asked if the Town put that in there or if the homeowner put that in.

Mr. Brannan said he didn't have a clue.

Mrs. Titus said there should be some investigation before we start putting any money into it. She said if it belongs to the Town we should fix it but there's lot of water that comes down that hill and people are throwing in drain pipes and may be playing around with that.

Mr. Brannan said the bigger question is did we inherit it through our own maintenance. He said from he has heard they tend to deal with it pretty regularly.

Mr. King asked if there was some way they could consider not repairing it and not accepting this drainage off of somebody's property. He asked if they could fix it and say they're not connecting their infrastructure into our public utilities any more.

Mr. Brannan said he didn't know and that's tough one because its connected right now so if they don't put it down in the water is probably going to come across the top of the ground.

Mr. King said he would have to work with Mr. Dickie on that to figure out what makes sense, what we're responsible for and how we should repair it. He said if this was done years ago and they did somebody a favor and it wasn't done right and this is the results.

Mr. Brannan said that is most likely the case.

Mr. King asked how they know if those drains are actually functioning and they could be plugged.

Mr. Brannan said they are working and he could verify that.

Mrs. Morin asked if it was just runoff that was coming from the back drains and was not a dry

well situation.

Mr. Brannan said it is drainage just groundwater and surface water.

Mr. Vachon asked if he walked up on the property to see where they "day lighted".

Mr. Brannan said no.

Mr. King said maybe the answer is somewhere in the middle with some cost sharing. He asked Mr. Brannan to work with Mr. Dickie on it and to look for himself. Obviously we're not going to be able to answer it sitting here looking at pictures he said.

He asked what he was putting out for a RFP on the paving and if would be based on the total footage and divvy it up after or if there are roads that have already been selected to be paved.

Mr. Brannan said they have roads that been selected and he still has to get in touch with the loggers and see what their time frame is and hopefully they won't have to change their schedule or shut them down.

Mr. Vachon asked what they have besides Dick Dame Lane.

Mr. Brannan said West Milton Road is pretty rough.

Mrs. Morin asked if there were any interior streets slated for this year.

Mr. Brannan said no. He said the scheduled streets for this year in addition to Dick Dame Lane are Cross Street and the extension on Dodge Cross Road.

Mrs. Morin asked if those are what he would consider their highest priority and that they need it the most.

Mr. Brannan said Dodge Cross Rd. they could shorten up the paved extension and get rid of the worst part of it and go a while longer but he could tell them just from being in this area that end of Dodge Cross Rd. used to get very, very rough. If we did that that's what we'd be dealing with there he said.

Mrs. Morin said some of our downtown streets are in horrific shape.

Mr. Brannan said they definitely have to get the downtown streets worked into the schedule somewhere. He said the problem with them is they probably should be doing some drainage work, the sewer should be in decent shape but the water may be questionable too. He said if they start doing those streets they have to look at the infrastructure underneath because they don't want to put \$75,000-\$80,000 into an eighth of a mile of a road and then come back 6 months later and tear it up because you have broken pipes.

Mrs. Morin said it would be nice to see a plan for the interior streets and named Orange St. and Civic St. as some of the downtown streets that were a mess.

Mr. King said they ought to work this backwards and say how much money they have to spend on paving this year. He said they know historically what it cost us per linear ft. of road and to say this is what we have for rebuilding and paving say the number is \$375,000 this year they have to work out what they can get done for \$375,000. He said if some of the roads they'd like to do aren't ready yet or can't get ready they go to the next one.

Mr. Brannan said their budget number for Cross Rd., Dick Dame Lane and Dodge Cross Rd. is

\$378,000 and the budget has \$350,000 in it but it's a budget number so it should be high.

Mr. Vachon asked if they would be doing shim and overlay or reclaiming all 3 roads.

Mr. Brannan said they would be reclaiming all 3 roads.

Mr. King asked if it was just Dodge Cross or if they are redoing them all.

Mr. Brannan said on Dodge Cross Rd. it would be from Chestnut Hill Rd. in to where the pavement ends which is at the foot of the hill. He said the other roads would be Cross Rd., the top of Charles St. and Dick Dame Lane. Grind, grade, pave he said.

Mr. King asked if the entire section of Dick Dame Lane needs it.

Mr. Brannan said yes that road is in rough shape.

Mr. Staples asked if they are just doing the Town part just to the turnaround. The rest of it is on the trailer park he said.

Mr. Brannan said yes.

Mr. Staples asked if they are logging up by the trailer park.

Mr. Brannan said yes if you go to the end of Dick Dame Lane where the cul-de-sac is as soon as you go into Ivy Lane its straight and then when it takes a hard left they're off to the right. There is 98 acres out there that they're logging and a substantial amount of wood is coming out of there he said.

Mr. King asked who is doing the logging.

Mr. Brannan said Day Logging out of Portsmouth is doing the logging.

He said there are a couple of other drainage issues in town on Glenn Street where our drainage runs out over private property and they have to figure out how to fix these issues.

Mr. King asked if it is intended to run across the property and we have an easement.

Mr. Brannan said it is intended to run across it but he would guess they probably don't have an easement. He said one of them is between #61 and #65 and the pipe comes out of the catch basin and goes about 30 ft. and outlets right beside somebody's house. He said there is no ditch beyond there, you can't see the end of the culvert and it literally backs up into the catch basin. He said the other one is down by Bunker Street that goes out through there that has failed and he is not sure what that one is all about yet.

Mr. King said they would have to have somebody from the Town reach out to them and resolve the issue.

Mr. Brannan asked if they would get issued easements to repair and maintain them.

Mr. King advised him to talk to Mr. Dickie about that and whether he goes out or the Building Inspector goes out to talk to these residents and see what we can do.

Mr. Brannan said he knows the people between #61 and #65 and he is pretty sure they would be very receptive to having something done because it makes quite a mess in their backyard.

Mrs. Titus said on Ten Rod Road there was water flowing over the road and asked if that has been fixed.

Mr. Brannan asked for the location.

Mr. Dickie said it was up by Mrs. Morin's house and it has been patched and repaired. He said they need get up there and ditch it and replace the culvert by the Morin's to make it bigger and there are another couple of other culverts they are going to have to take out and reset but it is not rough like it was when the water went across the road.

Mr. Brannan said he noticed on lower Ten Rod Rd. and he didn't know where this came from but there is real muddy spot right in the middle of the road which makes no sense.

Mr. Vachon asked if it could be a spring.

Mr. Brannan said if it is it just came up and he never noticed it before. He said it's probably about a half mile from the paved end on the southern end of lower Ten Rod Rd before you get to Pound Road. You can see where cars have been hitting it and actually pushed it.

Mrs. Morin said that's been there before and its by the Catlin's house. She said there is one after Pound Road too and there is water coming off the new driveway at the house nobody is living at closer to the Huzzy Farm just after coming toward her house.

Mr. Brannan said there are a number of spots up through there.

Mrs. Titus said somebody was complaining about the grading on Ten Rod Rd. and asked when they plan to do the grading again on Ten Rod Rd. She said she had it on the calendar as the week of June 5.

Mr. Brannan said if they can get there sooner they will.

Mrs. Titus then asked if they were all done with Bunker Street and if it is still closed.

Mr. Brannan said it is closed for the time being as they have to wait for it to set up and then they can open it to 2 lanes. As soon as we can get on the road with the grader we will he said.

Mrs. Titus asked if the schedule could on the Town website.

Mr. Dickie said once they get it settled in.

Mr. Brannan said their schedule is very fluid and he doesn't have a whole lot of faith in timing and he has no idea if all this will get done timing-wise. He gave the example of the catch basin on Charles St. that just came up this morning and that's something that's going to have to be dealt with in some way whether it's us or them. Culverts, ditches, Mother Nature right now it's very tough to put together a schedule and feel you can stick to it he said.

Mr. King said this is what they are starting with and they will adjust it accordingly.

Mr. Brannan said it would be nice to get a traffic detail/flaggers to work with them and he would have to talk to Mr. Dickie about coming up with some money for this. He said a lot of the ditch work could be done with 2 guys and if they have to do their own traffic control that would take the whole crew. He said if they could hire flaggers and keep 2 guys doing ditch work that may free them up to do some grading too.

There were no other questions so he wished the board a good evening and left the meeting.

Contract Between Third Party Engineer & Town- Mr. Dickie said he asked Town Attorney Keriann Roman if she was good with this version of the Agreement for Consultant Engineering Services with Dubois & King, Inc. and she said yes and the Town could sign it. He said they

finally got the contract down to where it was agreeable to the best interests of the Town and for Dubois & King.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to authorize Ken Dickie to sign on behalf of the Town passed 5-0.

NHDES Correspondence-Former Collins & Aikman Plant Superfund Site- Mr. Dickie said a while back when he was still on the board they asked James Emery (Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations/GZA) to come up with a letter for the Town for the Superfund site at Collins & Aikman. He said Mr. Emery got the letter drawn up, he signed it and they got it to the state. He said the state has reviewed the letter that Mr. Emery submitted on behalf of the Town and the state has agreed that the property and the 1 mile radius around it is critical to the town as far as well and water and they asking the Environmental Protection Agency to expedite the process to try to get the contaminates out of the soil and get it back to usable land.

He said he gave the board the information that just came on the press last week.

Mr. King asked if he had any correspondence from the Trust that Ed Moran was in charge of.

Mr. Dickie said he hasn't heard anything from Mr. Moran.

Mr. King asked if they have caught up on their taxes and that at times they have slipped behind.

Mr. Dickie said they keep asking for abatements and he will check with Town Clerk.

Mr. King said they were supposed to be actively trying to sell that parcel but he believes that has gone by the wayside. He said he would like to reach out to whatever state agency is in charge of this and ask them what is going on with this. It's in our commercial/industrial zone, it's a 100 acre parcel and they had it on the market but I don't know if it is currently trying to be sold. It's not all contaminated and the cleanup is pretty much slated in one area he said.

He said Ed Moran was put in charge of the Trust but he didn't know if he was still doing it and that he may have moved from New York to Florida. He asked if he is not still the (contact) person who is the new person,

Mr. Dickie said he will look into it.

Chaos & Kindness Update- Mr. Dickie said he has been glancing at the Farmington Community Forum Face book page and he has seen a lot of anxiety about what is going on and where we are at and the short answer is there is nothing new. He said the latest information he received was text message on Face book where he is part of the message group and apparently they had a big function in Laconia and they were waiting for that to get through this weekend and then they were going back and then they would come up with a schedule and let us know at some point hopefully this week as to when they think this event will take place.

He said as of right now we're in the same state we were in last week but in lieu of waiting for them to come to us he has asked the Rec. Dept. to set up a meeting with the dept. heads and the volunteer board to try to get some planning going and they will see when the agenda comes in any gaps they might have and how they can fill that in. I don't want to be waiting and then all of a sudden the schedule comes in and its going to be the following weekend. I want something in place to understand what the volunteers are doing, who's handling the parking

and the street traffic, who's monitoring when the parking is full and who is manning the barricades during the concert so if they have to get emergency vehicles up there they can move the barricades out of the way. There are some things we need to go over to understand everything that needs to take place to pull this off he said.

Mrs. Titus asked if they have the place, date and time yet.

Mr. Dickie said he heard the School Board voted to allow the concert to take place at the high school. He said he had a conversation with Michelle Champagne at Primex this afternoon and they are waiting for the agenda to review to understand what the responsibilities would be on behalf of the School District and/or the Town.

Mr. King asked with the planning for this event if this is adversely affecting the Hay Day planning. He then asked how the Hay Day planning is going.

Mr. Dickie said he will have Hay Day meetings too with the dept. heads and it will strain it.

Mr. King said it's not that far away in about 3 months and we want to make incremental progress and we need to have a plan.

Mr. Dickie said he was planning on meeting once a month on Hay Day and they started last month having their first meeting and keep it going each month to keep the staff up to date so they're not waiting until July and scrambling to get an operations plan in place for Hay Day. This is coming fast when it comes and yes it's going to strain it he said.

Mr. King said hopefully they can stay on track and have a better Hay Day not that last year was bad but we want to bring it back each year a little bit better and to do that they need to start early, get enough people involved and nothing has come to the board yet so it was something that popped into his head. If we need to address something we need to know he said.

Mr. Dickie said they had a kick off meeting last month but he wasn't able to be there as something else came up but he will follow up this month and have another meeting with them get more details and then update the board on their plans.

Mr. King said by now they should have a draft list of events and they could see a better car show this year if there was more planning up front and notice to people. It could be a big attraction to people into automobiles and most people are to a certain extent young or old, big or small he said.

Mr. Dickie said he has been talking to the Rec. Director about the car show and he will give the board an update.

Mrs. Morin said when that meeting is planned for Chaos and Kindness to let her know and she will be there.

Minutes Request- Mrs. Morin said the board received an e-mail from Lynn Desjardins about the Sept. 12 meeting minutes being posted online and she wanted to mention it.

Mr. Dickie said they have to get the public minutes of the meetings posted on the website.

Selectmen's Secretary Erica Dickie-Yelle said they are posted.

Mrs. Morin said the board just approved these minutes not too long ago because they were

old.

Mrs. Dickie-Yelle said she was 80% sure they were on the website and then began searching the site to find them.

Transfer Station Report- Mr. King said the monthly Transfer Station Report says “working on recycling building with contractors waiting for bids to come in on concrete. At this time we have 2 bids on building looking for more electrical contractors”. He asked if they have determined a scope of work that they could go out for bid with or are they trying to piece this together ourselves on this building. He said he had some discussion saying shouldn’t they put this out for somebody to do the whole thing.

Mr. Dickie said he tried to get in touch with Jeff Greenhalgh to give us a quote for the recycling building and the Town Hall so they could see what it would take to bring it back up to code and operational but he hasn’t heard anything from him. He said he would call him again and get him out here because he needs to understand what his monetary value is to manage this.

Mr. King said if they know what the building size needs to be they might put it out to bid and have a subcontractor do the whole thing. He said if we want to manage it we can look at them doing it but if you want to reach him you need to call before noon because he is semi-retired. He said when he read this it looks like we were trying to piece it together from our bids but we need somebody to do this project and not front to back with a solid quote so if we know what the scope of work is put it out to bid with local contractors that work for us.

He said they’ve had Bedell and Groen do plenty of work for us as far as construction of buildings and they can do that also and say this is what we need or what do you think makes sense or what they would like to propose from those 2 companies and then they may be able to give us an all in one price or else we have to piece it together and then we need construction management. I think we can reach out to both areas to see what our options are he said.

Mrs. Dickie-Yelle then told the board that she found the Sept. 12 meeting minutes and they are now posted on the Town website.

10). New Business:

Trustees of the Trust Funds Request- Mr. Vachon said he had a request from the Trustees of the Trust Funds asking if the board would authorize them to attend training on June 8 and the cost is \$90 for in-person and \$70 for virtual. He said he didn’t know how many they were thinking (of attending) and asked if there is a budget line item they could pull this out of.

Mr. Dickie said there is a training line.

Mrs. Morin said it looks like there are 2 people.

Motion: So moved by Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Titus

Discussion: Mr. Dickie said worst case it would be \$270 if they all choose to go.

Mr. Vachon read that one Trustee will attend, one will do virtual and they are not sure on the third. Mr. King then restated his motion as follows:

Motion: (King, second Staples) to cover the expenses for training as they need and request with

no dollar amount passed 5-0.

Employee Handbook Review- Mr. Dickie said the employee handbook was mentioned last week when Mrs. Heon was here to discuss potentially adding more to the retirement fund so he set the request out to see what it would be because Drummond & Woodsum had started it back during the previous administration and she came back with up to \$5,000 as they have a lot of work done but they still have a lot of work to do.

He said he contacted Primex and had them send him an example of an employee handbook and started updating ours where he thought it should be and he plans to meet with the dept. heads to see if he has captured what needs to be captured and what they felt was contradictory as to why they refused or resisted signing the latest one that is out there. He said he was to get the dept. heads involved in some of the changes that need to take place and then work it into going forward with the handbook. He welcomed any of the board that wanted to be involved and said it needs a lot of attention there's a lot of repetition that he has started scratching and it needs to be cleaned up.

Mrs. Morin said she made a copy of it and has started working on it from the one he sent her so she has a second copy that will just be the changes.

Mr. King said he didn't want the attorney working on it because it would be 3 times as long and you would need a lawyer to explain it to you and he didn't want to spend \$5,000 on it for something they won't like. He said they need to do it themselves and to make incremental adjustments where they're needed.

Mrs. Morin said they also have the ability to go to the NH Municipal Association and get samples of their policies as well that cost us nothing as we pay for that service.

Mr. King said they may find a section such as discipline where they say let's go get an example from NHMA and see what those look like. He said then maybe we'll just fix ours or take the flow of those drafts.

Carwash Request- Mr. Dickie said the National Honor Society would like to hold a carwash on May 27 here at the Municipal Office Building.

Motion: (Morin, second Titus) to allow the National Junior Honor Society to hold a carwash here at the Municipal Offices on May 27;

Discussion: Mr. King asked if they have filled out the facility use request.

Mr. Dickie said he told them he would see if the board would support it and then have them and then he would have them fill out the facility use form and then move forward from there.

Friendly Amendment: by Mr. King: contingent upon them filling that out.

Mrs. Morin accepted the amendment.

Vote: the motion passed 5-0.

Budget Report Disclaimer- Mr. Dickie said Att. Roman gave them a disclaimer for the wording for when they put the budget reports on the website that can go on the website or on each budget report. He said the wording is: "These budgets are subject to change as revenues come

in and bills are paid daily." That would be posted on the website and/or on the budget sheets they post he said.

Monthly Dept. Reports- Mr. Staples asked if they ever get any other reports besides the Transfer Station and the Police Dept.

Mr. Vachon said they got one from the Fire Dept. but they haven't seen a Highway Dept. report in a while.

Mr. Staples asked if Chuck Tiffany (Water/Sewer Dept. Supervisor) has sent them anything.

Mr. Vachon said yes because he saw one recently that had water sampling results on it. He said they haven't seen one from Highway for a while on the vehicle maintenance and operations.

Mr. King said they still have some discussion on that and they had talked about carrying the 5500 thru last winter and not carrying it thru this winter and if that's the case they need a plan for a replacement. He said they also have a bunch of stuff over there that is considered surplus/scrap that they discussed doing something with. Well spring is here, let's do some spring cleaning over there he said.

He said they need to have a plan for the fleet and to start shopping for a good used truck or potentially a truck body if they're going to try to migrate to stainless bodies which makes sense.

11). Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2023

12). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Morin, second King) to enter non-public under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) Compensation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Staples, Morin, Titus-aye) at 7:56 p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 8:34 p.m.

13). Adjournment:

Motion: (Vachon, second Morin) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:34 p.m.


Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary


Gerry Vachon, Chairman


Charlie King, Vice Chairman


Penny Morin


Ann Titus


Douglas Staples