

## Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting

2 September 2008

Members present: R. Stephen Leighton, Chairman, Lynn Sweet and Stephanie Gray.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Sweet to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e). A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Leighton –Aye, Mrs. Sweet – Aye, and Mrs. Gray – Aye.

At this time, a motion was made by Mr. Leighton and seconded by Mrs. Sweet to come out of non-public session. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Leighton, Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Gray. Board came out of non-public session at 5:38 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Leighton, seconded by Mrs. Sweet to seal the minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Leighton-Aye, Mrs. Sweet – Aye, and Mr. Gray – Aye.

Nancy Mayville (NHDOT Municipal Highways Engineer – Community Assistance), Greg Messenger (Road Agent), Mark Messenger, Norm Brassard, Mary Dempsey, Lou Goscinski, Bob Lee, Sean Foley, Bob Donahue, Ed Kelly, Ed Bragdon (HEB Engineers) and Christine Bane were among those attending.

There was a lengthy discussion pertaining to the closure of the bridge (085/040) located on Northwood-Bow Lake Road. It was noted that the Road Agent did call the State in to inspect due to a hole in the pavement. The inspection resulted in a directive from the NHDOT recommending that the bridge be barricaded and posted closed. Based on the directive from the State, the Board of Selectmen and the Town Attorney concurred with the need to post and close the bridge. Road Agent, Police, Fire & Rescue and School were made aware of the situation immediately and alternate access routes and arrangements for services were made with all departments. Signage was put up, along with temporary barriers and lighting. Road Agent did have to secure "Jersey barriers", as the temporary ones were being moved by the general public creating the need for the Police Department and Road Agent to replace them. Ms. Mayville commended the Selectmen for taking the appropriate action upon receipt of the directive from the State. The State does inspect this bridge on an annual basis. The annual inspection was generated due to concern over future repair needed on the cap/deck, and was not associated with current condition, which may be attributed to the unusually heavy rainfall this year. The depth of the scour holes underneath the footings is unknown. The possibility of grouting underneath the footings was discussed, along with an explanation of the process. Several engineers came forward to provide assistance in helping to determine the extent of damage, if the bridge could be repaired, or if replacement was necessary. Ed Bergeron (HEB) advised that he has been working with Dory Wiggin

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at DES, and she has indicated that the usual wetland permitting process could be waived to expedite this project. Based on information provided at this meeting (QBS requirement was waived for this portion of the project), and stressing the State's cooperation in moving this project forward, a motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the Letter of Agreement from HEB, with the provision that the agreement included a cap of no more than \$10,000. Mr. Bergeron was in agreement. It was noted that the Town did start appropriating funds at the 2004 Town Meeting, to be placed into a NCRF for future bridge repairs/construction as part of the requirement to apply/receive funding from the NHDOT Bridge Aid Program. Under this program, they will reimburse up to 80% of the cost or the repair/replacement. We now have over \$35,000 and plan to use that to cover the cost of the temporary repairs, or at least a portion. Our understanding is that this would be considered part of the overall project and would qualify towards the costs submitted for reimbursement. We have been approved and originally our funding was scheduled to be available between 2011 and 2014. Based on information from Ms. Mayville, our funding date has been moved up to 2009. First, the scope/cost of the project would have to be determined and next, an article would be included in the warrant for the 2009 Town Meeting asking to raise and appropriate the funds necessary to complete the project. The article would include the amount of funding anticipated from the State Bridge Aid Program, leaving only the net balance to be raised by taxation. Those in attendance requested that the Town website provide progress updates to keep the public informed. Based on a best case scenario, the estimated time frame for a temporary lane to be open is between 2 to 3 weeks, depending on wetland permit approval, weather, scope of work to be done. It was noted that the Road Agent will also be meeting with FEMA to see if we qualify for any assistance from them.

There was a brief discussion regarding the access road, paving and utility easement associated with the Town Office. Michael Whitcher attended for an update on progress with the owners of the access road.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.