June 8, 2020

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NH RSA 91-A:3

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Wentworth Select Board
Emergency Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2019

Attendees: Francis Muzzey, Omer Ahern Jr., Paul Manson, Chris Fournier, Kay Bailey, Janice Thompson

Francis Muzzey opened the meeting at 14:45 with the Pledge of Allegiance to American Flag.

Chris Fournier – hired by the Town to do a hydraulic analysis and under contract to assist with FEMA correspondence.

Re: Frescoln Rd Bridge and Crosstown Rd Bridge

FM asked how much does the Town have to invest in order to get done what needs to be done? Chris Fournier: It depends on how hard FEMA wants to push back.

Must meet statutory requirements

Omer: Paul talked about replacing a bridge from 1920 that served the people well... I’m not enamored with the fact that you’re talking about doing something different than the 80 year bridge that has been there through a lot.

Road Agent: If you have two 5-ft culverts it’s less volume than one 10-ft culvert.

Omer: Be willing to refresh my memory.

Muzzey: What was your recommendation?

Chris Fournier: (p 6-7 of report) For an adequate hydraulic opening - meets DOT’s requirements of what would constitute a bridge but does not meet DES requirements, but there’s a waiver.

DES requires the Town to permit the work that was done after the fact.

Chris Fournier: We’re trying to help you through the mess.

Muzzey: No matter what I say, I appreciate what you’re doing.

Understanding the capacity of the Crossings and what’s necessary for the future and what has been done.

Muzzey: Have you been paid for your work?

Chris Fournier: I don’t know that – unless something’s delinquent.
Omer: Explains new SB and Staff and no institutional memory

We had an original agreement to do the hydraulic analysis and a full permit application after the fact – to permit emergency work that was done – That permitting phase cost a certain amount and later received clarification from DES that they would accept lesser reporting - so contract is reducing the amount of the contract.

Chris Fournier: We have done existing features analysis – done.
Muzzey: How much will this cost?

Chris Fournier: The 3rd phase – permitting phase – is what we’re asking you to reduce (in budget).

$10,700 for service w/ estimate of add’l $800 for reimbursable expenses estimate.

Kay Bailey: Is any of the money that has been paying for this particular report coming from FEMA or Town? The Town pays and then asked to reimburse the Town.

Muzzey: So, in order to get anything from FEMA, we have to go through the hydraulic study?
Chris Fournier: Yes

Muzzey mentioned the State Bridge Aid Program – Chris Fournier says it’s on pause right now b/c it’s overcommitted

Omer: I understand that it’s under “Continuing Resolution”. So, we’re still operating under those parameters.

6-8 projects are now 27 this year.

Omer: Don’t get me wrong – there may be money later.
Chris Fournier: We work with small towns all the time so we’re very familiar with this process.

I checked with NH DOT Bridge Rd Program – Frescoln Rd was submitted. They’re committed to fund on top of what FEMA would fund. – Town only covers 5%. It’s a good deal but only for Frescoln Bridge.

Muzzey: Is it permissible to not pay bill until sure we have the money – in 2020 –

Chris Fournier: We do not ask for money in advance. We have completed most already. We’re just in the permitting phase for the work already done (after-the-fact).

Road Agent: Two questions – two-part. Would I be crazy to think that from the point of design (HEB) that Town approves design – go to bid and then completes – 2021 (Summer)

Chris Fournier: No – Summer 2021 is the best case scenario.
Chris Fournier: We need to make sure we meet FEMA’s timeline for when claims can be made. So we need to make sure we follow the guidelines.

Road Agent: Am I crazy to think that between the 2 bridges – the total cost not counting FEMA money – is about $700k?

Chris Fournier: That or a little bit more. For Frescoln, we’re recommending an 18-ft span (less than the other two OA was talking about). A 17-ft span bridge. We’ve surveyed both sites. To accommodate the 100-year flood which meets DEA requirements.

Kay Bailey: You gave us one option. What is the other option?

Chris Fournier: For Frescoln Rd, we had 2 possible crossing – meets req’ts for 17-ft/ 2nd is a 26 ft span, structure deeper and raise road by 1.5 foot and meets DES...

Kay Bailey: What about Cross Rd 2nd option:

Replacement #1 is on p. 5 of 7 of Crossroad Bridge #118062 June 14, 2019 report
Replacement #2 is on p. 6 (34-ft single span bridge) –

Chris Fournier: “meets stream crossing requirement”

Kay Bailey: Any blasting needed?

Chris Fournier: No

Road Agent: Drill and pinned.

Kay Bailey: No costs yet, right?

Chris Fournier: No.

Re: Frescoln Rd – Contract amendment is asking you to reduce their budget. They realized that the 2 pipes washed downstream were pulled upstream and reset.

Chris Fournier: Town already billed for hydraulic study of both.

Muzzey: Have you been paid?

Chris Fournier: Don’t know.

A person asked if $1400 Frescoln Road was our immediate future indebtedness.

Chris Fournier: We have not been paid yet (found out)
Omer: I've got to ask tough questions b/c the bureaucracy raises the cost and it's not fair to the residents of Wentworth

Omer: We have to do something that's reasonable that we can justify at the Town Mtg that is for the benefit and safety of the Town.

Chris Fournier: Warrant Article needs to include accepting funds from FEMA. Make sure it's written in there.

Omer: We need to find out what Deb Vlk has. There may have been another source of funding. We just don’t know. There may have been another item in the Town budget.

Muzzey: How do you feel about things?

Chris Fournier: There are a couple courses of action and I wanted to make sure that the Town

Muzzey: Willing to move forward if HEB is willing to postpone payment.

Omer: This meeting has been very helpful to me a h p I appreciate it. I imagine you’ll have to be compensated.

Chris Fournier: I was willing to do this at no cost. This one’s “on the house” per se, just to re-aquaint ourselves.

Kay Bailey: Are we within our time limit?

Chris Fournier: As long as you keep filing extensions

Muzzey: How many more extensions?

Road Agent: Reach out to Jeff Ames for extension

Kay Bailey: Is there a limit to the number of extensions?

Chris Fournier: No – as long as you keep applying and showing progress. Before the next deadline, they’re going to want to see…

Road Agent: When is the deadline now?

Chris Fournier: I believe Jan 2020, but I haven’t checked the portal this morning. So, we need to ask FEMA to re-categorize as CAT B rather than CAT C and use report as justification so that those efforts are not permissible for a permanent solution. That is why we recommended those actions b/c we knew FEMA Temporary actions are inadequate.

Omer: So it appears that the contract amendments are simply to revise
On p 3 of 3, you talk about when you help us with funding assistance, it will be at $1500/hour

Chris Fournier: UP TO $1500 – on an hourly basis. So, the funding assistance is when FEMA requests a document of a technical nature, we provide it and it should be reimbursable as well.

Muzzey: Concerned about paying our bill.

Chris Fournier: We understand the situation you’re in and want to work with you.

Chris Fournier: Work with DRA about the wording of the Warrant Article.

Road Agent: The interest rate

Chris Fournier: It’s our discretion. We’re a small company of 25 people in Conway, I’m the Executive xxx and have the discretion

Muzzey: We don’t have money for 2020 until March thereof. We have a reasonable cash flow b/c we have a high unexpended fund balance. So the cash flow is not bad.

Muzzey: So, if we sign this and say go less, you’re not going.

Informational Meeting.

Chris Fournier: DES is going to be knocking on your door pretty soon asking for your after-the-fact permit.

Muzzey: Appreciate your patience and pleasure.

Muzzey: Make motion to close 4:02 OA Second Vote yes FM vote yet OA.

Minutes compiled by Tanya Vela, edited by Selectmen

Approved by Selectmen on -------------------

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Francis Muzzey. Omer C. Ahern Jr. Morgan Currier