June 8, 2020

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NH RSA 91-A:3

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5:02 p.m. F. Muzzey opened meeting

When something happens, Fallon is the top coordinating officer w/ FEMA – who helps us

3 mo later at the end of Oct, WW got another storm – flooding at parks – most taken care of but outstanding issues are Frescoln and Crosstown Bridges

Good idea with new personnel to talk about where we are with the two projects.

Crossrd Bridge 21’ span Bridge replaced with culverts (FM: part of the problem PH agreed) CF said 2 pipes wouldn’t hold up and FEMA would help pay 50%? Part of cost.

“We don’t control DOT”

Fallon: “Typically if it was already on the list, they wouldn’t wait that long... we can work w/ DOT on that one.

FM: You’re talking about engineering costs plus ..., right?

Fallon – FEMA would pay 75% of that in addition to the ...other – and consider it a separate project.

PH: You’d pick someone from a pool of engineers – a request for qualifications -.

Fallon: When it comes to public assistance,

FM: The bidding for the construction engineer is just that – a bid.

O. Aherns: I’m not sure what the town of WW has normal procurement policies – than it would default to the Federal.

Paul: Clarifying, on the Frescoln Bridge, the Town is only liable for 5%

Fallon: Public Assistance Project – FEMA reimburses 75% of project.

If we’re unable to get the permits from DES, FEMA won’t reimburse.

FEMA eligibility conditions/guidelines

OA: Mr. Santom and Mr. Kays – are you involved with which bridge. Kay –
FM: concerned with cash flow. We have 116k in Capital Reserve Fund, but we have to pay in advance.

Fallon: we have options – one is Cash Advance to give town money in advance of starting the project – from the State to award money to the Town up front. But bills have to be paid quickly – a quick turnaround.

Vanessa: the official policy hasn’t been put into place, but paying the contractor shld be about 30-60 days.

FM: Crossroad, w/ 116k in Reserve, do we have enough money to pursue money w/o having to borrow?

If FEMA deems the work eligible and gives the money to them to give to you – enough money.

Fallon: in limbo b/c town hadn’t decided yet.

PM: If you decide to go forward, you can put out a proposal to bid and not go with HEB.

FM: Last time, we hired an engineer from a list of individuals approved by DOT but we didn’t have a say in what their bill would be.

Fallon: Because of how the public assistance program is set up, these will have to be put to bid.

Then a bid for the construction project.

PM to FM: you’re talking DOT/State not FEMA. It’s a separate thing. KK to FM – you’re talking apples to oranges.

PM: Frescoln Rd, we’re already qualified the 80%

Fallon: for tonight’s conversation, not even consider the DOT, just worst-case scenario, just public assistance, FEMA money. We didn’t expect an answer from the Board tonight.

OA: I went for a long ride of the roads in WW and all the bridges replaced over the years and we didn’t make the NHPR news recently for having bridges and culverts washed out – great – what I’m concerned about is that one bridge was 450K and another was 350K – where’s the money going to come from? I don’t know whether a culvert is cheaper than a bridge? We just had an accident where a bridge was almost taken out, but...

KK: a little history – back about 25 yrs. The first bridge is S. WW on the bridge is Frescoln Rd. Bridge got washed out and cheap fix was putting in a culvert and now prob’s. Another bridge collapsed, so box culvert put in also collapsed... then another washed out – chain reaction and the Town keeps cheap fix. Not built for culverts, need to fix the problem.
PM: A box culvert is a pre-cast concrete structure and a culvert is a round insert and nothing alike – money wise a phenomenal big diff. HEB mentions box culvert.

FM: Crossroad. To start it, we ask for engineers to bid. Paul Hatch not allowed to give recommendations on engineers. Ask for credentials and can call state for approval/advice.

How many projects designed? Worked for FEMA? Done local bridges? Ask the fellow town how easy they were to work with? Feasible to ask Mike Santom engineer for advice on matter? Nods yes.

PM: does the company have to be bonded?
KB: Are there req’ts by you or state for qualifications for who they choose?

PH there may be a sample template out there for a bid – to include and not limited

PM to FM: You may want to Put them out separately for both projects.

PH: FEMA’s looking at this as two separate projects.

FM: Do you think we can bid one engineer for both projects?
Fallon: No, must be two separate. May use same wording, but separate projects.

OA: I bet if we ask for a redacted... we can see what a 2019 process

Fallon: This is not the first bridge we’ve worked with. We can go back get more info and chat with you.

PM: I think the Town should think about the price of 650-900K total cost between both bridges.

KK: for 800K total for both bridges, the Town would be in for 200K... EXAMPLE: 500k for Crossroad and 300K for Frescoln – 25% is 200k.

FM: How much time do we have to get this going.
Fallon: We just caution. You can’t match Federal with Federal. We’ll have to look to see. Vanessa: If it’s State raised funds that the State gave to Town, then yes – allowed.

FM: If we raise 500K, we can’t spend more than what we’re authorized to spend. We can’t spend extra including block grant and when DRA estab tax rate, ...

OA: I’m absolutely flabbergasted w/ this amt of money. How do we prevent it from coming down w/ the rate at which the bridges in this town go up and down.
KBailey: what is the time frame?

Fallon: January 2021, which can be extended for one more year. Recommend working through this winter season as much as possible so you can raise at Town meeting. Getting an extension is not problematic.

FM: Now, Frescoln Bridge. State will give us 80%. FEMA would give 75% and if State Bridge is what we anticipate, State would pay for remaining 25, so Town would be responsible for paying 5K.

KK – Ret LEO who sells insurance.
FM to MS: Can we call on you for advice? Yes.
OA: Needs as many docs. Needs to see tangible paper.
Fallon: we’ll go back to Concord, outline it and show how it works out.

Separate Topic

PM: It’s about the two H&H Studies we had done on Rowentown and Dorchester Culverts and option to apply for 2 of 3 available Federal Grants available. But we need to pay for engineering done first. Need a letter of intent... Wants to apply for Rowentown project - KK (it’s the weak link...)

Clear – we have to pay for the engineering before we even get the grant, right? Fallon: not necessarily. There are options for filling out application.

Letter of Intent for Rowentown

PH: Professional Engineers have to be registered with the State.
PM: I like Holden Engineers KK: Good to work with

PH: The town of Orford uses to Dubois and King. Call over to the Town and ask for a redacted copy.

Fallon: Hazard Mitigation and Pre-Disaster Mitigation are the two grants PM was talking about.

FM: So, if we got an Engineer, then they could do the study through the winter.

FM: One of gathering info, no decisions made, we’ll get more information and I’d like to get started on something.

PH: We want you to have all the information you need to make your decision and Fallon, and Vanessa and I will go back and gather all the info for you to make an informed decision.

Discussed how MS would get out and how long he’d be restricted.
PH: If we do have to do a temp bridge, I know the Town of Enfield has a temp bridge that they would be willing to let another town borrow.

OA motion to end meeting 6:13 FM Second.