



TOWN OF WARNER

PO Box 265 5 E Main St
Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0265
Telephone: (603) 456-2298 Fax: (603) 456-2297

Select Board
Sam Bower, Chair
Christine Frost
selectboard@warnernh.gov
Town Administrator Diane Ricciardelli
administrator@warnernh.gov

Road Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes

June 15, 2022, Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Warner Town Hall 5 E Main Street Main Floor Meeting Room – In Person

I. Open Meeting/Roll Call

7:03 pm -Tim Allen, Department of Public Works Director (DPW) opened the Road Committee Meeting
Attending: Chair Allen, Christine Frost Select Board Representative, Ken Cogswell, Ed Mical
Emergency Management Director (EMD), Jon France Fire Chief, Michael Cutting
Budget Committee Chair, William Chandler Police Chief,
Others Present: (None Stated on the audio)

II. Engineering

Chair said he talked to Darrin Blood of GM2 and Kevin Leonard, North Point, about options and processes of other towns. He was told that for most, engineering is done when needed or when the Road Agent feels it is necessary to answer possible questions. All agreed it is expensive. Some things Darren and Kevin said: when you choose, choose by qualifications, not costs; some may fit better in spite of cost; it is important that an engineer can service your needs; an engineer may also do a partial design and it is good to be on good terms with more than 1 engineering company; instead of an engineer on board to do all design work, have one as needed to keep costs in line; the best way to stay on target is to stay at least 3 yrs ahead, for example - for year 2025 do engineering in 2023. Tim had a packet from North Point that everyone could look at.

Bill asked if there are portions of the projects that the highway can take on to keep cost down? Chair answered, "Yes". Mike said some projects need an engineering stamp. Chair agreed like to know where the right of way is, is the Town within the right of way, are there any lay outs – are they legally laid out?

Chair said there are drainage issues on Plains and Schoodac Roads that need Department of Environmental Services (DES) permits. He said the Town can replace culverts before the reclaim work is done which will help on cost. He also said the October 2021 cost of \$8600 for the reclaim project culverts is now \$16,040 - if available, and a 36-inch pipe is out 2 months. He said asphalt is around \$78/ton, the state cost. Costs were discussed and agreed that it was difficult to extend out 3 years.

Christine said it is important to have a set of criteria when hiring an engineer and not to use just cost, there is a lot they do, including putting the bid documents together. The Chair answered Christine that it is up to the town who bids go to. He said the state does not have a list to use anymore. Christine said it is important to closely review the lowest qualified bidder too because they may cost more in the long run. Mike said to be sure you send bids to like companies, large vs small companies.

Chair said he has worked with 3 engineers and Mark Mosier has a good reputation with DES. He will review with Mosier the permits for two 36inch pipes. Bill added that building a repertoire with companies usually means they will respond in good, reliable, responsive ways.

Chair said he will put projects out to bid, compare and decide. He is conscientious that it is taxpayers' money and he needs to spend it efficiently.

III. Review Return of Request for Cost for Reclaim

Chair said he sent out 3 requests last fall, redid the requests in spring and so far only GMI responded. He said the project is: 6 inch reclaim, regrade, compact, 2 1/2 inch base and 1 ½ inch top coat. He has spoken to Mosier Engineering about the permits.

Chair said his priorities are Pumpkin Hill – it needs design work; reclaim work on both Schoodac & Plains Roads can be done this year if drainage, culverts and ditching are done. He plans to start drainage work at the end of July. Completion involves a company to come in for a week to grade, grind and compact then a week in between coming back to finish for 2-3 days.

Bill asked what was needed from the committee. Chair said his understanding is that he presents and reviews the road projects with the Road Committee. Christ did not think the committee needed to vote. Ed said the Select Board approves the contracts. Bill said it sounds like the Highway Safety Committee, they review and recommend to the Board.

IV. Current increases

Chair said the cost of Plains Rd was \$184,105 last year and \$213,839 as of June 1, 2022; Schoodac Road was \$338,547 last year and \$398,710 also as of June 1, 2022. He said the increases will cause projects or parts of projects to get done. Christine suggested before and after pictures of the projects to show taxpayers.

Chair said he is working on Plains Road because 800-900 vehicles travel on it a day, there is lots of truck traffic, and he is working on the oldest section of the road. If any project needed to be put on hold or eliminated, he said N Village may be in worse condition, but it has less traffic and it is the amount of traffic the beats on the road. Ed said that Plains Road is also listed in The Town Emergency Operations Plan as an emergency evacuation.

Christine said she felt that they should be supporting the Chair for his experience and knowledge in his position as the Director of Public Works. Chair said he has been educated to "take care of your good most traveled roads first and do poor roads as you care". He said he would like to be prepared to have projects ready when money becomes available.

Ed asked what the time frame for drainage material is. Chair said everything is available except the 36 inch pipe; it is 6-8 weeks out; the necessary permits are 60 -75 days out. He will have Mosier the designs, once the permits are approved, he will have the other pipes in and ditch the road. He said then they can review the total cost and decide who to use.

Mike asked about Pumpkin Hill Road. Chair said he would like to get the design work finished; it is a little over half done. He said it is a full project; from Mason Hill Road up to the road near the Zablocki residence that was done in 2012 or 2013, then Mason Hill to the intersection of Burnt Hill road – bring the road to a "T" and remove the dip in the road. Chair said there may be money available for bridges & infrastructure for NH communities – approximately \$100 million.

Members believed money for the projects talked about was approved at Town Meeting therefore a public hearing was not necessary.

Chair said in speaking with DES they are favorable to making Red Chimney Road project work. Chair said The Town previously rebuilt the intersection from Farrol Loop about 2200 feet. He said he would like to grind the road from there to help with winter clearing. Chair said the road is very out of shape and it is close to the pit. He said he would like to have the grant money to get the crossings done first but without the signed easement, funds will not be released. (Grant funds are good for 5 years from 2021)

Chair said he will put that project together with cost and bring it to the committee for a recommendation –the costs to come from his operating budget

V. Other Business

It was noted in discussion that it is a “positive” to invite residents along a road project (or any Town project) to a Select Board Meeting for information.

Next meeting Wednesday, July 29, 2022, unless responses to bids not received.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn, All in Favor, Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Newman-Rogers
Admin Asst to Select Board