



**Selectmen's Meeting  
September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: *Chad Hanna, Harry Lowd III, Paul Yates*

Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Robert Blunt and Tim Bryant (VHB Engineering); Seth Hagar and Vaughn Stevens (Hagar Construction); Carmen Bombeke (Gartley & Dorsky); Ken Knauer (Prock Marine); Eric Calderwood and Greg McAllister (Calderwood Engineering); Kim Suhr (Wyman and Simpson); Maia Zewart (Lincoln County News).*

Selectmen were called to order by chair Hanna at 7.00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Yates, seconded by Lowd, to approve the minutes of the meetings of August 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Passed 3 – 0.

**Workshop on Bridge Engineering proposals:**

Invited representatives from three engineering firms were present, viz. Calderwood Engineering; Gartley & Dorsky; and VHB Engineering. Each firm had brought one representatives of construction companies with which they would associate themselves if a design-build contract was adopted, being Wyman & Simpson; Prock Marine; and Hagar Enterprises, respectively.

Chairman Hanna gave a brief overview of the town's needs, history of these bridges and likely time frame for renewal of the bridges.

The three engineering firms were asked, first, for their understanding of the pros and cons of design-build versus traditionally bid construction. Each firm has experience of design-build, but a consensus emerged that in this case, a true design-build would require the Town to have more detailed specifications of its requirements; instead each firm indicated that it would engage a construction firm to assist with design and budgeting but that this would not bind the Town to a commitment to use that firm for construction, if its bid amount for the construction phase was not satisfactory. In the case of the Stone Arch Bridge in particular, the potential complexity of the project's logistics and permitting suggesting value in engaging a construction firm at an early stage.

The firms were then asked to discuss alternative solutions for the Benner Road Stone Arch Bridge. The firms agreed that a new, by-pass bridge would be a more expensive solution than restoration of the historic bridge. There was discussion of whether the roadway could be widened by up to two feet per side, to allow two-lane traffic, without damaging the appearance of the bridge; VHB, in particular, advocated for this. Calderwood encouraged the Town to apply for MDOT funding for this bridge, indicating that the historic nature of the bridge would make it a strong candidate for funding; however other participants suggested that the likely cost increase from compliance with DOT regulations would negate any funding advantage.

Turning to the Redonnett Mill Road Bridge, it was suggested that deck replacement was needed, and the difficulty of testing the condition of the deck's I-beams without damaging them was pointed out. The abutments, however, appeared to be in reasonably good condition and would only need work to correct scouring below the water line. Given that this work is relatively straightforward, it might be a candidate for an early start in order to allow the bridge to support the work foreseen on the Bristol Mills Dam and fish passage.

In discussing the Upper Round Pond culvert, it was suggested that the life of the current culvert could be prolonged and fish passage enhanced by work on the stream bed within the culvert. This could free up funds to concentrate on the other two bridges; but it was pointed out that the culvert is a significant obstacle, and that any work requiring Corps of Engineers approval would probably need to conform to the standard of a span of at least 1.25 times the width of the river banks. A concrete box culvert, perhaps with fish passage structures in the river bottom, was the consensus solution, with the possibility of ornamental stone facing to fit with the historic context of the original stone arch at this site.

The firms were requested to submit any final materials they would wish to be considered, in the light of this discussion, by Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>. Selectmen will resume discussion with the intent of making a selection at the next meeting, on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business:**

- Lower Pemaquid Watershed Study: the Shellfish Committee and Pemaquid Watershed Association has received approval for a revised work plan for the study, and one qualified proposal had been received from a consulting firm to help write the plan, FB Environmental of Portland. It was moved by Lowd, seconded by Yates, to hire FB Engineering at a fee of \$7,200. Passed 3 – 0.
- Electronic signs: it was agreed to refer to the Planning Board the question of appropriate ordinance changes to respond to the Town's vote in opposition to digital electronic signs. Hall will ask the Board to begin consideration of the question at their meeting on September 21.
- Payments to reserve accounts: Hall notified Selectmen that with cash reserves from real estate tax collections now exceeding \$2.5 million, it was

appropriate to transfer to the Town's reserve accounts the amounts voted at the March Town Meeting. There being no objection, he will make the transfers the next day.

### **New Business:**

- Emergency planning tabletop exercise: Bristol Fire and Rescue wish to hold a half-day tabletop exercise planning for a major disaster such as a hurricane evacuation. Lincoln County Emergency Planning have offered the date of November 8<sup>th</sup> for the exercise. Selectmen will try to keep their work schedules clear to allow their participation that day.
- Hall proposed to alter staff hours to allow the town office to be open from 8 am to 6 pm on Thursdays, as it has been noted that at the 10 am opening time on Thursday there are usually residents awaiting the opening time to conduct business. The Selectmen asked him to move ahead and agree a schedule of staff hours such that the extended working day can commence in October.
- Tax abatements:  
Selectmen signed three BETE applications allowing partial state refunds of eligible business equipment property taxes.  
Abatement Warrants were presented showing recommended actions on valuation appeals following review by Parker Appraisals. These were voted as follows:  
Abatement Approval Warrants numbers 1 through 7 were adopted by votes of 3 – 0.  
Abatement Denial Warrant number 1 was adopted by a vote of 3 – 0.  
Abatement Denial Warrant number 2 was adopted by a vote of 2 – 0, Hanna abstaining as it applied to a family member.  
Abatement Denial Warrant number 3, for the New Harbor Methodist Church Parsonage, was rejected and Selectmen voted instead by 3 – 0 to grant a full abatement on this property, in the light of its use as a church office and for pastoral counseling, and in recognition of the service the church provides in operating the New Harbor food bank. An Abatement Approval Warrant for this property will be brought to the next Selectmen's meeting.
- The Maine Municipal Association's annual model General Assistance Ordinance appendices were reviewed, updating the laws relating to General Assistance. It was moved by Hanna and seconded by Lowd to adopt these as part of the Town's General Assistance Ordinance for the year beginning October 1, 2017, following appropriate public notice in the Lincoln County News.

## **Regular Business:**

### **Building permits:**

Building permit applications were approved for the following properties:

- Map 004, lot 141-B-4
- Map 007, lot 076-E-3
- Map 011-C, lot 003
- Map 014, lot 035

### **Warrants**

Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants for the Town Office, Parks and Recreation, Bristol Fire and Rescue and the Bristol/South Bristol Transfer Station.

### **Communications received**

A request for approval of changes to the drainage ditch on Town right-of-way adjacent to 262 Pemaquid Trail was received. It was agreed that Selectman Hanna will inspect the site along with Sean Hunter of the Highways Department. Concern was expressed about the proposal's effectiveness at times of heavy rains or snow accumulation.

The Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' and Treasurers' Association notified the Town that Lisa Peters has earned her Certified Treasurer qualification. Selectmen noted this with thanks and appreciation for her service to the Town.

There were no Public Comments.

### **Notice of forthcoming public meetings:**

Notice was given of the following forthcoming meetings:

- Shellfish Committee, Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm – Town Hall
- Bristol Mills Dam Advisory Committee, Tuesday Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm - Town Hall
- Lincoln County Budget Advisory Committee: Caucus of Municipal Officers to elect one Member of the Committee, Lincoln County Court House, Superior Courtroom, Wiscasset; Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm.
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm – Ellingwood Information Center
- Selectmen, Wednesday Sept. 20, 7 pm – Town Hall
- Planning Board, Thursday Sept. 21, 7 pm – Town Hall

Motion to adjourn at 9.02 pm: proposed Lowd, seconded Yates, carried 3 – 0.