Emergency Meeting of the Orford Board of Selectmen

Saturday, June 28, 9:00 am

Orford Town Offices

Present: Tom Steketee, Anne Duncan Cooley, John Adams, Terry Straight (Fire Chief)

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am

The Board discussed damage to the railings on the Bridge on High Bridge Road, which both the Road Agent and the Police Chief thought posed a safety concern. The Board discussed concerns about the ability of the bridge to hold up under increased traffic due to the closing of the temporary Archertown Road Bridge at Newcomb Hollow, which was closed because of damage during a storm on Wednesday, June 25th.

The Board also discussed the load limit of the Creamery Road Bridge, which was examined by the State Department of Transportation, who recommended a reduction in load limit to 6 tons. The sign at the Creamery Road Bridge states the load limit as 20 tons. The Board unanimously voted to confirm that the load limit of the Creamery Road Bridge is 6 tons. The Road Agent will be asked to change the sign to reflect the decreased load limit.

The Board then discussed the situation with the High Bridge Road Bridge, and discussed the condition of both Creamery Road and High Bridge Road Bridges with the Fire Chief. The Board then unanimously voted to temporarily close the High Bridge Road Bridge for repairs due to safety concerns. The Board then noted that no funds for repairing the High Bridge Road Bridge were included in this year’s Town Budget. The Board will revisit this issue at a later date.

The discussion then changed to the concern that closing the High Bridge Road will result in increased traffic on Tillotson Falls Road, which is narrow and not able to accommodate two way traffic easily. The Board discussed various options, such as making the road one way, decreasing the speed limit, or temporarily closing the road because of safety concerns. The Board discussed the options with the Fire Chief, and how emergency response might be impacted. Another concern raised was a shortage of signs to put up to notify people of road closures and other changes.

The Road Agent, Charlie Waterbury, was called and his input was considered. The Board concluded that more information was needed before reaching a decision on the options for Tillotson Falls Road. The Piermont Fire Chief was called to see if Piermont might have some signs to lend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Duncan Cooley