

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Notes from the Public Information Meeting

September 23, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Fred Kidder II, Tom Steketee

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Jim Hall, Scott Bourcier

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Adams introduced Jim Hall and Scott Bourcier from DuBois & King to present information on the Archertown Road Reconstruction project.

Hall talked through the power point presentation that addressed the site plan, existing conditions of the road, and reasons for the poor condition. DuBois & King completed a geotechnical investigation and took sample of matter under the road. Hall discussed the design, construction staging and proposed detour for the approximate 2-months the project will take too complete. Currently the projected cost for re-construction is estimated at \$515,000. A copy of the Power Point presentation will be available on the Orford Website on the Selectboard's page.

Of those in attendance, several questions and concerns were addressed to Hall:

- Where will culverts be placed and where will the water funnel to?
  - The existing culverts will remain in the same location, the project will add on additional one and an underdrain. The water will flow to the same location as it currently does.
- Will this reconstruction be able to handle excessive water flow in the event of another storm similar to the one in 2017?
  - Unfortunately, no design is bullet proof., but Hall feels this design is the best design to take care of the majority of issues the road has at a cost that is affordable for the Town.
- A concern was expressed that digging on the road could result in additional water sources impacting the road
- Will DuBois & King notify abutters of this project?
  - Yes, abutters will be notified and discussions with them about the project will occur.
- Using rip rap at the end of culverts – is this proven and tested as being effective?
  - The method is used by the NH DOT and has been used on thousands of projects effectively.
- Was the base of the road tested?
  - Yes, DuBois & King did a geotechnical study
- Will the road be open on one side at a time to allow for emergency vehicles?

- The design is to close the road for a 2-month period. Leaving one side open will be difficult due to the narrow width of the road and will add dollars to the project.
- Can the detour be limited to local traffic only?
  - The construction company that is awarded the project will make this determination along with the Selectboard
- Will trees be cleared along the road?
  - The majority of the work will be completed within the Town's right of way with minimal clearing of trees. The road width will remain the same
- How will the ledge removal effect the water in the area?
  - There will be NO blasting of ledge, so there should be no impact on the water sources
- Who will oversee the project?
  - DuBois & King will provide a certified engineer to oversee the project
- Will the cost of \$515,000 include clean-up of materials?
  - Yes, it does
- How will the under drain be maintained?
  - Keeping the culverts that flow into the under drain well maintained and open will allow the drain to remain clear
- There is always a wet spot by the ledge – what causes that and will the project impact that area?
  - Whether the cause is surface water or coming from under the road, the project will address this issue
- What was the condition of the culverts that DuBois & King inspected?
  - Hall said the condition was not good
- What is the elevation change for the project?
  - From base to the top of the hill is approximately 170'
- How far will the guardrail be placed?
  - Guardrails will extend to approximately High Bridge road
- What will the total cost of the project be (permits, site design, on-site engineers)
  - The design project is approximately \$515,000, permitting and other studies \$24,000 (this has already been paid), supervising engineer on site \$50,000 – total costs approximately \$589,000

Questions for the Selectboard:

- How will the Town pay for this project?
  - The Town can use Capital Reserve Funds for most of the project, with a Warrant Article for the balance, or the Town can take out a bond for the project
- Is it possible to take out a bond in order not to deplete the CRF?
  - That would be a Town decision, but yes
- Are there any grants available to help with the cost of this project?

- The State of NH has closed grants for roads and bridges. When they open the availability it would delay the project by several years
- Will this project impact funding set aside for uncompleted FEMA projects, specifically Town Road #100?
  - Town Road #100 is paid by FEMA at 75%, and the Town pays the balance. There will be funds available for that work

The informational meeting ended at 8:10 pm

Many in attendance remained after the meeting with specific questions for Hall and Bourcier.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh