

*Approved*

10 August 2023

Members Present: Charlie Smith, Mike Wright and Herb Austic

Selectboard liaison: Chase Kling

Called to order 6:03

Approval of 7/6 minutes after review

Charlie asked Chase if the selectboard had reviewed and had comments on the committees by law request? Chase said that he thought they had resolved this and would get clarification for the committee.

Committee members discussed the salt shed renovations, and as to date, no one has given an estimate to do the repairs, renovations

Charlie asked Chase if any locations had been specified for the wicking fabric that he had procured for the town? Chase replied that with the manpower shortage and the Archertown hill project that it would be hard to find time for this fall. Charlie mentioned it may be a good fit for the Archertown flat area and or crest of hill? Mike said he felt that the plan to grind the flat area this fall was not a good option, and leave unpaved for the winter was a mistake. His thought was to not grind it until next year when the funds were approved to pave it.

Discussion of the Indian pond culverts and the beaver remediations. Charlie gave Chase a list of Experts he had contacted for the beaver problem. Chase said that the committee was not asked to look into beaver problems, just the culverts. Herb responded that the culverts are in need of repair because of the beavers, and wasn't sure how you could address one without the other?

Mousley Brook bridge was discussed using a woodlam bridge option. Chase shared a proposal from Hansen bridge co. for a 50' steel span bridge with PT deck for the sum of 265,512.00. Committee believed with a 50 ft span, a steel bridge would be reasonable.

Highbridge discussion involved the DOT estimate to replace the bridge, and the cost of repairs of the Highbridge, and Tillotson Falls roads. Chase thought a covered bridge could be a possibility? Mike thought it would be difficult to plow a covered bridge if in fact you were to make those roads passable all year? Charlie commented on the cost to the town for the repairs and maintenance of the roads to make them open all year? An estimate would be \$200k-\$250k.

Gravel quality was the next discussion. Charlie asked Chase if there was a requirement of gradation for the gravels the town buys? Chase said to date it has been left up to the road agents (now selectboard as acting road agents) Charlie volunteered to grade both the 3/4 grave and the sand at the town barn stockpile Mike said he thought it would be wiser to use a 1 1/2" gravel rather than the 3/4" used now. He stated that he uses primarily ledge gravel on the Fairlee roads.

Herb asked if stone chips could be an option for the winter other than sand, as the cost seems to be comparable?

Charlie recommended that the town needed to get a culvert replacement schedule in place moving forward. This would help eliminate the roads damaged by those failing culverts. Chase agreed saying now the culverts are replaced at the time of a road being repaired, or after they have already failed. The town has a culvert survey already completed, and the committee thought that should be utilized to assist in culvert replacements moving forward.

Bids on Archertown hill were discussed, with only two bids. The bids were formatted differently, which made them hard to compare. The selectboard will ask Erin to contact the contractor to get a list of what their bids included. This would make it easier to compare the best option for the town.

Chase showed the committee a revised 5 year paving plan for the town. He asked the committee to review and to give their thoughts to the selectmen. He also showed us a letter for the DOT dated 7/27/23 showing the estimated 2023-2024. Block funds of 63,916.53 which are specifically to be used for town road repairs. Chase asked the committee for their recommendation on the use of these funds.

Committee work session on 8/16 to go over the 5 year paving plan, and will take a road trip to the locations to evaluate.

Charlie motioned to adjourn at 8:05 2nd by Mike

Submitted by Herb