TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Special Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Steketee, Anne Duncan Cooley, John Adams

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

The Board discussed the possible revision of the schedule for construction of the Newcomb Hollow Bridge on Archertown Road. The Town’s engineers, DuBois and King have informed the Board that have been informed by potential bidders/contractors that the State of Vermont (VTrans) has numerous bridges in construction in 2014 that have put demands on fabricators for pre-cast concrete arches and frames through early September.  Northern New England fabricators of arches and frames are committing to delivery of pre-cast concrete bridges to new project sites by mid-September or early October.

The Engineer, Robert Durfee, said that because of this, other Towns had allowed a revision in the schedule for construction of the bridges. The revision specifies that if paving can not be completed in the fall of 2014 due to cold weather, the bridge can be opened with the road as a a gravel surface, with paving completed in the Spring of 2015.

The Board discussed the possibility that not adopting such a schedule revision might result in fewer or no companies bidding on the project because they would be unable to obtain the materials in time to complete the bridge on time. The Board was also concerned that the bridge might be closed waiting for the concrete components while no construction is happening. The Board also discussed concerns with impact on the school bus, availability of FEMA funding, and frustration that the schedule for construction keeps slipping.

Steketee moved to amend the bid documents to revise the schedule for construction of the bridge to extend the schedule so if paving can not be completed in the Fall of 2014 due to cold weather, to open the road on a gravel surface and complete final paving in the Spring of 2015.  Adams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Duncan Cooley