

Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Chris Mattricks, Tony Goupee, Joan Allen, John Champion, Bruce Flewelling, Brian Austin and Mason Wade with Orca Media

Doon called the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Doon turned the meeting over to Chris to discuss the information about the West Hill Bridge replacement. Chris Mattrick spoke about the funding application process has become available for the next round of funding, which helps towns maintain free access to federally owned land. We are the largest federal land owner of the state. Chris introduced Brian to continue with the meeting discussion. Brian continued with explaining FLAP- Federal Lands Access Program. It's the Federal Highway. It requires a 20-25% match. Federal highway will pick up the 75%-80%. The town doesn't need to come up with cash for their match. The match can be raised through inspection services. We can have one of our engineers on-site during the construction and account our time towards then such as, if your familiar, with Churchill Road in Brandon. We were able to have an engineer there on site to share the match. He went on to say that also with the agreement we just did with the \$60,000.00 for the design would be considered part of the match. He noted we are well on our way for the match amount and that the Town will not have any out of pocket money to put towards it. He noted that with Rochester being the largest Federal Land owner and not having any other towns approaching them on the funding. Brian noted that they approached The Town because they have an interest in because of the access to the forest. Brian said it was a good opportunity and good funding source. Doon asked what kind of a time frame are we looking at? Brian answered that the application process opened April 30th and will be open until August 30th. Brain said they were more then willing to work with us on it. Joan noted her concerns and costs. Brian and Chris discussed the roundabout figures based on the Churchill Bridge Project in Brandon. Chis noted that the FLAP program is not a yearly program and that the funding comes out as funds become available. The last one was about 3 years ago. He voiced his concerns that if the town decides against doing it at this time, we would have to wait another 2 or 3 years for the funding to become available again. Pat noted that it must be crucial to the Robinson Project. Chris agreed. He noted that there could be an alternative solution to truck wood. He said it would become the contractor's responsibility. They would have to figure out how to get the wood out. That in turn will affect the contractor's bid price for the wood which will ultimately come up against the receipt price of the logs. Tom noted that it was to their advantage as well to move forward with this project as well as the residence of this road. Pat asked what the weight limit of the bridge would be. Brian noted that it would need to follow the State standards for the road. Pat asked about the involvement with ANR. She noted that Jaron Borg would be on board as well and whatever engineering is needed his decisions would supersede all decisions. Chris noted that with it being an existing structure and replacing it in the same location, without too much alteration he wouldn't see Jaron putting up a red flag, but that would be his call and seemed straight forward in his mind. Pat asked if the way the approach is, would there be any change made? It brought up a group discussion about how the change of

approach would benefit any trucks or traffic using the bridge. Discussion about the benefits continued, keeping in mind the private land owners on one side. Brian noted that it could be put in the scope of the engineering and have them look at it. Doon made the motion to direct Joan to start filling the application out. Tom seconded it. John asked if they had a spot on West Hill for a place to put roadside ditchings. They noted that they would have to investigate it and get back to John. Doon thanked them for bringing this opportunity to our attention.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith