**MINUTES SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

**Regular – Via Microsoft Teams**

**Very Limited “Live” attendance upstairs Town Hall**

**Monday, June 14, 2021 @ 10:00 AM**

Present at the meeting in Town Hall, downstairs, were Joe Pollio, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, John Gregory, Sue Allen, and Suzanne Welch.

Persons present in the Hall: Danny Taylor Highway Foreman, and Kim Record Clerk/Treasurer,

and Town Administrator Bill Kearns.

1. Call to order. The Chair called a meeting to order at 10:12 AM.
2. Adopt Agenda. Motion by Suzanne Welch, second John Gregory, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Open Paving Bids. In the absence of the clerk of the Selectboard, Cathy Siano-Goodwin opened the bids. There were four: Sunapee Paving aka Springfield Paving, LLC. (Springfield VT), Bazin Brothers Trucking Inc. (Westminster VT) All State Construction, Inc. (Sunderland MA.) and Northeast Paving (Northfield MA). Cathy Siano-Goodwin slit opened the envelopes and read the bids as follows:
   * Sunapee Paving, Springfield Paving LLC: Certificate of Insurance (COI) was included. Amount of Bid $178,298.70.
   * Bazin Brothers Trucking Inc: COI included, bid $168,160.00.
   * All State Construction, Inc: COI included, bid $191,022.00
   * Northeast Paving: COI included, bid $214,590.00

During the discussion it was noted the difference in the first two bids was in the cost of milling and reclaiming, where Bazin was significantly lower in price per SY.

Danny Taylor stated, in light of the differences in the bids, and because he had done a similar job with Bazin on Rte. 35 last year, he would be comfortable with the Selectboard awarding the bid during this meeting. He asked that the award stating that the work could not begin before July 1, 2021. He further stated that the management at Bazin had stated the work would probably be commenced in three weeks from today. Motion was made by Suzanne Welch, second John Gregory, to award the project to Bazin Brothers Trucking, Inc as contractor as per their bid for the paving of a portion of Route 121 East as described in the **Invitation to Bidders – Grinding and Paving** posted and published for this project. Motion passed unanimously.

1. VTrans – additional grant, discus and take action. Suzanne Welch inquired about this $100,000.00 grant and asked about the $175,000 request for a structure on Fisher Hill Rd. Bill Kearns stated that Meghan Brunk of VTrans called to say we could have the grant for the Fisher hill culvert, but the grant would only be in the amount of $100,000. For a project we expected to be $219,000. Bill stated he would get back to her but added most likely the response would be negative because of the difference in cost to grant and thus money to be found by the Town. She called a few minutes later to say another project could be substituted at a lesser cost, provided we sent in another application. Danny Taylor and he had discussed projects, there are several on Hinkley Brook Rd. and Danny suggested the culvert (Hinkley Brook Rd. #12 – Grafton Emergency Management Map) at the corner above Bolton’s camp, since it appeared that it might be in need of replacement. Discussion ensued with john Gregory suggesting that the better practice would be to replace #17, as it is the next in line above #11 that was replace with a box culvert last year. All agreed with John, however, if #17 needed replacing, it would be better to do so with grant assistance, than to do with all our own money. Furthermore, should there be a flood after replacement of #24 and #17 washed out, we would have assistance from emergency funds to replace it. After discussion of other alternative sites for use of a structures grant it was decided #24 on Hinkley Brook Rd was the best candidate, with some caveats as to cost and problems with ledge affecting the use of a precast box culvert. MOTION by John Gregory to accept the VTrans offer, to apply for the $100,000 grant for the replacement of Culvert #24, which is described on the Hydraulics and Hydrology Report (H&H) as CONCRETE BOX CULVERT, TH 6, HINKLEY BROOK, GRAFTON, VERMONT – SITE 2 (489747 75272 – 0.66 miles east of Pollard Road) provided the H&H is approved or a new one obtained, the length is checked to be sure it is long enough, recognizing the cost of dealing with ledge may be an issue, the inlet walls need to be poured in place, and the culvert, because of the ledge, may have to be custom made or poured in place, Scott Jensen, VT Stream Alteration Engineer and Mike Renaud (who builds the box culverts) should be called to look at the site. If this site does not work, the backup approved by this motion is culver #17, which is on the same H&H and is located 0.84 east of Pollard Road, the next large culvert upstream from #11 which was re-placed last year. SECOND Cathy Siano-Goodwin. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Sullivan Powers Agreement – discuss and take action. The proposal at $15,000 for the 20-21 audit was presented – an eight-page proposal dated June 4, 2021, executed by Sullivan Powers. All were asked if they had read the proposal and were there any questions. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if it were necessary to have the audit yearly. Kim Record the Treasurer stated she wants it done annually especially with all the grants we have received for Grants in Aid, Better Roads, Paving, Structures projects the audit is reassuring that we are doing things correctly, not only for us, but for those agencies and entities offering the grants. John Gregory asked Kim about the audit accounting for the liability of the Town for outstanding Comp Time. Kim Record reported that question had been asked of Fred Duplessis who said that was not an item included in Audits. Motion Suzanne welch, second john Gregory to accept the proposal of Sullivan Powers to perform the 20-21 Audit of the Town for the sum of $15,000. Motion passed unanimously, and all five executed the agreement.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Other Business:
   * Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if Danny Taylor has heard from Lafayette re: guardrails. Danny stated he had not but would ask around to see if there is/are other companies to approach for guardrails, since he is getting no response from Lafayette.
   * Clean up of upstairs – what chairs should we keep, Selectboard agreed not the caned chairs, not eh heavy chairs from Springfield FD and not the steel and plastic chairs. On the 21st all the unwanted stuff upstairs would be hauled away. In the meantime, anyone can come look to see if they want anything and take those things away.
   * Setting the tax rate: Hopefully can be done June 30th and we can then set the tax rate. However, if there are appeals, that might be delayed till July and the rate not set till July 12th, leaving 3 days to get the bills out for the August quarterly payment.
   * BCA will meet on July 19th to purge the registered voter list and list those to be challenged.
   * Use of Cemetery funds. Kim Record stated that she and Bill Kearns had discussed this with Fred Duplessis and will have more information soon.
5. Date of Next Meeting – June 21, 2021 @ 6:00 PM.
6. Adjourn. Cathy Siano-Goodwin moved, second Suzanne Welch to adjourn at 11:20 AM

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Kearns