

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Tuesday October 11, 2011*

Open Meeting:

Chairman W. Friel opened the Regular Meeting of the Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 7:30 PM on Tuesday October 11, 2011 in the Atkinson Town Hall, and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

F. Childs
W. Friel, Chairman
C. Schuster

Others Present:

M. Bisol, Atkinson Lions' Club
R. LaBranche, Senior Associate, Stantec
A. LaChance, Project Manager, Stantec
B. Snicer, Administrative Assistant
E. Stewart, Road Agent

Approval of Minutes:

F. Childs indicated that two officers' names were misspelled in the minutes of October 3, 2011.

F. Childs made the motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen for October 3, 2011, as amended. Second: W. Friel. Vote: 2/1/0.

W. Friel made the motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen for October 5, 2011. Second: F. Childs. Vote: 2/1/0.

Appearances:

A. LaChance, Stantec Engineering - Mill Stream Drive Bridge

A. LaChance, Project Manager for Stantec Engineering & Consulting, introduced R. LaBranche, Senior Associate for Stantec, whose areas of expertise are funding and construction, and distributed copies of the Geotechnical Engineering Report regarding the Mill Stream Drive bridge over Providence Hill Brook. The more the soil moves, the more the stems settle and pull the T-wall panels out in as much as 4 inches in some areas, which has caused the bridge to be put on the Department of Transportation's Municipal Red List.

He continued to say that, while the solution appears to be simple, the construction is complicated: because it's the only access to the neighborhood, only one side at a time can be done and a temporary access support needs to be constructed. Temporary utilities will have to be put in place since there is cable, electric and telephone on one side and water on the other side. A. LaChance said that construction maintaining traffic is estimated between \$250,000 and \$280,000.

In discussions with Road Agent E. Stewart, A. LaChance said that if another temporary access to the area could be found so that the whole bridge could be worked on at the same time, there would be a substantial savings. Since it is on the "Red List", there was a good chance that the Town would be eligible for 80/20 funding from the State (i.e. 80% of the cost of the project including engineering, to be refunded by the State). R. LaBranche added that if the Town were found eligible for this funding, the Town would have to fund 100% of the project and could expect the 80% refund in as late as 2015 or 2016. Therefore, R. LaBranche continued, that, if the Town pursued funding, the cost through bidding would be \$32,000 with an additional \$10,000 through design. Without State funding, there would be a \$10,000 savings, or a total of around \$30,000, through construction, for engineering.

A. LaChance indicated that we should be anticipating spring construction, and that, to minimize the risk over the winter, the bridge would have to be closely monitored, which should be begun immediately. Construction should take about a month with alternate access and two months or more if we have to maintain traffic. The Town could save as much as \$50,000 using a temporary access, depending on how expensive it becomes. E. Stewart said he could get a rough estimate of the cost to build and remove the thousand-foot access, and speak with all of the parties involved, to see if there would be agreement to this alternative, by next week, October 17.

R. LaBranche outlined the Municipally-Managed Bridge Process as follows: first a letter from the Selectmen is sent to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DoT) asking to be included in the program. Representative from DoT, then come down to look at the project and estimate what they think the cost should be. Next DoT will determine whether or not the Town can be eligible for reimbursement under this program, and then will provide a template of their estimated costs for engineering, construction, etc. A. LaChance said that Stantec frequently used the State's figures.

F. Childs asked why these deficiencies weren't noted prior to acceptance of Mill Stream Drive by the Town, in 2002. A. LaChance replied that, while Stantec was not the Town's engineering firm when the road was constructed or considered for acceptance, the problems did not show up for several years. E. Stewart added that, while the improvements noted were nice, the heart of the cure is to prevent the bottom three panels from moving.

C. Schuster asked what guarantee we would have that the same condition wouldn't re-occur, or was it just a faulty design. A. LaChance said there could be no guarantees, but only minimize the likelihood of this occurring again, using what we know today. R. LaBranche noted that the expected lifespan of a bridge should reasonably be 50 years.

W. Friel asked how much it would cost to have Stantec prepare a letter for the Board to see if the Town is eligible for reimbursement. A. LaChance replied that they would do this at no charge to the Town.

E. Stewart suggested the possibility of bonding this work over ten years, rather than trying to pay for it in one year. He added that we have additional atypical situations on Brendan Road, the

ten-foot box culvert on Westside Drive and the drainage work on Island Pond Road which, when combined with the bridge work, would be a worthwhile amount to bond, while still maintaining our road network, without placing an undue burden on the taxpayers of Atkinson. He had real numbers for everything except the box culvert on Westside Drive, which he would be able to get within a month.

E. Stewart asked how we would pay the \$30,000 for engineering prior to Town Meeting, since we should go to Town Meeting with a firm bid on the project(s). W. Friel responded that the Board will have to assess all of the work to determine how to find the money.

M. Bisol, Atkinson Lions' Club

Atkinson Lions' Club member M. Bisol told the Board of an International Lions' Club program to plant one million trees. He said that the Atkinson club will participate with the assistance of the Boy Scouts, and wants to plant three trees on town property, preferably before the winter season. He has spoken with E. Stewart, who suggested that they be placed around Tyke Towers to provide some shade for the area. F. Childs suggested replacing the tree that died on the west end of Town Hall.

F. Childs made the motion to permit the Atkinson Lions' Club to plant trees where the Lions' decide. Second: C. Schuster. Vote: 3/0/0.

Appointment:

F. Childs made the motion to appoint S. Curley to the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer, pending verification of rabies vaccination. Second: W. Friel. Vote: 3/0/0.

Resignation:

F. Childs announced the resignation of two long-term employees, Ray and Ginny Morelli. The Morellis have been of service to the Town of Atkinson for over twenty-five years, and their presence will sorely missed.

W. Friel made the motion to accept the resignation of Raymond and Virginia Morelli with regret, wishing them the very best in their move to Florida. Second: F. Childs. Vote: 3/0/0.

Bids:

Irrigation

The Requests for Proposals were not sent out as promised, so the Board will not open the two bids submitted, to give others the opportunity to respond.

Department Heads:

Care of Grounds/Highway

E. Stewart told the Selectmen that the October 4 rain storm caused a bit of immediate damage. He said we lost about 20 yards of gravel on the side of Hovey Meadow Road, Sawyer Avenue over-topped, resulting in some erosion, but the most damage was to Brendan Road. The culverts were in need of repair, however, the swift flow of water removed material from each end of the roadway, exacerbating the situation. He has contacted the Department of Environmental Services to see if this qualifies for “expedited” permitting, and should have an answer by the end of the week. This is an unanticipated repair which should be around \$40,000. The holes have been filled so the road is safe for pedestrians and vehicles, but another heavy rain could wash out more of the road bed. E. Stewart has the repair strategy in place, but would like Stantec to affirm the safety of the road until spring. The Board approved the expenditure of up to \$1,000 to review the temporary repairs, without further action.

W. Friel asked where he buys gasoline and diesel fuel for the Highway Department. E. Stewart responded that he used the Sunoco up on Route 111 and the former Difeo Oil on Main Street, and will apply for credit on Route 125.

The Board approved sending out the 2012 bids for Cleaning Catch Basins, Crack Sealing, Road Improvements: Asphalt, Painting Traffic Lines and Tree Removal.

Old Business

Selectmen’s Budget Presentation Schedule

The Board accepted the proposed 2012 Budget Presentation Schedule as submitted (copy attached).

New Business

F. Childs read a notice from Comcast, stating that any family qualifying for the hot lunch program could receive a reduced rate for Internet services from Comcast.

F. Childs read a list of Food Pantries in the area and contact information.

Adjournment

**F. Childs made the motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Second: W. Friel.
Vote: 3/0/0.**

William G. Friel, Chairman

Fred J. Childs, Jr

Craig G. Schuster