

**Town of Auburn  
Board of Selectmen  
October 12, 2017**

**Selectmen Present:** James Headd, Richard Eaton & Dale Phillips

**Also Present:** Jim Fusco, Rene LaBranche of Stantec Consulting, and William Herman, Town Administrator

Mr. Headd called the public meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**Appointments with the Board**

Update on Status of Griffin Mill Bridge

Mr. LaBranche provided an update since everyone last met on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He reported contact made with NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) indicates securing a driveway permit for the temporary access to the Fusco properties would be approved. He also noted Stantec's wetlands scientist visited the temporary access path under consideration on the Fusco's property and indicated the area is basically unchanged from the wetlands identified in 2014, so there is no additional considerations to be addressed on that front.

Mr. LaBranche developed a spreadsheet for the Board that identified five different approaches to the temporary access and/or permanent repair to the Griffin Mill Bridge and their anticipated total costs. He outlined the project approaches and cost estimates as follows:

1. Limited Bridge Repair using Temporary Access on Fusco Property - \$256,015 with no NHDOT Reimbursement.
2. Limited Bridge Repair using MWW Temporary Access - \$250,015 with no NHDOT reimbursement
3. Full Bridge Replacement using MWW Temporary Access - \$474,176 with NHDOT Reimbursement (\$368,140.80) leaving the Town's expense at \$106,035.20
4. Full Bridge Replacement using Temporary Bridge Support and with Temporary Construction Access using MWW Access - \$504,176.00 with NHDOT Reimbursement (\$368,140.80) leaving the Town's expense at \$136,035.20
5. Full Bridge Replacement using Temporary Access on Fusco Property - \$480,176.00 with NHDOT Reimbursement (\$368,140.80) leaving the Town's expense at \$112,035.20

Mr. Fusco indicated he didn't understand why the Town couldn't use the additional \$137,000 in Highway Block Grant Funds received in 2017 for this project and advance the work sooner than the 2021 time frame when the Municipal Bridge Aid Funds would be available. He said it appears the Town doesn't want to do the bridge work and is finding reasons not to do it timely. When asked how travel has been through their field, Mr. Fusco indicated it has not been going well as the ground is getting soft in some places. He also indicated they are concerned about liability coverage for using their property to access the two residences. Mr. Fusco said they want the liability issue to be addressed so they are assured if something happened it will be covered by the Town's insurance coverage. Mrs. Phillips and Mr. LaBranche both indicated the Town will be building the access driveway to safe standards and it would not be merely allowing individuals to drive across an open field as is happening now. Mr. Headd also noted if someone gets into some sort of accident while driving, it will be the driver's auto insurance that covers the incident.

Mr. Fusco said they want to see something come to fruition as there has been a lot of talk over the past five or six years, but indicated they haven't seen a plan yet for the bridge. Mr. LaBranche noted a plan was developed and shown to the Fuscos and the Board of Selectmen in 2014. He said it is a pre-cast concrete bridge that will end up with a paved surface. At the time, the two major concerns expressed were for the color of the cement with an interest in making sure it was not a bright white color, and the appearance of the guardrail to be used. The interest was to make the bridge have a historical appearance and attractive guardrails.

Mrs. Phillips expressed a concern for a need to move now if the Town is going to establish the temporary access before the winter months. Mr. LaBranche noted securing the wetlands permit will be a driving factor in the timing of construction, but he thought the Town had until late November to early December to complete the temporary access project.

Mr. Fusco asked why the Town couldn't do the temporary bridge repair to have in place for the next four years and then do the temporary driveway access closer to the time when the permanent bridge repair work. Mr. LaBranche, Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Herman explained that was not an option the Town prefers as it leads the Town to expending \$30,000 of Town funds that would not be eligible for reimbursement. The temporary driveway access is going to be necessary no matter what and is a reimbursable expense. It does not make any financial sense to expend an additional \$30,000 for that sort of additional work.

Mr. Eaton arrived at 3:30 PM. He asked if the layout of the temporary driveway access is generally within the location of the cones that have recently been placed and would it connect with the existing Griffin Mill Road, which is what the construction vehicles and equipment would be able to use. Mr. Fusco and Mr. LaBranche verified that was correct. Mr. LaBranche noted Mr. Fusco had indicated there were a few soft areas in

the field, and the Town should probably put some fabric in those areas when establishing the temporary driveway to provide better stability and protection.

Mr. Fusco indicated there should be no problem plowing in the winter. He indicated during the first year of the temporary access on the Manchester Water Works property, the plow operator plowed across his property where there was no access and took out a couple of property bounds in the process. The Selectmen indicated the bounds will be restored as part of this undertaking.

Mr. LaBranche indicated there should be a temporary easement or memorandum of understanding to allow the Town to establish a temporary access through the Fusco property. Mr. Herman noted Town Counsel has indicated it needs to be a temporary easement.

Mr. Fusco indicated the agreement will need to include a guarantee the project will be put out to bid. He said their main concern is they want to see the whole project go out to bid in a fair and open process. They are also interested in some guarantee that should funding become available any earlier than 2021, the Town would do the project earlier based on the availability of funding.

Mr. LaBranche indicated it was Stantec's intention to have the design and all permits approved and completed by July 2018, so the project will be ready to go and will only be awaiting the availability of funding.

Mr. LaBranche will draft a specification sheet for the temporary access project; secure NHDOT driveway permit and appropriate NHDES Wetlands permit, and an initial memorandum of understanding for the temporary access.

Mr. LaBranche and Mr. Fusco left the meeting at 4:19 PM.

## **Other Business**

### Selectmen's Workshop Meeting

Mr. Herman indicated the Board has mentioned on several occasions holding a workshop meeting for the bigger ticket items being considered for FY 2018. He asked if the Board had a preference of meeting on Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> or Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was agreed to schedule the meeting for Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM.

### 2018 Goal Setting

Mr. Herman asked the Board if they were interested in holding a facilitated goal setting workshop to establish 2018 goals as they did for 2017. The Board agreed holding a

goal setting session with the Board and the Town Administrator is a good process, and they would like to do one for 2018. Mr. Herman indicated he would reach out to Rick Alpert at Primex to determine time frames that are open for scheduling. Mr. Eaton indicated he would not be available during the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Friends of Auburn

Mr. Herman provided the Board with a quick update on the efforts of the Friends of Auburn to close on the property adjacent to the Griffin Free Public Library. He reported there was an issue being worked on between attorneys for the buyer and seller, and it is hoped a closing might take place within a couple of weeks.

#### **Adjourn**

***Mr. Eaton moved to adjourn; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; all were in favor, the meeting ended at 4:27 p.m.***

Griffin Mill Bridge Replacement Cost Comparisons						
Auburn NH		10-12-17				
Item Description	Estimated Amounts	Limited Bridge Repair using Temp Access on Fuscos property	Limited Bridge Repair using MWW Access	Full Bridge Replacement using MWW Access	Full Bridge Replacement using Temp Bridge Support and MWW Access	Full Bridge Replacement using Temp Access on Fuscos property
Survey, Geotech, Hydraulics, Preliminary Design and Permitting	\$55,912.00	\$55,912.00	\$55,912.00	\$55,912.00	\$55,912.00	\$55,912.00
Design Completion	\$29,552.00			\$29,552.00	\$29,552.00	\$29,552.00
Permitting and Design Completion - Limited Repair	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00			
Construction Phase Engineering Limited Repair	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00			
Construction Phase Engineering Full Replacement	\$40,000.00			\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Temp Access Survey, Permitting, Easement and Engineering	\$14,772.90	\$14,773.00	\$14,773.00	\$14,773.00	\$14,773.00	\$14,773.00
Temp Road on MWW Land	\$3,330.00	\$3,330.00	\$3,330.00	\$3,330.00	\$3,330.00	\$3,330.00
Complete Temp Access from MWW Stone Wall	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Temp access on Fusco Land	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00				\$10,000.00
Temp Bridge Support	\$30,000.00				\$30,000.00	
Full Bridge Replacement	\$296,917.00			\$296,917.00	\$296,917.00	\$296,917.00
Contingency	\$29,692.00			\$29,692.00	\$29,692.00	\$29,692.00
Limited Bridge Repair	\$137,000.00	\$137,000.00	\$137,000.00			
<b>Total Cost</b>		\$256,015.00	\$250,015.00	\$474,176.00	\$504,176.00	\$480,176.00
<b>Cost to the Town</b>		\$256,015.00	\$250,015.00	\$106,035.20	\$136,035.20	\$112,035.20
<b>NHDOT Reimbursement</b>		0.00	0.00	\$368,140.80	\$368,140.80	\$368,140.80