

APPROVED

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes @ The Levi Stewart Library's Jones Nutter Auditorium Wednesday, August 28, 2024 – 6 P.M.

Item 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - FLAG SALUTE. Called to order by Chairman Dennis Carr, at 6:00PM, followed by the pledge.

- A. Board Members present:** Jim Emerson, Chairman Dennis Carr, Tony Bennett.
Ralph McNaughton – Absent.
- B. Employees Present:** Lois Jones, Justin Gudroe.
- C. Residents Present:** Jackie Emerson, Galen McKenney
- D. Non-Residents Present:** Randy Butler, Tim Sawtelle.

Item 2. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS.

- A. Take out of order Item 7A – Sunken Bridge Road bridge – Dirigo Engineering.**
Taken after Item 5. See notes below, under Item 7A.

Item 3. APPROVE MINUTES.

- A. August 14, 2024.** Selectman Emerson made a motion and Selectman Bennett 2nd to approve the minutes, as written. All in favor.

Item 4. WARRANT AND PAYROLL DISCUSSIONS AND SIGNING.

- A. Payroll Warrant #35.** Selectman Emerson made a motion and Selectman Bennett 2nd to approve warrants #35. All in favor.
- B. A/P Warrant#36.** Selectman Emerson made a motion and Selectman Bennett 2nd to approve warrants #36. All in favor.

Item 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

- A. Galen McKenney –** Commented that the Corinna Days event went very well and it was well-attended. Also, the chicken dinner was very good – Thank you to the Fire Department for preparing the dinner.

Item 6. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Farmer's Table Liquor License.** Selectman Emerson made a motion and Selectman Bennett 2nd to approve the annual liquor license for the Farmer's Table. All in favor.

Item 7. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Sunken Bridge Road bridge – Dirigo Engineering.** Randy Butler and Tim Sawtelle, from Dirigo Engineering were present to discuss Sunken Bridge. Mr. Sawtelle did the speaking. He stated he contact Craig Coolidge from a construction company that has experience with this type of bridge. Mr. Coolidge told Mr. Sawtelle that he thought the culvert was appropriately engineered for the site. Other points were as follows:
 - a.** The net soil load was at or less than it was prior to the new bridge.
 - b.** Settlement is due to the bearing failure of the soil.

APPROVED

- c. The issues on the inflow and outflow ends are due to the stone bed under the culvert not adequate – it was not dry/firm enough when the stones were placed.
- d. Settling seems to be slowing down – conjecture is that the stone is mixing with the bottom soils.
- e. If the top culvert pieces are “tied” together, this will create a “long, low, low-contact pressure,” wheel loads will be transmitted.
- f. There were no provisions by American Concrete (that supplied the culvert) to tie any of it together.
- g. The leaning out “a little bit” is not noticeable from above.
- h. If it is tied together, this will reduce the load and bring it back to the center of the culvert.
- i. Mr. Coolidge told Mr. Sawtelle that the issue is a “construction/contractor error” and it should be the contractor’s responsibility for the failure.
- j. Dirigo is willing to pursue tying together at their cost.
- k. Mr. Sawtelle stated the bridge/culvert does weigh a tiny bit more, because the gravel road is taller.
- l. Mr. Coolidge told Mr. Sawtelle that more borings were not really necessary – the the SWCole borings were good.
- m. The borings showed silty, clay – “squishy stuff” –impossible to dewater.
- n. Justin asked Mr. Sawtelle if just tying off the top would also stop the bottom from separating. Mr. Sawtelle thought that it would.

Mr. Sawtelle summed up his comments with this: The design is an appropriate design. Recommends drilling holes in the concrete and running rods through to “tie” the top pieces together. Maybe use an excavator to put large rocks at the inlet/outlet to “shore-up” the soils underneath. Justin commented that each phase was “signed off” by the engineer. Mr. Sawtelle commented that that doesn’t mean they were visually signed off – that it was acceptable to sign off, not on-site. It’s a process – not an approval. Mr. Sawtelle stated there was no geo-technical necessary to be completed in stages. He also referenced a lack of “traffic load” on the two outer pieces. Selectman Bennett inquired about the date allowed to work in water. Mr. Sawtelle stated because there is “no low water level,” work can go beyond the water work window, and that is ok’d by the ACE. Mr. Sawtelle wrapped up by saying if “tying” the surface doesn’t work, they will keep going. He hopes to have a plan at the next board meeting for review.

B. Land Use Ordinance amendments. Tabled.

Item 8. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS. None.

Item 9. CORRESPONDENCE.

- A. State Valuation 2025.** Manager reviewed assigned certified ratio, but reminded Board that the re-val will be completed before next tax commitment, so Town will be back at 100% assessment. The State also re-calculated the Town’s assessment.

Item 10. SELECTMEN CONCERNS.

- A. Dennis** - None.
- B. Jim** - Asked Justin about the pavement on Packard Road – if anything can be done to “fix” it. Justin stated that there is no quick fix – it will have to be a discussion during budget season.
- C. Tony** - None.
- D. Ralph** - Absent.

APPROVED

Item 11. ADJOURN MEETING. Selectman Emerson made a motion and Selectman Bennett 2nd to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois A. Jones
Town Manager