

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of October 19, 2015
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Office at the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn.

Public Hearing to Accept Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds

Chairman Heitz called to order a Public Hearing for the purpose of accepting a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant awarded by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division of the Department of Safety. It was noted that the Public Hearing had been posted at the Kingston Town Hall and Kingston Post Office and that the notice had been published on the Kingston web site.

Present for the hearing were the Selectmen and Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire. There were no members of the public present.

Chairman Heitz advised that the purpose of the hearing was the Board's acceptance on behalf of the town of a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant in the amount of \$169,080.00, to be matched by local funds in the amount of \$56,360.00. The funds will finance a project involving replacement of an existing culvert on North Road near the Danville town line, that has flooded several times in recent years.

The engineering firm for the project will be CMA Engineering of Manchester. The Town of Danville has committed to a contribution of up to \$15,000.00 toward the local match for the grant, dependent upon how much of the associated road work will actually be done in Danville. Final determination will be made once engineering for the project is complete.

Chairman Heitz asked if Road Agent St. Hilaire had any comments or information to be added. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that the project will greatly reduce flood hazard in the area and recommended acceptance of the grant.

There being no members of the public present and no additional comments, Chairman Heitz closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn, the Board unanimously voted in favor of accepting a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant in the amount of \$169,080.00, to be matched with local funds in the amount of \$56,360.00.

The Board then signed the grant agreement forms, which will be forwarded to the state Homeland Security and Emergency Management office.

Highway Department Updates

Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire advised that he intends to begin a grinding and re-paving project on Main Street this fall. He requested the Board's authorization to use a paving product with a higher than standard liquid asphalt content rather than the 12% recycled asphalt product that he generally uses on more lightly traveled roads. He believes the better product will extend the life of the roadway by as much as three years. The cost is approximately \$5.00 per ton higher, but asphalt prices recently have decreased approximately \$5.00 per ton so original estimates for the project should hold. The Board approved using the higher grade product.

Mr. St. Hilaire then advised that he will be laying crushed rock on Green Road and a portion of Rockrimmon Road, and will be renting a roller and bull dozer to grade the road beds. He advised that he hasn't submitted a purchase order, but that the equipment will be needed for approximately five days. The Board approved the rentals.

Mr. St. Hilaire then advised that a bridge located in Newton, accessing a portion of Kingston over Country Pond, has been red-listed by the state. The bridge is comprised of concrete end walls with five I-beams supporting an approximately 25' x 25' wooden deck. It's the deck that requires the most attention. If the scope of the project involves purchase of a one-piece deck structure and whatever

repairs are necessary to associated components, the project probably can be completed for between \$40,000.00 and \$50,000.00. A court order from many years ago required a 50%-50% split of bridge maintenance costs between Kingston and Newton. Chairman Heitz asked if the towns will be applying for state bridge aid reimbursement for the project. Mr. St. Hilaire, along with the Newton Road Agent, will look into that option, although Mr. St. Hilaire noted that having to abide by state engineering standards may raise project costs prohibitively and bridge aid reimbursements are at least five years delayed. The Newton Road Agent is scheduled to meet with his own Selectmen on October 20th, after which there should be a better idea of what the next steps will be.

Mr. St. Hilaire then reported that one of his buildings maintenance workers is leaving his position and that an ad for a replacement has been published. He noted that another employee from the highway department will be leaving for medical reasons but that the position can't be advertised until following the FMLA time period during which the current employee can reclaim his position. Chairman Heitz suggested that an ad be posted with the proviso that the town can accept or reject any and all applications, so that the applications will be on hand when they're needed.

Mr. St. Hilaire then discussed and received approval to proceed with enlargement of the bay doors at South Station. It had been agreed at a May 4, 2015 meeting that all three doors should be enlarged to accommodate the new fire truck as well as the ambulances. The funds will be paid from the Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. The Board also approved stripping and re-shingling of the Central Station roof, including sealants at joints. It's estimated that the project will cost \$15,000.00 to \$18,000.00.

Mr. St. Hilaire advised that the low bidder for repair of the Town Hall front steps can no longer undertake the project. The Board advised Mr. St. Hilaire to prepare a purchase order to cover the next higher bid for signing at the next meeting. The Board would like the repair work done this fall.

The Board authorized repairs to a Main Street catch basin to which the department has had restricted access for several years because of an on-going court case. The catch basin performs its function but settling has led to a degradation of the road bed.

Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he intends to budget for an administrative position for his department in 2016. The part-time position was authorized by voters in 2005 but never filled because there was no safe office space available.

Administrative Issues

The Board approved January 30, 2016 at 9:00 am for the Deliberative Session.

The Board agreed that they will review 2016 Insurance premiums from Health Trust before considering a proposal for a ClaimLinx / AFLAC insurance plan.

The Board requested that Selectman Broderick, prior to finalizing a 10-year contract extension with Comcast Cable, make sure that a \$60,000.00 contribution of equipment for the cable broadcasting system doesn't reduce the annual 5% franchise fee paid to the town.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was voted to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting as printed. Chairman Heitz abstained from the vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm. The Board will meet next on November 2, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant