

Special Meeting
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM April 22, 2020

Town Elected Official Present

Board Members Present: Larry Ball, Lynn Bedford, Chris Cannon, Chris Jackson
Town Supervisor: Ted Wightman,
Highway Superintendent: Craig Harrington
Town Clerk: Wendy Lord

Public Present: Susan Dilks, Natasha Natellino (two other public residents who did not state name upon request. No sign in sheet was available due to social distancing regulations of COVID-19)

Called to order 6:02 pm.

Purpose of the meeting

Meeting was held for the purposes of discussing the Emergent Closure and repair of Webster Road and Resolution Adopting a Procurement Policy. Supervisor Wightman explained the emergency road repair of Webster road falls under Municipal Law 103 that states that since the repairs are under \$35,000, the acceptance of competitive bids is not necessary.

Supervisory Wightman presented a Procurement Policy drafted by the town attorney for the board to review.

Superintendent of Highways report

Craig Harrington reported three competitive bids from area contractors where received for the Webster Road project. The bids received were summarized as follows:

- Bid 1. Steve St. George Construction - \$19,876 excluding permits, fees and materials
- Bid 2. Marsh, LLC - \$26,000 excluding permits, fees and materials
- Bid 3. Northland Contracting - \$23,000 excluding permits, fees and materials

Motion to accept the low bid \$19,876 (St. George Enterprises) for Webster Road work. Was made by Town Supervisor Ted Wightman.

Seconded by Councilman Chris Jackson.

Motion passed. All voted aye. Chris Cannon commented regarding a previous authorization to purchase an excavator that could have been used for this job.

Discussion included:

- Highway Superintendent Harrington noted the Highway Department would like to do the job, but the mentioned excavator will not be her until June 2020.
- Conditions worsened at the project site requiring the road to be closed.

New Business:

Supervisor Wightman read an order explaining that the NYS Governor has extended the non-essential policy order until May 15, 2020.

Supervisor Wightman provided an update on NYS Article 10. This is a provision of New York State Public Service Law that provides for the siting review of new and repowered or modified major electric generating facilities by the Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board) in a unified proceeding instead of requiring a developer or owner of such a facility to apply for numerous state and local permits. Supervisor Wightman stated the little control Towns had over projects is not gone. The Town Attorney has been asked for direction on next steps. The attorney has drafted moratoriums for nearby towns and can do so should the Arkwright Board request such. The NYS Association of Towns has formed a coalition to fight this NYS Action.

Councilman Larry Ball stated that Arkwright is already developed for wind and that our local infrastructure is not able to support solar, so it is a non-issue.

Ted Wightman explained this would impact future projects. He also explained that the moratorium would only be good for a time period of about 6 months. The moratorium would be in place long enough for the board to adopt a permanent policy.

Motion to direct the Town Attorney to draft a moratorium on the development of new electric generation projects in the Town of Arkwright. Motion by Chris Jackson. Seconded by Lynn Bedford. **The Motion passed.** Ayes (3): Jackson, Bedford, Wightman. Nays (2): Cannon, Ball

Councilman Larry Ball expressed concern regarding the Town budget. His comments included:

- Is there any assurance of CHIPS money?
- Stated that the sales tax will be compromised for the second and third quarter
- Projected revenue from sales tax is \$140,000 from the budget reviewed for this year
- Projected CHIPS is \$80,000 from the budget reviewed for this year
- So far this year, the highway dept has already spent 22% of its budget
- Highway is now purchasing asphalt and stone and Larry feels Craig should be careful with purchases

Ted Wightman stated that given the economic impact of COVID shutdowns there may be no money for Towns based on the State Budget proposed April 21, 2020. There are serious budget concerns for all municipalities. Ted stated that in June or July, the board will need to have a special meeting to review the budget.

Motion to NOT put the plow truck in surplus made by Larry Ball. There was not a second. **No vote.** Discussion included: Highway Superintendent Harrington clarified that the truck was already registered for the May 9, 2020 on-line auction with the minimum bid of \$34,000 reserve still intact.

It was determined by the board that The Superintendent of Highways Craig Harrington did not have a pre-approved equipment budget. Supervisor Ted Wightman requested that Harrington have a budget prepared for the next meeting.

Supervisor Ted Wightman provided an update that FEMA reimbursement for \$3500 for COVID-19 would be available.

Ted stated that there is \$438,000 in unappropriated funds coming to the town for Storm Recovery

Councilman Chris Cannon stated that Arkwright needs an approved three-year equipment plan in place.

Craig stated there is a plan. Supervisor Ted Wightman requested that Superintendent of Highways, Craig Harrington provide a three-year equipment plan at the next regular board meeting.

Public Comments:

One resident asked when Webster Road would be repaired. Craig Harrington responded work would begin on Monday April 26, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Jackson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Lynn Bedford. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Next meeting to be held on May 11, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

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Town Clerk: Wendy Lord