

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
IN PERSON
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
MONDAY, April 24, 2023 @ 12:00 noon**

Present: Earl Fournier- Chair, Ed White-Vice Chair, Nicole Draper, Steve Bourgeois, Cody Hemenway, Members Brian Savage,-Town Administrator, Kevin Lapan- Swanton Town Road Forman Christina Candels, Administrative Assistant, Jim Hungerford, Hungerford Paving, Joe Montagne, Pike Industries Inc,

A. Call to Order- Mr. Fournier called the meeting to order 12:08 pm

B. Meeting Topics

Highway Department Paving Bids for following roads
Lake Wood Drive, Homestead Road, Campbell Bay Road

Hungerford Paving \$397,282.00

Pike Industries Inc \$393,438.50

J Hutchins Inc \$455,174.10

Frank W. Whitcomb Construction Company \$435,880.68

Mr. Bourgeois noted the reason for meeting was to reevaluate the bids leaving out roads
Mr. Lapan noted the roads the Town can do with the budgeted amount of \$350,000
Mr. Fournier ask what was left in the highway fund, Mr. Savage stated he would look at budget.

Mr. Fournier noted how close both Pike Industries and Hungerford Paving quotes were.
Also noted were previous years issues with Pike Industries about finishing in the allotted time.

Mr. Bourgeois noted the difference in bids is \$3843.50 very close.

Mr. Lapan stated this is just estimate there maybe more/less tons used on roads
Mr. Bourgeois question about bids vs State specs, quality Mr. Lapan does not believe they are the same. Mr. Lapan stated the Town does not have the same requirements as State of Vermont.

Mr. Hemenway asked to for it to be noted his pervious employment with Swanton Village
Mr. Hungerford did great job that was his personal experience.

Mr. Fournier asked about scheduling if Pike would be complete late June early July, Hungerford Paving stated at previous meeting, the project would be complete by end of June

Mr. Hemenway asked when Hot Mix plant open. (Noted was today)

Mr. Bourgeois noted very small difference in price per ton on both estimates, Hungerford Paving included 4633 tons, Pike Industries included 4550 tons a very small difference

Mr. Hemenway noted very small difference and we wouldn't know exact until project complete

Mr. Savage noted to previous question there is about \$35,000 left in carry over, the road way improvement fund has monies left. Mr. Fournier noted a fair amount of that would be used for Maquam Shore culvert repair project

Mr. Fournier noted between those budgeted amounts the Town has the monies to cover this paving contract

Mr. Fournier asked for comments

Mr. White stated for himself as Selectboard member his job is to try save taxpayers/Town money. Hungerford Paving is a little higher and the Town has used Pike Industries all these years. Mr. White would like to see contract go to "Local" guy/contractor giving Hungerford Paving the contract. Glad both parties attended today.

Mr. Bourgeois how does bid process work best price? Mr. Fournier said no not based on best price they can reject any and all offers

Mr. Fournier difference in bids is tonnage as Hungerford has more tonnage

Mr. Montagne said most often bids are priced on higher side

Mr. Bourgeois asked if it practical for them to resubmit the bids, Ms. Draper noted the longer they wait the more chaotic it will get we need to get on scheduled.

Mr. Hungerford noted future bids should say "this project will be paid on unit price rate"
All member s agreed

Mr. Montagne noted a lot of local guys on staff

Mr. Bourgeois asked about tax paid to town? Mr. Montagne was unsure but enjoys working with Swanton

Mr. Fournier stated last year's issue in finishing what/why the delays, Mr. Montagne stated some delays were due to road? Mr. Lapan noted Culvert

Mr. White wanted clarify no disrespect with local guy phrase

Mr. Montagne stated what Pike bring to table vs Hungerford with flaggers, equipment etcetera vs Hungerford, Mr. Hemenway asked if effects quality Mr. Hungerford stated they have all necessary requirements to work with VTrans

Mr. White fair to say you are able to give you same good quality to do the job, Mr. Hungerford said correct State standard equipment

Mr. Bourgeois stated "Hungerford" Good Reputation Mr. Montagne agreed

Mr. Fournier asked Ms. Draper if she has comments.
Ms. Draper, no its tough decision

Mr. Bourgeois mentioned Pike Industries is a big tax payer
Mr. Bourgeois made motion for Pike Industries (to protect the integrity of the bid to save money should go with lowest bid), Ms. Draper seconded
Mr. Fournier calls for vote
All in Favor Mr. Bourgeois & Ms. Draper
All Nay Mr. White & Mr. Hemenway
Mr. Fournier must vote to break tie.
Mr. Lapan wanted noted comment questioning Mr. Montagne about how much tax they pay to the Town as land is leased, taxes, electrical Mr. Bourgeois asked if they have equipment tax. Mr. Montagne said no

Mr. Fournier voted for Pike
Motion passed

C. Additional Business

Mr. Bourgeois is scheduling a meeting with Mr. Tim Smith Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation in the coming week to see if anything he can do with Vermont Precision Tools as well as other property owners in regards to Southern Growth District that the Town would really encourage some commercial development in that area
Mr. Hemenway noted housing development in that area as well
Mr. Hemenway noted housing is taxpayers, community members whom support other things as well.
Mr. Savage also noted houses with children add to cost of schools, needs to be a good mix of housing Mr. Fournier noted stated should come up with a plan

Mr. Bourgeois asked how do you make plan with land don't own? Mr. Fournier states the Planning Commission when coming up with Town plan state none of the property owners are opposed.

Mr. Fournier & Mr. Bourgeois agreed to ask Mr. Tim Smith to take the lead on this with land owners

Mr. Hemenway spoke of being on board for planning events for Abenaki Events
They are planning: Abenaki Pow Wow
Currently doing fund raising, on track to raise 60K for this event
Looking to use park for Pow Wow Memorial Day weekend 2024
Mr. Hemenway state broad New England interest from other states
Mr. Hemenway asks boards thoughts on reserving park for event?
Mr. Savage mention need to get Village Trustees approval as well as Village maintains and takes care of park & Village Police presence
Ms. Draper asked about how would work with Flags installation? Mr. Savage stated flags will be in place they will need to ensure not to interfere with that area

Will bring attention from all over country Mr. Hemenway

Ms. Draper spoke of Rec. Dept planning Corn Fest August 12, 2023 @ Rec. Center will come back with info to the board
(Enosburg does Dairy, St. Albans does Maple)

Mr. White wanted to make note he is happy with present board; they all have their own ideas but can vote as they did today when they don't all agree.
Mr. Fournier stated this is Democracy

Mr. Lapan noted new mower is in, and getting lots compliments on mowing Mr. White had one for the team

Mr. Hemenway question about who was plowing Bachand Road last year, asked if there is an alternative way for the truck to turn around. He was approached about the snow plow turning around on Route. Mr. Lapan will speak with plow driver, a lot of the issues on Route 7 is driver's speeding.

Mr. Bourgeois states he's been viewing Town buildings and asked Mr. Lapan if there is a particular time to visit the Town garage? Mr. Lapan stated usually first thing in morning is best.

Mr. White noted he has not been receiving many complaints regarding Village Police, Ms. Draper seconded this, that was agreed by board good people are happy.

Mr. Savage his office computer is lacking the capacity to do what he needs. Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk has ordered new computer for his desk. Mr. Savage's computer will updated for Christina Candels to use at her desk. Mr. White asked where purchased? Mr. Savage stated direct from "Dell" with Municipal discounts.

Mr. Lapan noted this Saturday is "Big Rig Day" @ Field Days location, we will have truck at this event.

Mr. Hemenway noted the good working relationship between Town & Village.
Board agreed
Ms. Draper noted Rec. Dept appreciates both Village & Town Support.

D. Mr. White made motion to adjourn 12:46 pm, Ms. Draper seconded Motion Passed

E. Public Comment-None

F. Upcoming Events

- a) Tuesday, May 2, 2023 – Regular and Zoom Selectboard Meeting – Town Offices – 6:00 pm
- b) Wednesday May 3, 2023- Special Planning Commission Meeting -Town Offices – 6pm
- c) DRB Meeting Thursday May 25, 2023-Regular Meeting Town Offices 6 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Candels

Administrative Assistant

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk

Date

MOTIONS FOR ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION #1: I move **that we find** that we enter executive session for the Selectboard to receive confidential contract & personnel information for which the premature disclosure of it to the general public would clearly place the Selectboard & others at a substantial disadvantage. Roll Call Vote on Motion.

MOTION #2: I move **that based on our just made findings** that premature disclosure would place the Selectboard & others at a substantial disadvantage, we enter executive session. Roll Call Vote on Motion.