

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Snowdon, Bill McGahie, and Mark Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:38 am by John Snowdon to discuss applying for 2026 Congressional Spending Funding through U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen office to fund the River Road Bridge.
 - In a conference call with John Snowdon; Chris Coates, Cheshire County Administrator; Bill Watson, Administrator, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance and C. R. Willeke, Municipal Highways Engineer, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
 - it was determined that Congressionally Directed Spending would be the best opportunity for the Town to replace red-listed River Road Bridge 089/100.
 - Watson thinks this option will save the Town the most money and allow the money the State has allocated for the bridge to be used elsewhere. The state could then pay the 80% of the 80/20 match needed leaving the Town with \$240,000. See attached spreadsheet
 - Engineer from Hoyle Tanner Associates, Josif Bicja, clarified the bridge weight limited report with - as long as under 3 tons more than one vehicle can be on the bridge at one time. No way to police this and Town insurance is not adequate to handle a potential lawsuit if something were to happen.
 - Idea for a height bar was presented to the selectmen, however in researching this option it was found not to be viable since it could potentially open the Town to more liability since even if posted with correct signage the Town could still be sued for damages. More research and discussion about seasonally opening the bridge or permanently closing at a future meeting.
 - Motion made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry, to apply for Congressional Spending through Shaheen's Office.
2. At 10am Selectmen began a zoom meeting with Davis Bernstein, Director of Executive Services & Communications at Cheshire County. Davis assisted the Selectmen in writing a grant summary for \$5,600,000 to replace the River Road bridge to be submitted by the March 7, 2025 deadline. Town won't know if the grant will be awarded until sometime after August 2025.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

Mark Terry

William McGahie

Conventional Funding	Fed Brg Funds	State Aid Brg	Local Match	TOTAL
PHASE	80% FED	80% State	20%	Funds
Engineering & Right of Way		\$ 640,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 800,000.00
Construction	\$ 3,840,000.00		\$ 960,000.00	\$ 4,800,000.00
Total	\$ 3,840,000.00	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 1,120,000.00	\$ 5,600,000.00

CDS Funding	CDS	State Aid Brg	Local Match	Local Match	TOTAL
PHASE	80% FED	80%	16%	4%	Funds
Initial Design priot to CDS Remaining Engineering & Right of Way		\$ 80,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
	\$ 560,000.00		\$ 112,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 700,000.00
Construction	\$ 3,840,000.00		\$ 768,000.00	\$ 192,000.00	\$ 4,800,000.00
Total	\$ 4,400,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 880,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 5,600,000.00
		State Total->		Local Total->	
		\$ 960,000.00		\$ 240,000.00	