DPW - COMMITTEE

Monday, June 15, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Clayton Barber, Chairperson
Chris Clark, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman Barber called this DPW Meeting to order at 9:30 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Ken Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Steve McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matt Stanley, Davina Thurston, Ike Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Margaret Wood. Timothy Follos was excused.

Department Heads present: Doreen Abrahamsen, Michael Mascarenas and Jim Dougan. Judy Garrison was excused.

Deputies present: Dina Garvey, and Bill Tansey

Also present: Alice Halloran

BARBER: Good morning, I call this DPW to order, June 15, 2026. Please stand for the pledge.
First, we'll have Mr. Dougan.

DOUGAN: Good morning.

BARBER: Good morning, Jim.

DOUGAN: I will go right to resolutions. So, my first two resolutions are regarding Ensign Pond Road. I know we talked at the last DPW meeting that I was going to apply for, or we have applied for the Bid Grant through the Feds. I have decided that there's maybe one thing we can control, even though most of what's there is, the road flooding as a symptom as a bigger disease. But there's roughly a 12' culvert there, right now that I am constantly fighting with the beavers filling that culvert in and that is causing a little bit of a back water. Even though the culvert is in good shape, I want to start the design process to replace it. We've done our own calculations, and we think the new standards is probably going to be at least a 30' structure, long term. It won't necessarily help everything upstream and downstream, but we feel that we can still start that process and it won't affect the Built Grant, should we get it. So, this resolution is a contract amendment with H&T Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed $31,500. This is the preliminary design and permitting only. Perhaps we can have this done moving forward and maybe we can get a Built Grant that will include it and pay for it, but I want to at least get it started and it would come from budgeted funds.

BARBER: A motion from Ms. Thurston, second by Mr. Clark

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER

TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH H&T ENGINEERING SERVICES, PLLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT-TO-EXCEED $31,500, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES INCLUDING PRELIMINARY DESIGN, HYDRAULIC EVALUATION AND PERMITTING FOR THE ENSIGN POND ROAD OVER MILL BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS
Thurston, Clark

BARBER: Questions or concerns?

THURSTON: Jim, what are you doing about the beavers?

DOUGAN: Well, we have somebody that traps every weekend.

THURSTON: Every weekend?

DOUGAN: Yeah, we've had 3-4 different employees that we actually put through the DEC training, and we bought traps and we have somebody that traps on Ensign Pond Road, on County Route 10 and on the Tracey Road and we have those going all the time.

THURSTON: Thank you

DOUGAN: Okay, so we're trapping all the time, but for the most part we're staying inside the right of the way, because we really can't go much further out.

HUGHES: I am not in the Committee, my question is, where's the location of that culvert?

DOUGAN: Right at the pond. It is to the easterly end of the pond.

HUGHES: Okay

DOUGAN: It's actually, if we were to raise the road, we have all discussed some of that…

HUGHES: Yup

DOUGAN: It's actually, this is a spot that you probably wouldn't raise the road. This is to the west of that where the road itself, it seems like raising the road would be an advantage later on.

HUGHES: I have been through there several times and that makes sense to me, thank you.

REUSSER: In which town are you relocating those beavers?

DOUGAN: Elizabethtown (laughter).

HUGHES: Downtown

PIERCE: Just curious, Jim, you said a 30' culvert you're looking at?

DOUGAN: It's probably going to be a 30' bridge once it's 25' it becomes a bridge. Right now, it's a 12' culvert.

PIERCE: 12'?

DOUGAN: Yup

BARBER: Is there any regulations about relocating?

DOUGAN: We have a permit that says we can maintain our right of way, pretty much any means necessary. We're even allowed to harass them. That's the only policy I've got that says I can harass anything, but we can harass the beavers.

BARBER: Because I know there were stipulations about relocating wildlife.

DOUGAN: As long as there is damage to our infrastructure, than we can do it.

CLARK: When I first started in this term, we had a meeting in Ray Brook with DEC and their attorney said, any beavers that were causing us issues could be euthanized, at any time and that was out of his words. Right, Jim, we were all there and we thought that was a little cruel, but that out of his mouth.

BARBER: I didn't know that.

MCNALLY: We have a beaver permit. We shoot beavers all day long down in Minerva.

DOUGAN: We do, as well.

BARBER: Any other questions or concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

DOUGAN: Number two is also for that same location, and this resolution would be authorizing a contract amendment with Atlantic Testing Laboratories so we could do the geotechnical investigation, the subsurface investigation and a geotechnical report so we know what to build the foundation out of.

BARBER: I have a motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Clark.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ATLANTIC TESTING LABORATORIES, IN THE AMOUNT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $10,770.00 TO SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION AND GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE ENSIGN POND ROAD OVER MILL BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT

PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF MORIAH, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS
Pierce, Clark

BARBER: Questions? Concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: Number three is requesting a purchase order in the amount of $64,295.68, that's for the sheet piling for the County Route 18 in St. Armand that that structure that was damaged from FEMA. So, we're buying the sheet piling ourselves, we are very close to having a permit from DEC and then we'll put out the installation of all of that to bid, hopefully in the next few weeks.

BARBER: I have a motion from Ms. Thurston, second by Mr. Wood

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER IN AN AMOUNT OF $64,295.68 ARIF INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION TO SUPPLY AND DELIVER STEEL SHEET PILES FOR THE COUNTY ROUTE 18 OVER A TRIBUTARY TO FRANKLIN FALLS CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/FEMA FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER
Thurston, Wood

BARBER: Questions, concerns on it? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: Number Four; I am hoping to redirect some equipment money that was specially budgeted. So, every year we have been budgeting specifically for certain pieces of equipment at DPW, both Highway and in Solid Waste. This year, in Solid Waste at budget time we had brought to buy a new tractor to haul those walking floor trailers, but we've had a number of issues with the baler that is located in that municipal recycling facility and talking with both Serkil and my supervising mechanic, they thought we'd be fine to keep that tractor in operation for another year or two. So, I would like to move the money to use it towards repairs to that baler and to then also buy a replacement compactor. So, I am still within budgeted funds, it's still for solid waste, but because it wasn't specifically budgeted for these two items, I have to come back to the Board to ask for approval to do that.

BARBER: I have a motion from Mr. Menser and a second by Ms. McGill.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT, SPECIFICALLY; I. REPAIRS TO THE BALER LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPAL RECYCLING FACILITY, II. (1) REPLACEMENT COMPACTOR WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM 2026 BUDGETED FUNDS
Menser, McGill

BARBER: Any question or concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: Number five is regarding some repairs to a rubber tire excavator. The EGR valve, which is exhaust recycle system. Since we've added DEF to all these large pieces of equipment. So, a purchase order in the amount of $11,165.97 to Alta Equipment company to come from budgeted funds.

BARBER: Have a motion by Mr. Piece, second by Mr. Menser.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $11,165.97 TO ALTA EQUIPMENT COMPANY FOR REPAIRS TO A JCB HD110W RUBBER TIRED EXCAVATOR WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER
Pierce, Menser

BARBER: Questions or concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

DOUGAN: Number six, I am requesting a purchase order in the amount of $6,895, that would be to Service Welding Supply. This is a Miller Millermatic mig welder spoongun setup, for welding aluminum. This is something we've talked about a few months ago. We moved a little bit of money that was leftover from last year for equipment and this is going to allow us to start making some aluminum repairs to those walking floor trailers ourselves.

BARBER: I have a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Preston.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASING ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,895 TO SERVICE WELDING SUPPLY FOR A MILLER MILLERMATIC 252 MIG WELDER SPOOLGUN ALUMINUM PACKAGE WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER
Clark, Preston

BARBER: Questions? Concerns?

MENSER: Do you have individuals that are certified to weld aluminum?

DOUGAN: Yes, we do. Thanks to Mr. Clark for helping me to specify the equipment.

BARBER: Any other questions? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

DOUGAN: It's not a resolution, but I would like to make the Board aware. I have proposals coming in at the very end of this month for the concrete sidewalks and grading that go behind the former Probation Building that we talked about and assuming those proposals are acceptable I would like to bring that to either Ways or Means or Full Board, so I would like to give you a head's up if I am ever going to have something like that come to you out of this meeting. It's not a resolution, right now, I just am trying to make you aware of

it.

BARBER: Anything else?

MASCARENAS: Jim, you got a report on here, gasoline, diesel, asphalt pricing updates?

DOUGAN: Yup

MASCARENAS: In terms of overall budget, I am guessing you probably have an idea of where you're at. We certainly didn't plan for gas prices to be out of control in 2026 and maybe it's something that you even want to look at in your own town and be aware of in terms of your budgets and where are we at in terms of percentage used?

DOUGAN: Percentage for gas and diesel and I keep them; they're under one line item within the budget. So, we right now are around 45% of the way through the year as far as number of days, but I am around 63% through my budget for the year. Good news is both gas and diesel have gone down a little bit from how high they were in May, but am I still concerned? Yeah. Asphalt, however, is still going up. Asphalt, if I am topping a road, it's about $14,000 more per mile than it was when we first got our bids. We did factor in around $4/ton, so we bid it early enough in the year and we know that the prices go up a little bit, so we did factor in a little bit, just not this much. So, I haven't told my General Foreman to stop anything, yet, but to be cognizant that we may have to put the brakes on, possibly up to miles of road this year to stay within our budget.

THURSTON: Jim, who does sidewalks that are on bridges? Is that County or is that Town?

DOUGAN: If it's on a town road it should be the towns. We usually pay for it the first time when we do a bridge, but after that the maintenance of it would be the towns, if it's on a town road. If it's on a county road, than it's the County's.

THURSTON: What if it's on Route 3?

DOUGAN: If it is on Route 3, it would be DOT.

THURSTON: DOT, would be responsible?

DOUGAN: Yup

THURSTON: Thank you.

REUSSER: Would you anticipate that asphalt prices would return to normal levels once petroleum products…

DOUGAN: If petroleum products are going down then the asphalt prices should go down, as well. There's, I would say there's usually a lag, because of the refinement that is done,

which is a little bit of what we're seeing right now. But asphalt prices typically go up every year at the beginning of the year, and they stay pretty high through July, 1st of August and then they start dropping in the later months. I think that's a little bit about supply and demand, too. DOT, quite often finishes up a lot of their asphalt by the end August, because they've got very strict temperature requirements of when they place it. So, as that demand goes down, there's a little more supply and it allows the price to change a little bit in our favor.

BARBER: Is there any other questions for Jim?

DOUGAN: The plan for next month will be halfway through the year and to get you an update on, also, electric, all these consumables, because we see a lot of those that are, I've spent more than 50% already. So, give you an update on all of that.

BARBER: Anybody else have anything for Jim?

DOUGAN: That's all I have.

BARBER: Thank you, Jim.

DOUGAN: Thank you

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The next item on the agenda was the Soil and Water Conservation District with Alice Halloran, reporting as follows:

HALLORAN: Good morning, hello, so my report pretty much summarizes everything. I just want to highlight that we did get to, again, send another school to the State Envirothon. It's a great experience for our small town kids to get there and go to a college and see what's going on outside of Essex County.
And we got some buffer plantings in this month and a bunch of hydroseeding. Our no trill drill and post pounder have probably the busiest they have ever been, this year and our open house. That was the big thing that I was supposed to mention. We're doing an open house for the new building on Thursday, June 25th, 3:00-6:00 but stop by anytime if you want to check out the building, especially if you can't make that date and time.
And I think that's it, any questions?

BARBER: Questions?

THURSTON: I just want to say, thank you very much for the hydroseeding that you did in St. Armand. We had a couple of hydrant failures, value failures this winter and it did damage some lawns of our residents, and a crew came up from Soil and Water and did some hydroseeding there and it looks great, thank you very much.

HALLORAN: Great, I will pass it on.

HUGHES: Good morning, Alice. I'm not on the committee, but I have a question that may pertain to my colleagues here, as well as myself in Essex. The Fire Chief asked me about a standpipe that exists at our Park which allows them to connect a pumper and fill water, directly from Lake Champlain or body of water into the pumper and then they can do what they half to do. He seemed to believe that that standpipe was put in with a grant by Soil and Water, many, many, many years ago and they're concerned now that that standpipe, that infrastructure may need some repair, there maybe a crack in it and he asked me if I thought that was a town responsibility, to which I said, probably not a town responsibility, but either, maybe through Soil and Water or maybe through the department, itself. It's like one of those things where Soil and Water set it up but then it's maintained in perpetuity by the department or the district. I didn't know, I just wanted to bring it up because I didn't know if anyone else has had that situation and I didn't know if maybe you could, knew anything about it. I don't need an answer today, but I just wanted to put it on your brain as something that came up in my world.

HALLORAN: So, my understanding is that there was a grant to get the supplies through the district, previously. I think the towns did the installation and maintenance. I don't know how specifically it was for each town. I know we assisted the Town of Lewis a few years ago and I know the Town Highway Department installed it and are maintaining it, but we did provide some of the leftover materials for them to do that.

HUGHES: Great, thank you.

HALLORAN: You're welcome.

BARBER: It's a good try though (laughter).
Are there any other questions for Alice?

HALLORAN: Alright, have a good day.

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The next item on the agenda was the Transportation Department with Doreen Abrahamsen, reporting as follows:

ABRAHAMSEN: Good morning, everyone. Not much to report today, but I do have one resolution and that is to increase the expenses and appropriations in the amount of $2,104.82 to accept insurance payment and complete repairs on one of our buses that was involved in a minor incident.

BARBER: Okay, I have a motion by Ms. Thurston and second by Mr. Clark.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,104.82 - INSURANCE RECOVERY BUS #38

Thurston, Clark

BARBER: Questions or concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.
Anything else?

ABRAHAMSEN: Any questions?

BARBER: Anybody have any questions for Doreen? Okay, you're excuse, have a great day.

ABRAHASEN: Thank you

BARBER: Does anybody have anything else to come before this meeting? We are adjourned.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THIS DPW COMMITTEE IT WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy
Clerk of the Board