

**TOWN OF WALES, MA**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**

Office of the Select Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA

**Emergency Meeting of Tuesday, April 13, 2021**  
**Regular Session**

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

"Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Wales Board of Selectmen is being conducted in-person and via remote participation. No inperson attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Wales website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting."

**Members Present (Remote):**

Chairman William Matchett III; Vice Chairman Michael Valanzola; Clerk John Grasso

NOTE: Mr. Grasso left the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

**Others Present:** Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary; Bruce Cadieux, Road Commissioner

Mr. Matchett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **Stafford Holland Road**

Mr. Cadieux discussed the sink holes on Stafford Holland Road. The holes were filled and patched, but two days later, the holes opened again. Today, the department dug up the pipe to understand the scope of the problem. The pipe was seriously rotted and although temporary repairs were made again, Mr. Cadieux didn't think it would hold for long. The cost of the pipe alone is \$6,000 (dimensions: 6.5" x 50" tall and 37'-40' long). The town's machinery is not heavy enough to handle this project and therefore would require hiring an outside contractor at an additional cost. Mr. Cadieux noted that filing Chapter 90 paperwork would take about 2 months prior to being able to complete the work (3-4 weeks for approval and a few weeks to hire a contractor). He expressed his concern that if not tackled sooner, the town may need to close the road. The estimated total project cost would be between \$12,000-\$13,000. He noted the highway budget could probably cover the cost of the project's fill and patching, but he did not have funds to cover the cost of the pipe nor the contractor expense.

Mr. Cadieux indicated he will obtain an emergency permit from the Conservation Commission, but this work is considered maintenance and he will employ standard run-off abatement practices.

**Cost Savings Options:**

- Mr. Matchett asked if neighboring towns might have machinery large enough to handle the weight of the pipe. Mr. Cadieux indicated the Town of Holland did own larger machinery and he would ask if they could help. It was noted that if the road had to be closed, it would also impact Holland residents and Mr. Cadieux added that closing the road would also impact fire and safety for residents of both towns. If Holland can assist with this project, the remaining cost is the pipe (\$6,000).
- Mr. Valanzola suggested waiting to fill the job opening made by a recent resignation until the next fiscal year, July 1<sup>st</sup> and apply those savings to this project. Mr. Cadieux agreed to postponing filling the position and indicated the payroll savings are approximately \$10K.

Actions Steps:

- Mr. Cadieux check with the Town of Holland.
- Conservation is meeting on 4/14/21 if any emergency permit is needed.
- Ms. Leduc to calculate the exact payroll savings (resignation date – June 30<sup>th</sup>) to see what balance would be needed for the project.
- Order Pipe. Wait time for pipe: 2 weeks from ordering
- Notify Police Department so they can also patrol the road.
- Provide emergency authority to Highway and Police Departments to close the road if needed.

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to allow the Highway Department to move forward to repair the culvert on Holland Stafford Road as discussed, with funding mechanism(s) to be finalized at a later date.

VOTE: All in Favor

Other Business

The Board asked Ms. Leduc to investigate the cost of using the ZOOM meeting platform.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via GoToMeeting video

NOTE: This meeting was broadcast live on Wales Cable Access Channel 192

GoToMeeting Video and Phone Conferencing information was provided on the Wales Selectmen's webpage.

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