

**TOWN OF STONINGTON**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Virtual Meeting Streaming Live on the Town of Stonington's Facebook Page**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021**  
**4:00 PM**

The Stonington Board of Finance held a virtual meeting on this date. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook live and was available via audio on a conference line.

Chairman Tim O'Brien, Mr. Glen Frishman, Mr. Michael Fauerbach, Ms. Lynn Young, Ms. Deb Norman, and Mr. David Motherway were in attendance. Mr. Bob Statchen was absent. Finance Director Jim Sullivan was present. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Comments from the Public: Chairman O'Brien instructed any public viewing the meeting via WebEx how to be noticed if they wish to comment. No comments from the public were heard.

New Business:

Bid Waiver Request:

Bid Waiver Request from Town Engineer, Chris Greenlaw, to approve contractor for repairs to the Lantern Hill Road Bridge.

Mr. Greenlaw, with Public Works Director Barbara McKrell in attendance, addressed the board with the recent changes that transpired since the last meeting. The DPW originally requested a bid waiver for the Lantern Hill bridge structural interim repairs. An additional bid quote has resulted in a request for review and acceptance of a new apparent low bidder. The DPW notified and met with the Town of Ledyard to inform them of the bid.

The Lantern Hill bridge project had received quotes and a bid waiver for structural interim repairs for \$160,830 at the last Board of Finance meeting. The total cost required Stonington and Ledyard to request approvals from their respective financial commissions or counsel for a stipulation in the MOU.

Pursuant to a discussion with Ledyard, both Town's recognize that given the small window of construction opportunity in June, coupled by the potential weather events, the consultant was asked to reevaluate the scour condition of the bridge. On May 11, 2021 a field inspection was performed and it was reported that there was not a significant increase in scour depth. Therefore, WMC Consulting Engineers revised the recommended timeline of the closure of the bridge to August 2021. The Towns recommended issuing an additional request for quote to another competent bridge contractor, Machnik Bros, given the extended timeline. Machnik Bros Inc. responded with a quote for \$98,498.75 and the intended construction timeline would be the month of August. The DPW anticipates the work will take two to three weeks dependent upon the weather.

The Towns also requested that WMC Consulting Engineers renegotiate with the other bidders, in light of the extended timeframe and lower water levels anticipated in July and August. Two of the bidders, Dayton Construction and New England Infrastructure, responded with minimal reductions. The revised bids were \$150,000 and \$140,000 respectfully.

Mr. Greenlaw upon the behalf of the DPW, recommended awarding the bid waiver to Machnik Bros in the amount of \$98,490.75. Mr. Greenlaw acknowledged that Machnik Bros is a competent local company from Old Lyme, available in August to commence the work and has previously worked with WMC on a drainage related project as recent as 2019 and 2020.

Ms. Young motioned to approve the bid waiver request to approve the contractor, Machnik Bros, for repairs to the Lantern Hill bridge in the amount of \$98,498.75. Ms. Norman seconded.

Mr. Fauerbach asked Mr. Greenlaw for a bit of clarity on the line item numbers provided by Machnik that were very low as compared to the other bidders and how the company was able to provide the work at such a low cost. Mr. Greenlaw stated he had asked those questions himself and the consultant confirmed that the mobilization costs provided by Machnik were much lower than the other companies as advantageously they would have no other commitments during that time, whereas the other companies would have to break away from other contracts. As for the lower estimate for water handling, Machnik feels that July and August are usually drier months and their costs reflect this.


All members were in favor of the bid waiver. Motion carried.

Chairman O'Brien inquired to Finance Director Jim Sullivan how the funding would be handled since the Board had previously approved the bid waiver and allocated funding. Director Sullivan stated the funding would remain in the account until the project is complete then allocate it back to the project from which it came or allocate it to a new project.

With no further business, Mr. Frishman motioned to adjourn, Mr. Motherway seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jill A Senior

Recording Secretary Board of Finance