

Special meeting of the Town of Chester Town Board was held at 5:30 pm at the Town of Chester Municipal Center, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY, 12817, on **December 21, 2015**. Purpose of the meeting was to revisit the bid on the Timber project.

Supervisor Monroe explained that Finch Paper had sent out the timber bids, and the way they bid it out specified that the Town had the right to reject any or all bids. Under General Municipal Law, we can reject just one bid if it doesn't meet the specifications. The Attorney for the Town was concerned at the reason given for choosing the lower bid, due to the lower bidder using a local contractor. Mr. Damon Hartman from Prentiss & Carlisle had emailed Mr. Monroe, and questioned how anyone knew there was a local subcontractor involved, and stated that his company had local involvement also.

Mr. Monroe felt that the best thing to do was to hold another meeting and have all the principals involved attend. Len Cronin, Regional Manager with Finch Forest Management was in attendance, having completed an evaluation on each company involved. Damon Hartman from Prentiss & Carlisle was in attendance, as well as Brooks Weathers from Durgin & Crowell, and several local loggers. Mr. Monroe wanted all involved to say what they wanted to say, and make sure that everyone is satisfied with the process.

The pros and cons of each operation were discussed, with Prentiss & Carlisle being a mechanized operation, and Durgin & Crowell a conventional operation. The written analysis was passed out to the board and the audience to review.

Damon Hartman (Prentiss & Carlisle) was the first to speak, stating that they have 12 employees in the State of New York and two offices, one in Tupper Lake and one in Queensbury. They also manage and market the wood out of the Log Yard here in Chestertown opposite the Peckham plant. Their business is basically Forrest Management, appraisals and valuations, product marketing, and woodlot services. Their proposed timber harvest operation would consist of a mechanized operation: Feller Buncher, Grapple Skidder, Loader/Slasher/De-limber, and a Chipper.

Touting the advantages of a mechanized operation, they stressed that trees will be de-limbed at the landing area, and not in the woods. The de-limbing debris will be chipped on the landing, and there will be little residual debris across the harvest area, thus having good utilization of forest products. Short term aesthetics and access are good, there will be good productivity with little time onsite, and a Bulldozer & Excavator will be available to clean up the site.

The disadvantages would be that it is a large operation, thus having a heavier foot print. There will be more residual damage due to equipment size, leaving wider main and secondary skid trails. The landing area will be busier with whole tree processing, an increase in truck traffic due to production levels, and an increase in noise activity due to the slasher and chipper. (The bid requires chipping to be done and removed off site). Mr. Hartman explained that they have worked in recreation areas before and have always left the trails in good shape.

Forester Brooks Weathers represented Durgin & Crowell, based out of New London, New Hampshire, with 100 employees. Their business is a White Pine Sawmill, and woodlot services.

They propose a conventional operation with Cable Skidder, and Chain Saw felling and bucking.

Advantages are that as a smaller operation, they would leave a lighter footprint, with less residual damage due to equipment size. They would also leave smaller main skid trails and secondary trails with less residual damage due to limbing in the woods. They would have a smaller landing area due to chainsaw bucking, and less landing activity, truck traffic and noise.

The disadvantages would be that limbing would be done in the woods, resulting in a lot of residual debris throughout the harvest area. The landing area will have a considerable amount of debris as a result of chainsaw bucking, and the landing clean up with a cable machine is limited. Additionally, the length of time onsite will be longer due to lower productivity. Prentiss & Carlisle will have two decent size crews working, and will leave the main trails clean, but the secondary trails not so much.

Mrs. DuRose asked whether any bidders had done any local jobs. Twenty bids had been sent out, and two had responded. The answer was no.

Mrs. DuRose asked whether, when the job was completed, a Finch forester would be checking to be sure the job was done according to specifications. Mr. Cronin stated yes, and each job would require a \$4,000 performance bond, which would be refunded at the completion of the project.

Mrs. DuRose then asked whether there would be any local truckers, and both companies replied no.

Mrs. Wells asked Mr. Cronin whether the chipping would leave a cleaner job, to which she received an affirmative reply.

Comments were received from the public, with John Little stating that the job should be rebid per the specifications, Jim Peck feeling that the job should have gone to the highest bidder, and Brent Bullock inquiring about any improprieties. Ward Mann with Allard Lumber was also in attendance, along with Marty Cooper, a private local logger.

Supervisor Monroe stated that the Board could do one of three things. They could reject all bids, and rebid the job, or, they could rescind the original award to Durgin & Crowell and award the job to Prentiss & Carlisle, or, they could do nothing, and leave it as is.

RESOLUTION #190: RESCIND RESOLUTION #177 OF DECEMBER 8TH, 2015 TO ACCEPT BID FROM DURGIN & CROWELL FOR TIMBER HARVESTING, AND AWARD BID TO PRENTISS & CARLISLE.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, rescind Resolution #177 of December 8th, 2015 to accept bid for Timber Harvesting from Durgin & Crowell, and award the bid to Prentiss & Carlisle.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mr. Durkish ~ YES
Mrs. Wells ~ YES
Mr. Packer ~ YES

Mr. Monroe ~ YES

Mrs. DuRose ~ NO

Walking Club.

Mindy Conway, through the Youth Commission, had talked to Bernie McCann at the School about opening an adult winter walking club in the evenings in the school. This would take place on certain nights when there were no activities going on and janitors would be present in the building. There would be a sign in sheet, walkers would be asked to change into clean shoes, and the route would be mapped out with arrows. Mr. McCann took it before the School Board, and they requested a Contract be signed, and payment made in consideration of \$1.00. The program will be under the direction and supervision of the Town's Recreation Department.

RESOLUTION #191: APPROVE SIGNING OF LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH NWCS FOR A WINTER WALKING PROGRAM.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, approve signing of license agreement with NWCS for a winter walking program, subject to Attorney for the Town approving wording of the Contract.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #192: ACCEPT MINUTES OF 11/5, 11/10, AND 12/8.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, accept Minutes of the 11/5, 11/10 and 12/8 meetings, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #193: AUTHORIZE APPOINTING CRAIG LEGGETT AS VOTING DELEGATE TO THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, authorize appointing Craig Leggett as voting delegate to the Association of Towns.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #194: ACCEPT AMENDMENTS TO 2015 BUDGET.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Monroe, accept amendments to 2015 budget.

AYE 5 NO 0

On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, Board went into Executive Session at 6:40 pm to discuss a portion of the CSEA contract.

On a motion by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, Board out of Executive Session at 6:54 pm. No action taken.

RESOLUTION #195: AUTHORIZE BOARD TO NOT OFFER THE HCRA TO ANY RETIREES FROM 2016-2018.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize Board to not offer the HCRA to any retirees from 2016-2018.

AYE 5 NO 0

On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk