

MINUTES

State of Minnesota

County of Chisago

Town of Franconia

The Franconia Town Board held a Public Information Meeting to discuss the Franconia Bridge Replacement on January 5, 2015, at the Franconia Town Hall with the following present:

Supervisors: Jim Birkholz, Kevin Rochel and Dennis Gustafson; Missy Glenna, Clerk; and Ryan Goodman, Township Engineer. Guests: Ron Elfstrom, Arthur Erkman, John Prest, Gayle Prest, Paulette Pueringer, Suzi Johnson, Joe Johnson, Wade Vitalis, Dale Germain, Mark Forsberg, and Curtis West.

Jim motioned to open the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Jim turned the meeting over to Ryan Goodman, Township Engineer.

Ryan gave background information regarding the Franconia Bridge. The Franconia Bridge L0164 was originally constructed in 1920 and then reconstructed in 1963. In November of 2012, Chisago County inspected the bridge finding that the bridge needed to be repaired/replaced. Quotes were obtained by Franconia Township to complete the repair work in October of 2013. The quotes ranged from \$60,000-\$80,000. Low quotes didn't include all work necessary to be repaired. Additionally, most of the repair work is considered specialty work. The repair work is 100% of the responsibility of the Township.

Ryan went over in detail all the repair items needed on Franconia Bridge. Items included were:

- Repair tuck-point and masonry abutments
- Realign and repair channel
- Add rip rap to protect abutments
- East abutment wing wall undermined
- Channel flow against West abutment causing scour
- Re-grade approaches and remove gravel from deck
- Repaint steel girders
- Railing over bridge inadequate

Ryan stated that the next steps are for Franconia Township to work with Chisago County to obtain State Bridge Funds for project financing. The Township responsibility for using State Bridge funds are:

- To pay the first \$10,000 in engineering costs
- To pay the first \$10,000 in construction costs

Ryan explained several design options were considered. Ryan distributed the current bridge plans and alternative bridge options. He also expressed access to homes was critical during this process.

Ryan also explained that because Lawrence Creek is a trout stream, he has also been in close contact with the DNR to obtain all necessary permits which he is currently waiting for.

After Ryan's presentation, Jim gave the citizens in attendance time for any questions or comments. After much discussion, there were several areas of concern that were addressed.

1. Width of Bridge (20 feet)
2. Access to homes during construction
3. Timing of when the Bridge work would be done (i.e. Not on July 4, big events)
4. Fire department access
5. Proper signage when Bridge will be closed
6. Bridge level with road
7. Aesthetics (i.e. stone and railing)
8. A pre-construction meeting

Ron Elfstrom, Shafer/Franconia Fire Chief, articulated concern over fire safety for homes during construction. He said it may be possible to rent a fire truck and keep it stationed at one of the homes in Franconia during construction.

Dennis motioned to authorize the Bridge to a narrower design to 20 feet. Kevin seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Jim amended the motion to include authorizing appropriate investigation needed to make the Bridge narrower; motion carried 3-0.

Dennis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Kevin seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa (Missy) Glenna

Franconia Township Clerk

Jim Birkholz

Franconia Township Chair