

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2024

8:45 A.M.

Special Meeting

Attendees:	George Haynes	Joe Cetta
	John Kosier	Bill Layton
	Jerry Vernold	Tina Molé
	Jim Thomas	Jared Boice
	Lisa Henderson	Blaise Bojo
	Elizabeth DeFalco	

GENERAL

• Equipment Authorization

- JT, One of the Bridge Crew's rebar cutters died. This is something we use all the time. We need to replace it. \$2,244.
- Committee approved.

• Authorization to Fill Vacancy

- JT, One of our Foreman is out for a while, he has a recurrence of an old injury. This is to temporarily fill the position while he is out.
- Committee approved.

BRIDGES

• Hancock bridges

- JT, I'll start with a review of our thoughts on both bridges and then we can go from there. (copy of review is attached).
- JT, I'll start with BR 163 in Lordville. Our plan is to close this, rebuild it and open it back up. there will be no temporary or staged construction. There is no summer school bus there and the physical constraints are significant. I have been trying to figure this out, the bridge was replaced between 1984 and 1987. The bridge over the Equinox was closed in 1984, tore down in 1986 and not rebuilt until 1991/92. So I'm not sure how people were getting into Lordville. Were they using Bouchoux Brook in some way? I don't know. But I can show you why the 21st Century Bridge Program started, these bridges were in bad shape. So our plan is to get in there, get it fixed and get out as quickly as possible.
- JV, Why can't you put a temporary in there?
- JB, There is no room. This is basically a one lane road. We would have the road closed longer getting the temporary in than doing what we are doing.
- JT, It's just not a feasible option.
- JC, While this is out is there a way around?
- JB, They have to go through Pennsylvania.
- BB, I'm not as concerned about Lordville, that's only about 10 minutes to get around and we have Equinox right there for fire protection.
- JV, I had to ask the question because those people aren't happy.
- JB, If the State comes in and flag that and closes it, it's going to be closed for much longer.

- BB, My main concern is getting resources in there if something does happen. The road on the Pennsylvania side is not in great shape. If there's a problem at Jensen Ledges my concern is getting State resources there if they have to go through Pennsylvania. It's a busy place in the summer.
- JV, Maybe with road closed it won't be so busy.
- JT, Someone asked why we aren't just replacing the fascia beams, so to do that, it's a concrete deck, so you would have to saw the deck, then you would have seam and that's never good. Plus the bridge is 17½ feet wide, our excavator is 11 feet one inch wide, you add a barrel or jersey barrier, that's at least two more feet, that leaves about four and a half feet, you can't put traffic through there.
- JB, It's between a rock and a hard place and there's no good way to do other than just go in and get it done as quickly as possible.
- Are there school busses that run down there?
- JB, Yes, but not in the summer.
- GH, That's why we plan on summer work, so we don't interrupt the school.
- JT, That's one of the general things we ask. I did talk to the post office as well and they are fine with it. They know they have to go around but they have to deliver the mail so they will find a way. I tried to talk to FedEx and UPS but couldn't get anyone.
- JV, Well the one lady was worried about getting her medication.
- JT, And that has to come from the USPS. According to the Hancock Postmaster anything medical has to come through them because they have to deliver and the others don't.
- JT, I'm still waiting to hear back from the school, I have left a couple messages.
- We all appreciate that it is an inconvenience but it is temporary.

- JT, So bridge 67-21, we are replacing the deck here. The deck is leaking and it's not going to get better by itself. We spent approximately \$370,000 last year on this bridge and we need to protect that. If we don't do something it will need major repairs.
- JT, So the current plan is to get things staged July 8-12, we will have one lane open with traffic lights. On July 15th we will close the bridge after the bus goes through and start ripping off the deck and build back what we can between Monday and Tuesday, we will open it back up sometime Tuesday afternoon as soon as we can. From there it will be open at night or when workers are not present with one lane controlled by traffic lights, during the day while we are working it will be closed, we will be able to get emergency vehicles though if necessary. Once work is completed, August 12/13, we will again have to close the bridge completely from when the bus goes through to the following afternoon to complete what can't be done under the possibility of traffic. Once that is done the bridge will be back open to one lane, signal controlled traffic until paving is completed.
- BB, so we are going to be able to put a 60,000 pound truck over that?
- JB, That's what we are working out. Because of the skew of the bridge, that's why we have to close it for the two days, I need to rip off 20 feet of the bridge to build back to the end. It's not as simple as if it were a straight shot. We have to be able to set the panel and then the rest is individual timbers that each need to be cut to the specific.
- BB, I'm just concerned about those two days, if something happens we are in trouble, I have to be able to tell those people they have coverage and I can't do that. It adds a good 30-35 minutes. Even with Trout Creek on mutual aid. I have no secure place to put a truck over there, I need to be able to get there 24/7 during this project. I can't stand for anything less. You need to put a temporary in. I know it's going to cost money but it needs to happen.

- JB, We can't do that. We have no landowner permission, we don't own a temporary long enough to span that. If we have to put a temporary in, this goes from in house to a contract job.
- JT, When the bridge was constructed it was done under contract, that's a 90 foot temporary structure we don't have anything like that. So a \$200,000 project now becomes a \$500,000 project at a minimum.
- JB, NYSEG has power lines that will have to be moved.
- TM, For two days?
- JT, a day and half at the beginning and the end.
- GH, And these guys will get it done as quickly as possible.
- BB, There's about 250-300 people up there in the summer. There's the airport, two summer camps, if there's a water rescue on the reservoir, that's where its going to launch from. I just hope you understand my position.
- JB, We do, that's why we are here, and that's why we are minimizing this as much as possible.
- JC, What's the frequency of calls?
- BB, Two or three a month. There's a lot of smells and bells at the camps. I don't know what the EMS calls are.
- JC, So if there was an adequate place to store a piece of equipment, what would you put over there?
- BB, I'd put an engine. But we still need to get the people to it. Which we could probably figure out. But we need somewhere secure I can't just sit a million dollar fire truck anywhere.
- JC, How far is the bridge from the airport?
- BB, About 7 miles.
- JB, Sam Rowe did offer that you could stage at his place.
- BB, We need someplace that has electric so we can plug it in and air hook up.
- BL, There are no fire department members on Sands Creek?
- BB, No, they are all on the other side of the closure just out of the village.
- JC, You don't need air..
- BB, No, we could do without that if we had to, it adds a minute or two.
- JV, I bet if you talked to Frank Possemato would let you put a truck there. He's usually very cooperative.
- BB, I could talk to him about that.
- JB, Someone said something to me about a road through the quarry? I am not familiar with the area.
- BB, I'm not sure I'd even take an ATV there.
- JK, Has any one worked with the camps to see if they would shut down for those days?
- BB, I'm sure they are already booked for the entire summer. They book over a year in advance.
- JT, I did try to talk to Steve Hood about getting EMS coverage. He was pretty evasive, he said Walton and Hancock have paid services so he didn't think it was appropriate that a County ambulance be staged just in case.
- JC, Could you get electric at the construction site and park the truck with all the construction equipment? How often to we experience vandalism on these sites?
- JT, We could probably have a generator or light plant.
- JB, We could do that. And we generally don't have an issue but with the storm we've stirred up with this? And nobody probably wants to listen to that all night.
- BB, And there is a lot of houses right in the area.
- JV, But it would only really be for 4 days right?
- JC, Two and a half really.

- JB, And it may not take that long. It all depends on how the deck comes off. And you don't know that until you start. Some of them come right off and others do not. The more people that get in the way the longer it takes. Sometimes they are welded down the edge of the beam and some of them are only stud welded down the middle. Some times they pop right off and other times we have to get the torches out and it's a lot of work.
- JV, So Blaise are you ok with this plan if you can get a truck over there for those two periods?
- BB, Yes. Let me talk to Frank. He is still a member so we can have him run a truck until we get there. And we'll be able to get people over that during those times?
- JB, Yes.
- JT, And we will work in sections going forward.
- JB, Exactly. And it will be open once we leave for the day. That will vary given on where we are each day. There will be days we are gone at 2:30 and days we might be there until 6. It just depends on where we are. If there's an emergency someone just needs to let us know you're coming and we'll get you through. We just need to emphasize that it is for emergencies, not the general public.
- BB, I really appreciate your listening to me and coming up with a plan we can all work with.
- JB, That was our plan to begin with. The advance signs just caused a lot more issues than we thought. It didn't come across as we planned it would.
- BB, Well I appreciate it.
- JB, We'll be in touch to make sure everything is good as we move forward.
- BB, Thank you.
- JT, So are we good with this plan?
- JC, I think that went well. You need to work out the fine details but I think this was good and helpful.
- JV, And I have something to tell them. I'm sure the people in Lordville aren't going to be happy, they were the most vocal.
- JT, This is the best we can do. I think it's a good solution.



Hancock Fire Department

24501 State Highway 97, Hancock NY 13783

www.hancockfiredept.us
www.facebook.com/hfd17

Protecting Our Communities in New York State and Pennsylvania since 1888

Blaise Bojo

Fire Chief

Brad Esolen

1st Assistant Chief

Chris Geer Sr.

2nd Assistant Chief

Rolland Bojo Jr.

3rd Assistant Chief

Captains:

5-Greg Gill

6-Frank Stanton

7-Cullen Bojo

Lieutenants:

9-George Barnes

14-Sarah Sherburne

15-Gerald Leonard

16-Chris Reynolds

17-Alan Tiffany

18-Nick Hazen Jr.

May 21st, 2024

Delaware County Board of Supervisors
Public Works Committee
111 Main Street, Delhi NY 13753

Honorable Supervisors,

It has come to my attention that Delaware County Highway 67 and Lordville Road in the Town of Hancock will be closed for bridge repairs this summer. The Hancock Fire Department was not officially notified of this until we heard about it around town and asked the County Office of Emergency Services about it.

Today I spoke with Lisa at the County DPW office in Delhi via telephone. To my knowledge, Delaware County has no plan in place for our fire apparatus and ambulances to get to the other side of the road closure in both areas. Hundreds of citizens will be left without immediate fire and medical response in the areas past the bridge closures. This is unacceptable and we must do better to ensure adequate emergency response to the affected areas of the Town of Hancock and Town of Tompkins. I urge the Delaware County DPW to either put in a temporary bridge at these locations or allow one way emergency vehicle traffic over the bridges during repair.

Again I will emphasize, we must do what is right to ensure public safety. I look forward to your response and consideration.

Yours in Service,

B.P. BOJO

Blaise P Bojo, EMT, FO1, PDEM
Fire Chief
Hancock Fire Department