

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING IN RE:
TWIN BRIDGES
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
MAY 9, 2012 @ 6:30 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilman Robert Seager
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski
Councilman William Karn
Supervisor William Hasenauer
Deputy Supervisor John Isley
Town Attorney William Riley
Highway Superintendent William Gardner

MEMBERS ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor William Hasenauer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hasenauer announced that the Woodgate Post Office will remain open, with reduced hours. He thanked the Woodgate post office committee for their hard work and time. Special thanks to Deputy John Isley and Congressman Bill Owens.

OPENING REMARKS:

Supervisor Hasenauer started the meeting off by reminding the gallery that this was an informational meeting to listen and ask questions to the engineers. No voting would take place at this meeting.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BRIDGE OPTIONS:

Councilman William Karn gave a quick overview of the three bridge options. The first one being a two lane state funded project engineered by Spectra. This option would have new abutments and wing walls. Estimated cost is \$1.3-1.6 million. The second option is a single lane bridge keeping the existing abutments

engineered by Zangrilli and Husted. A sidewalk is included in the cost. Estimated cost is \$415,000.00 The third option presented was a single lane bridge keeping the existing abutments. A sidewalk is an option for an additional cost. This option was also engineered by Spectra. Estimated cost is \$581,000.00 Option number one is grant eligible. Both options number 2 and 3 are 100% tax payer funded. Councilman Karn also stated that a one lane bridge is not eligible for state grant money.

GUIDELINES FOR MEETING:

Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski reminded the gallery that no motions will be made at this public informational meeting. She also stated that if any motions will be made it will be at the next Town Board meeting on May 16, 2012. Councilwoman Nancy Kardash also asked that everyone be respectful with their comments and questions.

HISTORY OF BRIDGES:

Town grant writer Jennifer Hartsig showed a History of the Twin Bridges on power point. This presentation included when the bridges were built, when the town took ownership and the importance of the bridges to “Downtown Forestport”. Jennifer also stated the bridges were closed in 2009 due to significant loss of truss members and the town realized it would take a significant amount of money to fix. With funding being a problem, the town looked into applying for state funded grants.

SPECTRA ENGINEERING:

John Seligman said he was hired by the town in 2009 to design a two lane bridge with the hopes of receiving state grant money. His plan met all state and federal guidelines. The bridge would have a 24 foot roadway and 5 foot sidewalk. Recently the town asked him to design a single lane bridge. This bridge would have a 17 foot roadway. John stated the single lane bridge would not meet the guidelines to be state funded. John explained to the public and the town board that the difference in price is whether or not you replace the abutments or repair them.

ZANGRILLI ENGINEERING:

Parker Snead introduced engineers Zangrilli and David Husted. Parker thanked the engineers and the public for their time and support regarding the twin bridges. Parker showed a powerpoint presentation that listed the different options of bridges and also explained why they chose to go with a prestressed bridge.

David Husted started by saying that he thought prestressed bridges are the best option for towns due to cost and long life span. David also said that Forestport

is fortunate to have good bedrock at the location of the bridges. This will help with settlement and stability. He also shared pictures of bridges in different towns that he has worked on with Zangrilli.

Zangrilli opened stating he has done over forty bridges using pre-existing abutments and is confident about his work. He has a plan for a 17 foot wide bridge with a sidewalk. He would put new facing on the existing abutments for reinforcement.

QUESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Councilman Robert Seager asked both engineers if they were going to use existing abutments on their single lane bridge. John from Spectra answered that he would put a concrete slab behind existing abutments and use them for erosion control. Zangrilli said he would repair existing abutments. Councilman Seager also asked if the bridges could accommodate town trucks and logging trucks and what the life expectancy of the bridges would be. Both engineers said yes to accommodating trucks and they both thought the life expectancy to be about 75 years. Zangrilli said the life expectancy will be longer if bridges are maintained and cleaned by town. Councilman Seager inquired as to whether or not the materials to build the bridge would be bought locally. Zangrilli answered that it is up to the contractors, nothing is a guarantee as it is a competitive bid process. Councilman Seager asked if the engineer's plans would be stamped and approved by New York State. John from Spectra said they only needed to be stamped by the engineers, but could be stamped by the state at the town's request.

Councilman William Karn asked the engineers if salvaging the materials of the current bridge would cover the cost of removing the bridge. Both engineers were doubtful. He also asked how the engineers determined the abutments were unusable. John answered for a two lane bridge the existing abutments are not wide enough. For a single lane bridge John stated would feel better about the stability of the bridge by filling behind the existing abutments. Councilman Karn also inquired as to the accuracy of the estimate to the actual cost of the project. John from Spectra said end project will be about 20% more and Zangrilli said 5-10% more. Parker Snead stated that the town could save \$40,000.00 by using the existing abutments. Discussion also took place regarding why the state would only fund a two lane bridge.

Supervisor Hasenauer stated that he talked to the New York State DOT Regional Director and she suggested that we go to bid process and get an actual dollar figure for the project. After that the town would go through enumeration and then find out if we can get a loan for the bridges. Supervisor Hasenauer also said that he is still going to try and get a state grant, so that he doesn't have to raise taxes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Initial comments from the public reflected the importance of the bridges from both personal and historical perspectives, including the ease of travel through the village of Forestport, and the need to preserve the historical component of the village of Forestport.

Supervisor Hasenauer emphasized the time and effort put into repairing the bridges by Jennifer Hartsig and the Town Board over the last several years. He reiterated that no one wants to see the bridges closed, and that the Town is making every effort to secure funding for the rebuilding project.

The consensus of the gallery seemed to be that after three years, the options for state funding have not materialized and perhaps it is time to pursue a taxpayer funded option to exert local control over the project timeline.

Other people inquired as to the status of possible grants at this time. Grant writer Jennifer Hartsig stated that the Town has no grant applications pending currently. Supervisor Hasenauer stated that if a grant became available to the town for the bridge project, the grant would pay for the entirety of the project, 1.6 million dollars. Additionally, he stated that the Town has explored other matching funds options when applying for grants.

The public inquired as to the impact of a two lane bridge as opposed to a one lane bridge, and Supervisor Hasenauer replied that the reasoning behind the two lane bridge option was solely to secure state funding. Approximately 100 cars per day pass over the bridges, and the flow of traffic most likely would not change regardless of the size of the bridge.

Dave Belleview reported that over 200 signatures had been garnered in favor of rebuilding the bridges. He felt that not only village residents use the bridges, but residents from throughout Forestport.

An inquiry was made as to the amount of money spent by the Town in pursuit of grants. Supervisor Hasenauer stated that the Town has spent \$60,000 in engineering fees at this point. He additionally stated that that money was a necessary expense regardless of whether the bridge is funded by the taxpayers or through a grant. The project is "shovel ready" at this point.

Peter Scouten asked if the bridges remained closed for a period of five years if the Town would have to completely rebuild them. Supervisor Hasenauer stated that because the bridges have remained open to foot and snowmobile traffic, that would not be the case. He additionally inquired if the Town would be required to put up a percentage of the money if the Town received a 1.2 million dollar grant. Supervisor Hasenauer stated no. Jennifer Hartsig clarified that the Town applied for a 1.9 million dollar grant but that amount included waterfront revitalization.

A question from the gallery addressed the timeline for rebuilding the bridges in the event that the town received a grant. Supervisor Hasenauer stated that he did not know. The town has been in contact with all available state and federal representatives in the legislature, trying to obtain money for this project, but in the event a grant is obtained there is no way of knowing how long it will take to actually receive the money.

Brad Smith inquired what might happen in terms of traffic flow if the Route 28 bridge was closed. Alternate routes have been discussed with the DOT, as that bridge will be worked on in 2016.

Councilman Robert Seager made a motion for adjournment, and Councilman Karn made a last call for comments prior to adjournment.

Dave Belleview asked what the next part of the process was in terms of getting the project out for bid and referendum. Supervisor Hasenauer stated that one of the bridge options would be selected, designed, and advertised for bid. This portion of the process would take approximately until September. The final piece of the process would be putting the project on the November election ballot to be voted on by the people of Forestport.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Seager and seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Kardash to adjourn the hearing. Roll call vote:

Councilman Robert Seager- yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski - yes
Councilman William Karn – yes
Supervisor William Hasenauer – yes

There being no further comments the hearing was adjourned at 7:44 pm by Supervisor Hasenauer.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley T. Entwistle
Forestport Town Clerk