

Approved

10/12/2015

**September 21, 2015
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Special Meeting**

9:02 a.m. The Town Board of the Town of Taghkanic held a Special Meeting on the above date at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Present:	Erik Tyree	Supervisor
	Joyce Thompson	Board Member
	Linda Swartz	Board Member
	Richard Skoda	Board Member
	Ryan Skoda	Board Member
	Ray Jurkowski	Town Engineer
Also Present:	George Hotaling	Highway Superintendent
	Mike Conn	Highway Crew
	DeWitt Tripp	Highway Crew
Excused:	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

In the absence of the Town Clerk, Minutes were taken by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Highway Project:

DeWitt Tripp, the primary experienced cement worker on the town highway crew who was injured in July, has a doctor's appointment on Wednesday. He might need more surgery on his hand. Ray Jurkowski, Town Engineer, reiterated his statements from last Wednesday's Special Town Board Meeting that even if DeWitt is allowed to return to work, he is limited as to what he can do; supervision only. If he returns to work and then reinjures his hand, it would fall to the Town. Also, returning to work could jeopardize his Disability Claim. DeWitt feels that at this point, in order to get this done, the job should be contracted out.

We will need more manpower and they will need to be experienced in concrete work; 3 to 5 people for form setting and at least 5 men during the pour. Erik asked George if other highway departments can lend us some people. George said that he has asked, but other towns do not have people who know about concrete. The bids received from Harkins and Onge are higher than we would like, but we have not been able to get more bidders. Erik talked with Richard and Ryan and thinks he might know a local contractor who could send a few people to help out. Linda felt that this required that the Town go through the legal process for contracting jobs.

Richard re-stated his offer to pour the footings (himself and his two sons, Josh and Ryan) for \$5,000 and asked how the Town could hire them. Ray suggested that if they are hired to do the work, they should be paid individually as employees of the town, rather than as one check for the agreed amount. Linda expressed concern with the legality of this choice also. Joyce was authorized to check with the Town Attorney.

Erik asked George about how he thinks we should move forward after DeWitt's upcoming doctor appointment. The Town has no policy for limited duty assignment. George expressed opposition to the idea of a "light duty" policy.

Ryan said that if we can get the footings done (by whatever means), it might possibly open the door to other bidders for the walls. However, due to time constraints, we don't have time to ask for new bids for a changed project. Might be able to go back to the two bidders and ask them for a price for the walls only. Mike Conn said that the rebar for the walls won't take much time.

Erik thinks he can have an answer from the contractor he knows by Wednesday.

While Linda is concerned about the legal issues surrounding the hiring process for both the contractor and the Skodas, she recognizes the need to get the work done before winter, and would support either approach if it is deemed legal.

Joyce asked Ray when the current bidders need a response. Ray said the low bidder had stated he wouldn't be able to begin work until next week, but since we haven't notified either of them of acceptance of their bid, it's possible that they have scheduled other work and may not be able to do our work anyway. Ray will contact the bidders.

Erik asked George how this work fits in with the roads schedule and George said that the dirt roads need attention. Clermont can help shim and help with the cover-all. DeWitt does not think it's possible to get the job done this year. Ray said that Clermont worked with Livingston and Germantown on their salt shed and began just before Thanksgiving and had it up in three days. Concrete is the most labor-intensive and time-consuming part of the project.

Joyce: We need to find out what DeWitt can do per his doctor and whether we can get people from contractors (full legal hiring process).

Richard asked George if he could hire for a one-day footing pour as an emergency contract. Ray said he's heard of other towns doing that. Erik said he is confident with that.

Light/Limited Duty: George said he would try to work within DeWitt's abilities if the doctor clears him to return to work, but he at least needs to be able to drive a truck. Does the Town Board need to develop a light duty or limited duty policy? It would extend to all town employees (not just highway).

The Board agreed to meet again on Wednesday September 23 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to make a decision on the concrete. By then, DeWitt will have his doctor's recommendation, Ray will have talked the two bidders about doing the walls only, and Joyce will have contacted Bill Decaire about the legal issues of hiring the Skodas or getting a few men from a local contractor to help out.

With no further business on a motion by Board Member Ryan Skoda and seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m., carried unanimously by all members present.