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**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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**Regular Meeting of
May 24, 2010**

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The Board of Selectmen held a meeting on Monday, May 24, 2010 at Salem Town Hall, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.

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PRESENT: Chairman Michael J. Lyons, Secretary Everett P. McBride, Arthur E. Barnes III, Selectman Patrick Hargreaves and Dr. H. LaBranche (Acting Town Manager)

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ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Elizabeth A. Roth

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CALL TO ORDER

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Chairman Lyons began by calling the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He joined the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the Board and Dr. LaBranche.

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1. Meeting Minutes

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MOTION: by Selectman McBride

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Move to accept the sealed minutes of the Board of Selectmen Non-Public Session on May 3, 2010 as written

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SECOND: Selectman Hargreaves

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VOTE: 4-0-0

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The motion carried unanimously.

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MOTION: by Selectman McBride

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Move to accept the sealed minutes of the Board of Selectmen Non-Public Session at 8:15 p.m. on May 14, 2010 as written

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SECOND: Selectman Hargreaves

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VOTE: 4-0-0

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The motion carried unanimously.

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2. Bluff Street Extension – Road Closure Update

Dr. LaBranche introduced the topic explaining he had received a report from NH DOT stating the bridge should be closed due to the deterioration of its corrugated steel pipes. He reported staff had taken steps to close the bridge and the purpose of the meeting this evening was to review this and discuss how the Board wished to proceed with the repair. Dr. LaBranche referred to Mr. Puff's memo which provided information on chronology and available options for the Board. He also reported staff had provided preliminary cost estimates of each of the options and details of where they might get the resources to pay for the work. He handed over to Mr. Puff for details, stating he was looking for guidance from the Board on how they wished to proceed.

1 Mr. Puff summarized the chronology of events as stated in his memo, reporting that due to
2 its structural integrity problems the bridge was on the town's long term list for repair. He
3 reported he had tried to get the DOT to put the bridge on the Municipal Bridge Program at
4 the same time as Town Farm Road Bridge, but the inspection had been delayed until May
5 due to water levels. He confirmed that the DOT's recommendation has been to barricade
6 and close the bridge as a result of this inspection. He reported that following discussion
7 with Mr. Breen the bridge had been closed last Thursday morning. Mr. Puff reported there
8 are usually around 2,500 vehicles/ day traveling along the road, and the closure will have
9 significant consequences on the project at Widow Harris/Main Street due to detours which
10 were planned for that. He then talked about alternative detours, stating they will need to
11 resolve the traffic control and emergency response issues. He then provided the Board with
12 details of remedial options for the bridge. Mr. Puff informed the Board he had put calls in to
13 the DOT to establish whether they were likely to contribute any resources toward correction
14 of the problem, and explained he had received confirmation verbally to treat the permitting
15 as an amendment to an emergency, meaning they could proceed and can take care of
16 paperwork afterwards. Mr. Puff then provided the estimated budgetary figures for the
17 various remedial options for the bridge and explained the advantages and disadvantages as
18 well as the timeframe required for each. He reported his initial recommendation would be to
19 go with a slip lining. Dr. LaBranche weighed in summarizing and clarifying the important
20 issues the Board needs to consider and deal with.

21
22 ***Discussion:***

23 Responding to a query from Selectman Hargreaves, Mr. Puff estimated the total cost of
24 reconstruction would be around \$700,000. He also confirmed that the design for a
25 permanent fix for Town Farm Road is being done now with work to be done in 2012.

26
27 Responding to a query from Selectman McBride, Mr. Puff stated 'sleeving' would function
28 as a permanent fix, and Selectman McBride stated that would be his preferred option.

29
30 Responding to a query from Selectman McBride regarding where the funding for the bridge
31 would come from, Ms. Savastano, Finance Director, reported she hoped the town would
32 receive approximately \$100,000 for the February 2010 windstorm and this would come back
33 to the road fund. She also clarified for Selectman Barnes that the bids for the Road
34 Maintenance Program have come in lower than anticipated, and therefore all of the roads in
35 the Program can be done without use of the \$100,000 for the wind storm.

36
37 Selectman Hargreaves suggested moving to a hiring freeze within the Town and that they
38 should not move anyone into the Deputy Fire Chief vacancy. He also made several other
39 suggestions for how the Board could find money for the bridge under discussion.

40
41 Dr. LaBranche emphasized for clarification they will not have to sacrifice any of the Road
42 Stabilization project as the bids for work had come in lower than originally estimated, and
43 they may even be able to exceed the mileage of roads they had talked about at Town
44 Meeting.

1 Responding to Chairman Lyons' request for clarification on the timescale for a temporary
2 solution, Mr. Puff explained he would anticipate a bridge design article for 2011 and an
3 article for reconstruction in 2012. He confirmed the temporary fix will last, and stated the
4 time frame would be similar to Cluff Crossing. He stated that at best the design would be
5 done at the turn of the calendar year if they found the money right now. Chairman Lyons
6 commented he thought they would need to consider a 2-way traffic solution because the
7 road would be part of the detour mentioned by Mr. Puff.

8
9 Mr. Breen, Fire Chief, stated that closing off North Main Street would have a tremendous
10 impact on emergency response. He provided an example of the impact in a fire emergency.
11 He also spoke about a recent funding meeting he had attended, providing an update on the
12 money which is expected to be returned to the town in the next thirty days. Selectman
13 McBride weighed in further on his preference with his reasons.

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15 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

16 *Move that the Board of Selectmen does hereby direct staff to move forward with a*
17 *temporary fix for 'sleeving' the culverts on Bluff Street and take all the necessary steps to*
18 *accomplish that*

19 **SECOND:** Selectman Barnes

20 **Discussion:**

21 Speaking on his motion, Selectman McBride explained how the repair it will be paid for,
22 stating this would be a win/win situation for the taxpayers.

23
24 Responding to a query from Selectman Barnes as to where the money will go that the town
25 will receive from the Lawrence Road Bridge, Dr. LaBranche stated it would go back into the
26 General Fund as Unanticipated Revenue. He confirmed authorization at Town Meeting
27 would be necessary to spend that money. He also stressed the need to move forward with a
28 solution as soon as possible and counseled the Board they could discuss the possibility of
29 other budgetary controls at a future meeting.

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31 **VOTE:** 4-0-0

32 **The motion carried unanimously.**

33
34 Responding to a query from Chairman Lyons as to whether they should be designing for all
35 the bridges, Mr. Puff outlined the bridges requiring attention. He stated it would be wise to
36 look at the inventory and project 3 - 4 that need to be dealt with. He talked about structural
37 stability and hydraulic problems of the bridges and pointed out that culverts are an
38 additional issue. He stated there are around 500 of these which are made of corrugated
39 metal and their age will mean problems will continue to occur.

40
41 Chairman Lyons spoke about the need for establishing an emergency fund for use in case of
42 critical infrastructure failure and for getting a list of bridges ready which could be instituted
43 at the next Town Meeting in order to mitigate some of the bridge issues. He directed staff to
44 look into putting these together for the next Town Meeting.

1 Weighing in on Mr. Puff's suggestion, Selectman McBride asked what the shelf life of a
2 design is. Mr. Puff explained wetlands permits are good for five years and therefore the
3 shelf life should be pretty good. Responding to Selectman McBride's query about the effect
4 on the culvert on Millville, Mr. Puff explained hydraulics is a problem and the expected
5 timeframe would be the same as Bluff Street Bridge. He confirmed that Millville is on their
6 radar but not for imminent action.

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8 Mr. Puff clarified that a design is necessary in order to get in the queue for reimbursement,
9 and they also need to have appropriated 20% of the full project cost which is equivalent to
10 the design cost. He further explained the process the town uses.

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12 • **Additions and/or Requests by Public or Board by Vote**

13 Mr. Stephen Campbell, 22 Shepherds Avenue introduced himself. He voiced concern about
14 how the Board has decided to finance the fiber optics project. He pointed out this project is
15 not specific to water and sewer only, stating it was his opinion the DPW portion should
16 come out of the General Fund. He asked the Board to reconsider how they would finance
17 this project.

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19 **11. Selectmen Reports/Correspondence**

20 Selectman Hargreaves announced details of the Memorial Day parade.

21
22 Responding to a query from Selectman McBride about the cost of a drain on Dustan Road,
23 Mr. Puff explained he is having difficulty obtaining the drainage easement and he cannot do
24 more until this has been obtained.

25
26 Speaking on behalf of Selectman Roth in her absence, Selectman Barnes brought up the
27 topic of traffic issues at Bridge Street and Remington as a result of the closure of the
28 Lawrence Road Bridge. He also stated that an increase in speed in the Remington area has
29 been noticed. Dr. LaBranche stated he would look into these issues.

30
31 Dr. LaBranche announced details of a FOX 25 Zip Trip to Salem, confirming Selectman
32 Barnes will represent the Board of Selectmen at this event.

33
34 • **Upcoming Meetings**

- 35 ○ June 7, 2010 – Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
- 36 ○ June 14, 2010 – Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
- 37 ○ June 28, 2010 - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

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39 • **Upcoming Events**

- 40 ○ May 28, 2010 – FOX 25 News Zip Trip, Salem Town Hall
- 41 ○ May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day Parade and Services, 1:00 p.m., Salem High School to
42 Town Common

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44 **ADJOURN**

45 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

46 ***Move to adjourn to a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) - Personnel***

1 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride
2 Chairman Lyons polled the Board:
3 Selectman Hargreaves – yes
4 Selectman McBride – yes
5 Selectman Barnes – yes
6 Chairman Lyons – yes
7 **VOTE:** 4-0-0
8 **The motion carried unanimously.**

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10 There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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12 Notes/minutes taken by: Sandra Maxwell

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14 Approved: Board of Selectmen

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16 Date: June 7, 2010