



**Town of West Newbury
Board of Selectmen**

Thursday, December 27, 2018 @ 1:00pm
381 Main Street, Town Office Building
www.wnewbury.org

AGENDA

Open Session: 1pm in the Town Manager/Selectmen Office

- Update on Middle Street/Plummer Spring Bridge

Executive Session: following the open session in the Town Manager/Selectmen Office

- MGL Chapter 30A §21(a) 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel

Agenda posted on 12/13/18 at the Town Offices and the Town's Official Website www.wnewbury.org



Town of West Newbury

381 Main Street

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

Wayne S. Amaral, Director of Public Works

978-363-1100, Ext. 120

DPWDirector@wnewbury.org

Memorandum

TO: Angus Jennings, Town Manager

FROM: Wayne S. Amaral, Director of Public Works

DATE: December 20, 2018

RE: Middle Street Bridge – Status

Over the past few weeks we have been in constant contact with the City of Newburyport regarding the planning and design of the Middle Street Bridge. These many conversations have been helpful for our town to gain a better understanding of the project; however, these discussions have led us into greater details that must be address before the bridge project design continues any further.

I believe West Newbury has greater interest in opening the bridge to pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic than Newburyport. This bridge is also important to reduce traffic volumes on adjacent streets in our town and offers a safer access point to Newburyport and Newbury by avoiding Route 113.

To get an equal voice at the table with Newburyport, I agree that a MOU between both municipalities will be in the best interest for all parties. This MOU should identify, but not limited to;

1. Cost share commitments. (In kind work should not be included in this cost)
2. Assign responsibilities to each municipality
3. Give guidance to a basic design concepts with agreed upon maximum construction cost.
4. Support seeking additional grant funds that will be equally credited by both West Newbury and Newburyport.
5. Outline a time table for design and build

As mentioned above, I strongly recommend we commit soon to a 50/50 cost share. This will give us equal voice during this very important process. I understand we legally can not commit any funds to this project until approved by Town Meeting, but we can commit that we will bring the request forward to Town Meeting with support of the Town Manager, Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Currently the design is on hold until we can confirm some design guidance to the bridge consultant. The design guidance will affect the construction cost and without understand cost we have placed the design on hold. We have requested a meeting with Newburyport, BSC (bridge consultant) and MassDOT to

discuss what our limitation are relating to the \$500,000 grant funds and to discuss basic bridge design. We hope to have this meeting in January.

I welcome the thoughts of our Selectmen and look forward to a discussion in person in great detail.

Town Manager

From: Donna Holaday <DHoladay@CityofNewburyport.com>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 9:28 AM
To: Town Manager
Subject: RE: Bridge MOU?

Angus,

Yes, of course- I am very willing to move forward to an agreement for the cost-share of the bridge. I hope we will have design and costs soon.

Thank you

Donna D. Holaday

Mayor

City of Newburyport

60 Pleasant St. PO 550

Newburyport, MA 01950

978-465-4413

<http://newburyportmayor.org/>



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From: Town Manager [mailto:townmanager@wnewbury.org]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 9:22 AM
To: Donna Holaday
Subject: Bridge MOU?

Hi - what would you think about working toward an MOU between the city and town as a vehicle to work through potential construction cost share, or at least setting out agreed process by which this can be determined when the time comes, taking into account potential grant funds or other non-local monies that could become available (if any)? One of my challenges is that I can't make a commitment on the Board's behalf and, while they can't absolutely commit Town Mtg to appropriate funds in the future, they can commit to follow a particular path in terms of what may ultimately be proposed to Town Mtg.

We have a special daytime BoS mtg on 12/27, primarily re our Police Chief search, but also with the bridge on the agenda, and if you agree this is a good idea I'd like to set this in motion at that time.

Will be in office from 10:30 until early evening if you'd like to talk it over today, or I will reach out sometime after Christmas. If we don't speak today, enjoy the holiday and until then!

Thanks,
Angus

Angus Jennings, Town Manager
Town of West Newbury
Town Office Building
[381 Main Street](#)
[West Newbury, MA 01985](#)
[\(978\) 363-1100 x111](#)
townmanager@wnewbury.org

Sent from my mobile device

Town Manager

From: Jon-Eric White <JEWhite@CityofNewburyport.com>
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 3:18 PM
To: Town Manager
Cc: Donna Holaday; Anthony Furnari; Ted Angelakis; Diane Gagnon; Reed, Peter V.; Morrison, Micah
([REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] [REDACTED])
Subject: Proposed Plummer Spring Bridge Design Elevation
Attachments: PROP LOW CHORD ELEV 17.pdf

All,

This Wednesday's meeting has to be postponed. (Wednesday is MVPC's monthly coalition meeting, which some of us attend.) I suggest we await a rain date pending West Newbury's response to this email.

Angus,

Please review this and let us know if you are in agreement. Once we have an agreement, we will give BSC the directive to proceed.

I met with Micah and briefly Peter Reed the other day to discuss this issue and go over various design options. The options have quickly turned into a pile-supported structure because the water depth was too great for any precast culvert type of structure. Also, the soils are known to be less than desirable from a load bearing capacity so they feel piles will be needed to transfer the loads. We won't know for certain until we do soil samples but regardless of existing soils, the water depth does not work in favor of using precast structures.

Here is our logic, based on the discussions I had with BSC:

- The current FEMA 10-year and 100-year flood elevation is around 12.6' and 13.0', respectively, per FEMA Flood Insurance Study.
- The existing low chord of the bridge is Elev. 16.2'. See attached sketch from your Draft Existing Conditions Plan with my additions about the new bridge elevations.
- Putting the low chord of the new bridge at or above 16.2' will accommodate the MassDOT required 10-year design storm and the 100-year storm. In addition, the new bridge will have a larger hydraulic opening (cross-sectional area, which the water passes through). If an elevation of 16.2' or greater is used the hydraulic capacity of the bridge is improved. This is most helpful for the future uncertainties of more intense rainstorms and SLR.
- Micah let me know that raising the low chord elevation of the bridge may increase the cost of the project slightly by requiring the approaches to be raised and additional retaining wall length. However, I haven't asked him yet (he'll read this email), we may be able to reduce retaining wall lengths by sloping the bridge longitudinally from Nbpt to W Newbury, thus creating a sag curve in the road that is beyond the bridge structure, thus less filling and shorter retaining walls. TBD.
- Future sea level rise for year 2100 – which is approximately the end of a 75-year design life of a bridge of this type, per MassDOT req'ts – is projected to be between 3' and 8.0' depending on emissions scenarios, per NOAA. As you know, we do not have any future hydrologic, flood inundation models that project out to year 2100 at our disposal right now. All we have are SLR projections. So these SLR amounts will push the flood

elevations in year 2100 up near elevations 16' to 21', respectively for 3' and 8' SLR rises. (FEMA + SLR = approx. future flood elevation)

- Placing the low chord at elevation 17.0', and respectively the road surface around elevation 20, will provide assurance that it will survive most SLR scenarios and many future storm events without going much higher than it is today. It may even pass the 100yr storm event in year 2100, but we will never know due to the uncertainty, or the roadway may be temporarily flooded. The risk of temporary future flooding on a low volume road is an acceptable risk to Newburyport.
- Pile supported bridges generally perform more favorably when temporarily flooded. If the geotechnical borings discover poor subsurface soil conditions, it is likely that piles will be required anyway. The optimum bridge type would limit the number of piles due to their added cost to design and install.

We propose to place the low chord of the new bridge at Elevation 17.0' NAVD88. Please review and let us know if this is acceptable to West Newbury.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks.

Jon-Eric

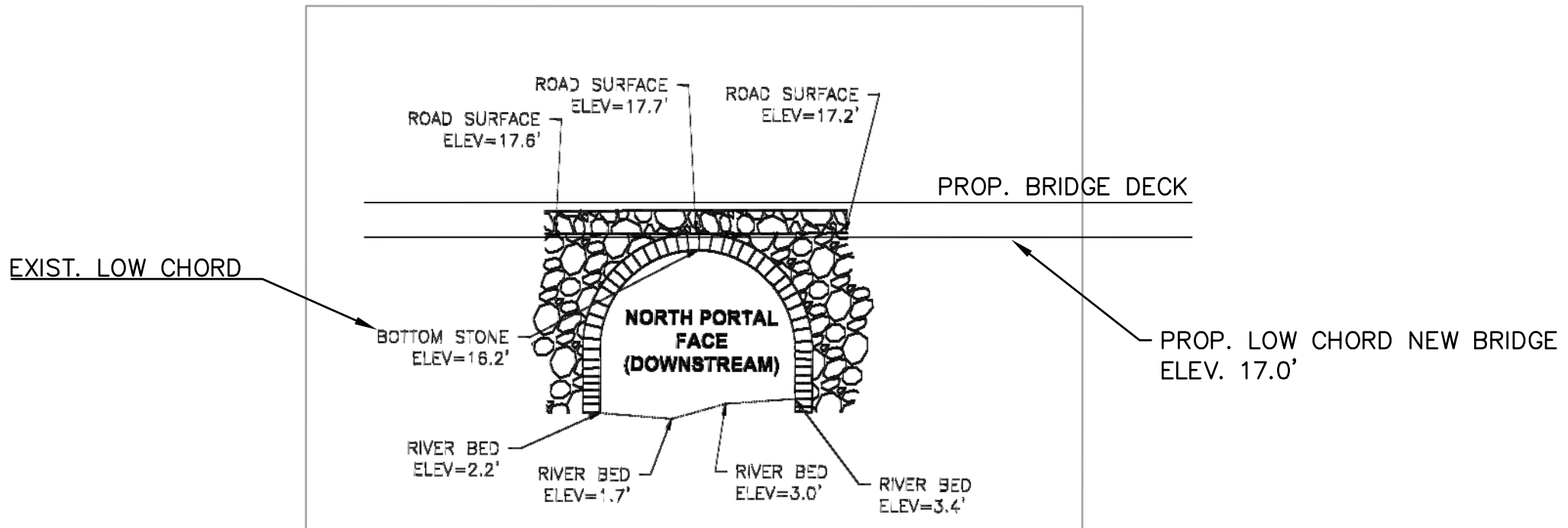
Jon-Eric White, PE
City Engineer
Department of Public Services
16C Perry Way
Newburyport, MA 01950

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Town Manager

From: Town Manager
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:21 PM
To: Jon-Eric White
Cc: Donna Holaday; Anthony Furnari; Ted Angelakis; Diane Gagnon; Reed, Peter V.; Morrison, Micah ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED].[REDACTED] dpwdirector@wnewbury.org; Mike Gootee; Michael McCarron
Subject: RE: Proposed Plummer Spring Bridge Design Elevation

Jon-Eric,

Because of the technical nature of the issues (and their potential cost implications with regard to bridge reconstruction), it will be important that the BoS receive a complete briefing on this matter in order to inform their response.

The Board's next mtg is on 12/27 at 1pm, and we're preparing the info they'll need to fully consider the issue. I expect to have a response to you later that day or on 12/28. We're aware that BSC will continue to be in a holding pattern until we provide our assent, and regret this further delay.

I'll be on vacation next week, but reachable until then, and again beginning 12/24, if you'd like to talk –

Thanks,
Angus

Angus Jennings, Town Manager
Town of West Newbury
Town Office Building
381 Main Street
West Newbury, MA 01985
(978) 363-1100 x111
townmanager@wnewbury.org

From: Town Manager
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Jon-Eric White <JEWhite@CityofNewburyport.com>
Cc: Donna Holaday <DHoladay@CityofNewburyport.com>; Anthony Furnari <AFurnari@CityofNewburyport.com>; Ted Angelakis <TAngelakis@CityofNewburyport.com>; Diane Gagnon <DGagnon@CityofNewburyport.com>; Reed, Peter V. <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].[REDACTED]>; Morrison, Micah ([REDACTED]@[REDACTED].[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].[REDACTED]> dpwdirector@wnewbury.org; Mike Gootee <mgootee@wnewbury.org>
Subject: RE: Proposed Plummer Spring Bridge Design Elevation

Hi Jon-Eric,

I've reviewed what you sent, but will wait until I've had the opportunity to connect with our more technically-minded folks – specifically, Wayne and Mike G. – and their respective consultants and Commissioners.

Process-wise, if at a staff level this all looks ok, I'd like to get the Board of Selectmen's agreement before conveying an opinion on the town's behalf. Unfortunately, their next special meeting isn't until 12/27 and their next regular televised mtg isn't until 1/7. I'm concerned about keeping BSC in a holding pattern for all that time.

We can include this for discussion on tomorrow morning's site visit. We'll move on it as quickly as we're able, but that will still take some time.

Thanks,
Angus

Town Manager

From: Jon-Eric White <JEWhite@CityofNewburyport.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2018 2:07 PM
To: Town Manager; DPW Director
Subject: RE: Proposed Plummer Spring Bridge Design Elevation

Angus and Wayne,

We decided to go down to Elev 16.2 for the low chord elevation for the new bridge. We do not need to decide on Elev 17. It's fine. 16.2 will be a little less expensive and should give us a usable bridge in year 2100 from a flooding standpoint (rising seas, higher tides, etc.).

Elev 16.2 will allow us to have 8-feet of sea level rise before daily high tides hit the bottom of the bridge structure. That's our rationale and it provides reasonable leeway. See attached SLR chart – 2.5 meters or 8.2' by 2100 for continued emissions scenario. They just raised year 2100 from 6.6' to 8.2' this month and we all suspect it'll rise again every year until then because we are not reducing our pollution any.

MassDOT typically doesn't like to go lower than the existing low chord elevation. So please inform your Selectmen of this change.

I strongly recommend a meeting with you, us, BSC, and MassDOT so you and our Mayor's rep can hear the facts directly from MassDOT (as factual as they can be). They will say it's still early to know, but the meeting is still important so all of us can see the bridge design process firsthand and we can all hear what can, hopefully, be ruled out and what can't. I always recommend the highest positions and decision makers attend these so they can walk away knowing we're all on the same page.

Are you two available the week of Jan 3, 4 or the week of the 7th ? I will put together an agenda but it'll be something like this:

- 1. Discuss the bridge design process including MassDOT review phase(s).**
- 2. Discuss the possible bridge types for our project.**
- 3. Discuss (and rule-out, if possible) typical cross-section. Single lane with X' shoulders, 2-way with X' shoulders, etc.**

I would like to consider a single lane bridge but have talked myself out of it due to future traffic conditions. They may be higher and that'll just cause problems and possible injury if kids are fishing and 2 cars try to get by, etc. Plus we want to hear MassDOT's opinion on whether or not they'll even fund it/allow it.

Please let me know today/tomorrow morning if at all possible so I can blast an email to MassDOT tomorrow, before the holidays.

Wayne – I know Angus is out this week. But do you have his hot-line? If not, we can work it out later.
Jon-Eric

From: Town Manager [mailto:townmanager@wnewbury.org]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 5:24 PM
To: Jon-Eric White
Cc: DPW Director
Subject: RE: Proposed Plummer Spring Bridge Design Elevation

Jon-Eric,

With the recent info and correspondences I think we'll be in good shape for our discussion w the BoS on 12/27. Wayne is riding point on this so will follow up in the meantime if needed; otherwise you can look to hear from us the afternoon of 12/27 w updates. Our goal, as yours we know, is to get BSC back to work based on some clear direction.

I'll be on vacation next week. The other item I wanted to clarify; I have the biweekly update call on my calendar for 12/26 at 8am. I am available if it goes forward, but I think I understood these calls would resume after the first of the year. Let us know either way and we'll plan accordingly.

Thanks,
Angus

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Thank you. Good luck and if you want one of us to be available on a conference call to answer any questions they may have, let us know.

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