

Meeting of the Westminster ARPA Committee

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Westminster Institute

Committee Members Present: Paul Banik (chair), Jim Matteau (Village Chair), Katrina Hamilton (clerk), Linda Fawcett, Chuck Lawrence (road foreman), Cole Streeter (fire chief)

Others present: Jeff Marsden (Bazin Bros), Jason Perry, Chris Potter

1. **Call to Order:** The chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Chuck Lawrence made a motion to accept the minutes from October 18, 2023 Linda Fawcett seconded, motion passed. Katrina Hamilton abstained as she was not present at that meeting and Jim Matteau abstained as her composed the minutes.
3. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. **Cemetery Wall Project** – Jeff Marsden was present to speak on the bid submitted by Bazin Bros to repair the stonewall at the cemetery on Kurn Hattin Road. He stated that any wall placed there would need to be taller than the existing wall due to the slope of the bank and the stress that it places on the wall. Jim Matteau asked why simply repairing the existing stonewall has not been included in the estimate. Chris Potter stated that he had spoken with different masons regarding repair of the stonewall and the estimates to repair the stonewall were equivalent to replacing the stonewall with prefabricated blocks and the prefabricated blocks would have a longer life expectancy with less maintenance than simply repairing the existing stonewall. Chuck Lawrence asked what the life expectancy was of the Ready Rock product quoted by Bazins. Mr. Marsden said that it would last for a hundred years. Bazins would be putting in draining behind the block and back filling it with crushed stone to keep the water from pushing the wall over. Mr. Marsden also stated the existing utility pole may not need to be reset as previously discussed, just held in place by Green Mountain Power, as they replaced the wall by the utility pole. Mr. Marsden suggested that the difference in bid estimates may be due to a difference in product. Tarmey's had submitted a bid using Multi-Stone instead of Ready Rock. Mr. Banik asked when the project could be completed and if there were any delays in acquiring products to complete the project. Both Mr. Marsden and Jason Perry, speaking on behalf of Tarmey's said that the project could be completed next spring and that both Ready Rock and Multi-Stone were readily available. Mr. Perry believed that Multi-Stone and Ready Rock was comparing "apples to apples". Mr. Lawrence questioned if the requirements for installation and engineering specifications were different for the two products. Project was scored with a total of 20 and submission to selectboard for approval will follow receipt of information regarding installation and engineering requirements for both products
 - b. **School Street Guardrail** – the previous project submission by Jim Grout regarding the installation of new guard rail along School Street was discussed. There is currently a section of guardrail that is not in compliance with the state guidelines. Project score was 20.

4. **Other Business:** Mr. Matteau questioned whether the ARPA funds approved by the Selectboard to reimburse the Westminster West Church for repairs performed this summer is an approved expenditure that falls under the ARPA guidelines or not. Ms. Hamilton will contact Katie Buckley at VLCT for an answer.
5. **Date of Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 17, 2023.
6. **Adjournment:** Mr. Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. Linda Fawcett seconded. Paul Banik adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.