

The Borough of Speers Council held a special meeting on March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Arentzen Bridge repair project. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Ms. Hartley, Ms. DeCooman, Mr. Sauer and Mayor Herd. Absent was Mr. Hepple.

Mr. Creagh participated in the meeting via phone.

Mayor Herd was concerned if we delay the project, will we lose the grants funds? The deadline for the first LSA grant is 2026.

Mr. McCorkle relayed that a Teams meeting was held earlier in the day with Mr. Creagh, Ms. Hartley, Dennis Carson, Jody and Mr. Darrell Pearson to answer any questions/concerns regarding the bridge project for GE.

Synopsis: Very productive meeting discussing the scope of the project and the financial need to complete the entire project. After doing a sounding method test, APC discovered more damage to the deck just below the surface. The bridge has deteriorated even further since opening the bids in August. KLH worked with APC to rescope the project to utilize the \$220,000 awarded funds and to not burden the Borough with the difference in costs. Mr. Wagner met with Chase Kuhn and the best course of action is to fix the beams, piers and abutments based on their scheduled values on the original bid. After focusing on those areas, that does not leave funds to cover the deck repairs. Due to the visible and nonvisible damage that has developed since opening the bids, we are looking at \$300,000-\$400,000 for just the deck replacement. KLH is proposing to complete all the work with APC to meet the \$220,000 available and then have the Borough internally pay for the remainder of the repairs or have a company do the work as a "charitable contribution" to patch the deck and add a water sealant which would only act as a band aid until the Borough could find funds to properly redo the deck in its entirety. The freeze/thaw cycle and salt will eventually deteriorate that sealant layer and destroy all the work that was done on the beams and piers. Mr. Pearson (GE) is interested in obtaining a formal cost analysis to forward to his corporate office. GE has a very vital financial interest in the bridge project. Mr. McCorkle questioned if the difference (of the \$220,000 awarded and the original bid of \$396239.75) was obtained, will that cover the repairs to the deck as well? It will help but more damage was found since the last bridge inspection and initial walk-through last August. Instead of patching, would it be a better investment to completely pave the bridge and then add a water sealant? Yes per Mr. Creagh. The structural engineer reviewed the original plans and it was designed to have an additional 3" of asphalt on the existing deck which would help. The additional repairs to the deck would not commence until after the repairs to the undercarriage of the bridge are completed. The longer we wait to do the deck repairs, the cost will likely increase 5-7% per year. Mr. Creagh strongly feels that GE will help financially. He is preparing the estimate to provide them in what it would cost to get this bridge in true working order. Mr. McCorkle questioned if we complete the \$220,000 undercarriage repairs and completely

pave the bridge, what is our timeline on needing the deck repaired? Mr. Creagh estimates 3-5 years. Mayor Herd asked if it is a complete bridge closure to replace/repair the deck? No. The extra 3" asphalt will help with the heavy truck traffic but not for long per Mr. Creagh.

Mr. McCorkle recommends getting bids on a complete paving project for the bridge instead of just patching. Mayor Herd stated to show GE those bids as well.

Reschenthaler's office did respond with options for federal grants. Mr. McCorkle emailed back to ask about earmarked money for the bridge as well as paving and additional access roads. Mr. McCorkle also suggested looking into bonding the road and having the companies bond their heavy trucks that continue to use the road. The bridge repairs and paving are more than our total operating budget for the year.

A motion to obtain bids on paving the bridge was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

Mayor Herd stated to please be cognizant of the bills. We are paying for things that we shouldn't be. Be sure to review invoices and ask questions. He also spoke with Taylor Brown at the newspaper. She would like a recap of the bridge issues and progress on funding.

Mr. Sauer will attend the Police and Fire Board meetings in the future if needed.

Ms. Hartley will look into the process in obtaining grants.

Mayor Herd is still waiting for an update on the security cameras.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer.