BELMONT — Selectmen voted unanimously on Monday to award the bid for the Belmont Village revitalization project to Busby Construction.

The Atkinson based company submitted a low base bid of $1,072,919.50, nearly $250,000 lower than the town’s engineering firm, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates of Manchester, had estimated.

Ronald Currier, vice-chair of the Belmont Board of Selectmen, made the successful motion to accept Busby’s base bid plus the company’s bid for alternatives 1-3 which would add $187,540.30 plus a portion of alternative 4, which would spend another $4,600 to redo the ramp at the Corner Meeting House and complete changes around the structure, making it compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Three other companies submitted bids for the work. Weaver Brothers Construction, Inc., of Bow bid $1,117,822.25; John H. Lyman and Sons, Inc., of Gilford bid $1,207,570.60; and F.L. Merrill Construction, Inc., of Pembroke bid $1,503,113.55.

The board also approved paying Mark Roberts of Leslie H. Roberts, LLC, $9,200 to temporarily move the town’s historic bandstand and secure it with chain link fencing near the Belmont Mill until construction is completed in the village area and the 104-yearold structure can be moved onto a new foundation.

Cormier stressed the need for the board to hold a public meeting as soon as construction plans are finalized so local residents whose access to their homes or place of business is going to be altered in the coming months will have advance notice.
In other business, the selectmen held a public hearing and then agreed to refinance the $572,500 in bonds the Belmont Sewer Commission and the town took out in 2003 from the USDA to finance the Silver Lake sewer project. Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin explained that the town had been approached by the NH Municipal Bond Bank earlier this year which offered a 3.3 percent rate, nearly a full percentage point lower than the current rate. Refinancing will save the town nearly $32,000 in interest costs during the remaining 21 years on the life of the bonds.

The board also voted to accept a tax collector’s deed for property at 15 Westview Drive that Beaudin said was in arrears by more than $22,000 in back taxes unpaid since 2008.

Selectmen also agreed to draft a letter to their counterparts in the towns of Meredith, Sanbornton, and Tilton, explaining that Belmont is exploring the possible purchase of a firefighting boat and is interested in sharing some of the cost. Currently, the town has an older pontoon boat that needs some safety related repairs.

Fire officials said that, while all of the towns bordering Lake Winnisquam have rescue boats, none have a boat specifically designed as a firefighting boat that drafts water from the bottom and then pumps it through a deck-mounted gun. The deputy fire chief said such a boat would cost approximately $75,000.

Selectmen also voted on a motion by Chair Jon Pike to abate half of a $3,600 water bill to the Bourque Estate. A water leak allowed nearly a million gallons of water to flood the basement of the home that was uninsured at the time of the incident. Collecting at least half of the bill would at least reimburse the town for the electricity used to pump that amount of water, the board agreed.

Selectmen noted that the deliberative session of the special town meeting will be on Monday, July 23, at the Corner Meeting House at 6 p.m. The purpose of the special meeting is to ask voters to discontinue the use of Mill Street in the Village and to purchase the former Northway Bank building on Main Street as part of the overall revitalization plan for Belmont Village.

The revitalization plan would relocate the one-way section of Mill Street and connect to the parking lot adjacent to the library, across from Fuller Street, to allow for additional parking in the village and for more green space.

Voting will be on Aug. 21 in the cafeteria at Belmont High School, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.