

**Capital Expenditure
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
7:00pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

Present: Joe Voccio, Rick Ives, Aimee Genna, Michael Gaudreau, Felix Ramos, and April Lamothe; Recording Secretary

Late Arrival: Robert Kelleher (7:05pm) and Andrew Dionne (7:08pm)

Absent: Hans Koell

Also Present: Public, Matthew 'Bucky' Lohbusch, Cassandra Leach, WINY, Matthew Allen, Heather Allen, Sandra Brodeur, and Lou Brodeur

- 1) **Call to Order:** Joe Voccio called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- 2) **Public Comments:** None
- 3) **Review and Possible Action on Recreation Commission Vehicle Request:** The Board of Selectmen have been working with Matthew 'Bucky' Lohbusch and the Parks and Recreation Commission about the lack of vehicles. Parks and Recreation have been putting repairs into the Park Maintenance dump truck since they received it from Brooklyn Highway Department. It is a 2004 F350 with over 100,000 miles on it and currently the turbo is not working properly which does not allow the vehicle to tow or plow. The quote to repair the dump truck was over \$11,000 from Columbia Ford Kia. The primary usage of the dump truck is for picking up 40-60 bags of garbage twice a week from the different Town owned properties, delivering landscaping materials, plowing, sanding, and towing trailers for transporting equipment.

Joseph Voccio asked what if the F250 became the main towing vehicle; would Highway have to complete the rest of the tasks? Rick Ives said that Parks and Recreation needs a smaller dump truck than what Highway has and then there would be the issue of lack of personnel. Andrew Dionne said that a Parks and Recreation worker would not be able to drive a Highway dump truck due to license restrictions. Joseph Voccio mentioned that there are different alternatives; dump truck vs. pickup truck vs. van for the Committee to keep in mind.

Bucky Lohbusch had received a quote from Columbia Ford Kia for a 2015 Ford F350 Chassis Cab for \$37,019.46 with trade (\$38,519.46 with no trade); this was the cheapest quote that was found. Rick Ives said that the State bid list, which usually saves the Town money, would be an option to look into, but the drawback is that the truck needs to be ordered and it would take 8-10 weeks at the earliest. Felix Ramos asked if they looked into used trucks. Rick Ives said that they have not been able to find one; they get sold very quickly and the ones at auctions are too old and costly. Joseph Voccio mentioned that there is a \$1,500 trade value on the present dump truck. Rick Ives recommends that they do not trade in the truck; they could get more for the vehicle at an auction.

Joseph Voccio mentioned that the truck comes with plow prep, but no plow; would the plow that is currently used for the F350 be able to be used on the new truck? Rick Ives said that the plow is interchangeable. Bucky Lohbusch said that they also wanted to get a sander for the truck, but because of the size/weight it is recommended not to place it on the F250. Joseph Voccio asked Bucky Lohbusch to tell everyone the responsibilities of Parks and Recreation during the winter; Parks and Recreation takes care of plowing and sanding all of the Town's parking lots, entryways, sidewalks (Route 6 from the bridge to Superior Powertrain and the schools' sidewalks), and the community center.

Felix Ramos asked if the Committee was voting on the truck tonight or is it a Capital item. Joseph Voccio responded that it is an emergency vote in order to get the truck, if decided, before winter starts. Andrew Dionne questioned if they were able to get three bids in time. Rick Ives said they have starting gathering bids and that they have looked into renting a vehicle to plow with, but there are none available. He has also considered hiring an outside vendor to plow, but there are issues with the union then. Michael Gaudreau mentioned that the truck is what Parks and Recreation needs. Robert Kelleher asked if the truck was not getting ready to quit, would this still be the same truck they would purchase or are they settling for the truck. Rick Ives said that this would be the same truck; they really did not need the diesel. Michael Gaudreau said that the truck is a good deal for what is needed.

- Michael Gaudreau made a motion to open the meeting to Public Comment. Andrew Dionne seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

- **Public Comment:**

- **Matt Allen:** He is an ASCE master certified technician specializing in diesels. He said to stay away from used vehicles and to fix what the Town has or buy new. He also spoke with Columbia Ford Kia, who have previously repaired the truck, and the \$11,000 repair quote is the highest estimation for replacing the fuel tank and lines due to rust contamination. Matt said, if it was him, he would replace the steel fuel tank with a plastic fuel tank, aftermarket, and clean out the fuel lines, and replace the fuel injectors. He would be able to make the repairs, with labor, for around \$5,000. Driving the F350 truck, with a trailer of a certain weight, would need particular license to legally drive. The money can be spent better ways in the Town.
 - ◆ Rick Ives commented that \$15,000 has already gone into the truck for repairs; the amount Matt gave for repairs is good, but he feels it is time to get a new vehicle. Michael Gaudreau commented that the repair quote from Colombia Ford Kia is more than doubled what Matt quoted as a repair price. Matt said that it is the dealership's price of parts, instead of getting parts at a third party store or aftermarket parts, that inflates the price. Rick Ives agrees with Matt about dealership; they went to Columbia Ford Kia because the cheaper repair shops that they took the vehicle to did not fix it well. Matt agreed with what Rick Ives said earlier of not to trade it in, since the Town is not going to get their money's worth out of the truck. Bucky Lohbusch said that Highway has extra vehicles in case one breaks down, while Parks and Recreation has no backups.
- **Sandra Brodeur:** She asked about what type license a Parks and Recreation worker would need in order to drive the proposed F350. Rick Ives will research it to make sure that Parks and Recreation's drivers have the correct license type. She also questioned the trash pick-up; if they did not get the dump truck would it just mean making more trips to the landfill? Rick Ives responded that the dump part of the truck helps to put the garbage bags into the shoot instead of having to place them by hand. She also said that she did not see where there was an emergency; she would rather hear all the different requirements so that they could be prioritized properly; if the trash could be handled by the F250 and the plowing and sanding could be done with the Massey and the sander attachment, she does not get the sense of urgency. Bucky Lohbusch and Rick Ives both said that there was no sander attachment on the Massey.
- **Heather Allen:** She asked about the truck driving on the sidewalks with the sander attached. Rick Ives said that they have not done it; last year they shoveled sand out of the back of the truck. Parks and Recreation plow the parking lots, but they do not

have the ability to sand, so Highway has to sand when they a moment. She commented on the fact that there should not be a sander on the back on the F250. Rick Ives replied that it depends if it a plastic or metal sander, there is some miscommunication going on about the sander. She suggested getting a dump trailer, instead of a dump truck. Rick Ives said that they really did not talk about it because in the spring, there are three people are trying to use one vehicle. He feels that two vehicles are needed for Parks and Recreation, not sure of what kind, but they are needed for the amount of people and work.

- Robert Kelleher asked Matt what the life expectancy would be of a new truck for plowing. Matt answered that it would be 5 years not taken care of, but if take care of (washed after every use, proactive maintenance) +10 years.
- **Lou Brodeur:** He commented that a diesel is a longer lasting vehicle. Also if there was an emergency, there is a supply of bagged diesel in town. Matt added that it depends on what the Town wants to get out of the truck. If they want 10 years, they should go with a diesel truck, even though it is more money, they last longer.
- **Cassandra Leach:** She agrees with Matt, but it also depends on maintenance and driver, especially if it a diesel, the driver needs to be educated on how to drive it properly.
- Sandra Brodeur asked why two vehicles are needed in the spring, summer, and fall. Rick Ives responded that since having two people doing work in seven different places, it makes more sense to have them have them take their own vehicles.
- Cassandra Leach suggested that the Town take way some of the work from Parks and Recreation, so that Bucky can focus more on his programs than road/landscape maintenance, and give more responsibilities to Highway. Felix Ramos agreed; it makes sense to have Highway and Parks and Recreation work together more often. Michael Gaudreau said that they have tried to work together, but it never seems to work out. Rick Ives replied that there is no real overlap; Highway has five guys to take care of roads/maintenance which takes large machinery and they do not mow lawns because they do not have the extra time. Highway could hire more people to mow or they could take the Parks and Recreation workers to do the work, but workers and equipment are good where they are, they just work closely together during the winter.
- Felix Ramos agreed with the comment Sandra Brodeur made about not seeing the emergency. He questioned if Parks and Recreation have the capabilities to handle the situation until everything is figured out. He feels that there needs to be more research done of the other options that were mentioned by Matt. Joseph Voccio said that they will talk about a timeline after Public Comment.
- Lou Brodeur asked what the difference is between the State bid and buying from the dealership. Rick Ives said that the difference is \$5,000-\$6,000 less and there would be more of a difference if it was a diesel truck. Lou said it was just something to keep in mind if they are going to postpone the buying of the truck.
- Sandra Brodeur would prefer if the Town spent \$5,000 to repair the current truck and consider all options before spending \$37,000, especially when Highway needs a new dump truck. Joseph Voccio said that he would like to have better fleet management.
- Matt Allen asked if they were looking for a particular style of truck. Joseph Voccio said yes and once the specs are all figured out, they will go to bid. Matt warned them to be careful of what they buy for equipment, some parts are better than others. He also said to stick with what is mainly Town; try to stay with a Ford.

- Joseph Voccio made a motion to close Public Comment. Felix Ramos seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
 - Joseph Voccio talked about the timeline expectations. Rick Ives said that Capital is going to have a dump truck for Highway the next fiscal year and that will take 18-20 weeks to build. The Parks and Recreation truck is just as important as the Highway dump truck. According to Rick Ives, there are no other large items for Capital being forecasted. On the Town side, there will be a salary survey. For overall, depending on what the school submits, Capital is looking at a couple of hundred thousands of dollars. He feels that it is important to have the second Parks and Recreation truck as fast as possible.
 - Joseph Voccio heard through Public Comment about a couple other options and that gas trucks have a shorter life span than diesel trucks. He feels that the Committee should look into gas and diesel vehicles and get prices for both.
 - Rick Ives asked Matt where they should go to get the current truck fixed. Matt responded that there is a man in Eastford that does such repairs. Rick Ives suggested that they send the truck there to be looked at and get a quote for repairs. Joseph Voccio said that the fastest way to get a working truck for Parks and Recreation is to repair what they have, especially since there will need to be three bids, approved by Board of Finance, and brought to a Town Meeting. Rick Ives said that the repair for \$5,000 would still have to go through Board of Finance.
 - Michael Gaudreau asked Bucky Lohbusch how quickly he would be able to get the vehicle to Eastford to be looked at; Bucky Lohbusch would have to figure out the proper time. The Committee agrees to look at gas and diesel trucks and that they will meet as soon as the information is possible.
 - Rick Ives asked what if the Eastford mechanic says that he can fix the truck, does it have to be brought it in front of Capital. Joseph Voccio says no because it falls under repairs. Michael Gaudreau figured that Bucky Lohbusch would be able to get specs on a diesel truck at Columbia Ford Kia. Bucky Lohbusch asked if the Committee wanted prices on lot vehicles or State bid quotes. Joseph Voccio and Rick Ives said to get both because the numbers are going to be needed.
- 4) **Other Recreation Requests for Future Consideration:** Tabled until a future meeting.
 - 5) **Review of Capital Report and Previously Funded Proposals:** The Commission reviewed the report. The Capital nonrecurring is negative due to cost over runs for past projects that for uncertain reasons went over budget and were funded anyways. Rick Ives mentioned that quite a few items on the report that are overspent are not Capital items, but grants. Discussion ensued about the report.
 - 6) **Public Comment:** None
 - 7) **Scheduling of Next Capital Meeting:** Joe Voccio will be contacting the members to find out what day works best with everyone's schedules.
 - 8) **Other Business:** None
 - 9) **Adjournment:** Rick Ives made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. Michael Gaudreau seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Sincerely Submitted,
April Lamothe
Recording Sectary