

WASHINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

1 May 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Kent Lew, Dick Spencer, Mike Burke, Sean Connors, and Dave Weissbrod (Tom Johnson, Superintendent of Highway Department, joined us for this meeting.)

1. Highway Trucks Capital Needs.

Mike Burke discussed results of his research on the subject of truck options, as well as related information, for the highway department. Mike suggested that we may not need a F550, perhaps a smaller vehicle. But after consideration, the committee felt it would not provide a practical savings and might not provide adequate performance on hills and such. Mike also questioned the value of the stainless bed over time if the configuration for truck bodies changes in the next few years, making the bed less interchangeable. There are different configurations we might consider, such as all-weather body instead. Mike also suggested a slide-in sander. Tom noted we use the 550 to plow dirt roads. Tom expressed a few concerns, such as the higher center of gravity and increased tipping likelihood when loaded with sand. Mike said in his towing experience, he hadn't come across this problem.

Do we really need three big trucks or could we sell one to help pay for a pick-up truck? The town's present 2-wheel drive truck's steel bed is "rotting". We probably won't get much in return for our used trucks, or not as much as we want. Based on our needs we may need to settle for what we can get. The problem with a used pick-up truck or any used truck is the lack of warranty.

Kent suggested that if we didn't presently have a truck to sell, that the highway dept looked for anything else, such as a tractor, compressor, etc. Tom agreed to look into this and get back to us.

We agreed to look into many of Mike's suggestions. Tom said he was of course amenable to saving the town money as long as the crew could continue to operate the equipment safely and get the job done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm. Finance Committee then attended Capital Meeting.

Respectfully,
David Weissbrod