

# WASHINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

15 May 2017

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

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

## OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes from the 4/03/17 and 5/01/17 Finance Committee meetings were both approved as amended.

### 2. Highway Trucks Capital Needs

Continuing our discussion with Tom Johnson, we discussed highway dept truck-capital needs, starting with the 550- (heavy duty) truck.

#### a. 550 Truck

Tom said he looked into a 550 steel body, Polymer slide-in that would be less expensive than some other options. This configuration wouldn't really be recommended for our municipal, rural road use. The sander is in position year-round. A better option perhaps, Tom described another municipal slide-in with a standard body and with a 3 ¾ yard sander. Another plus is its better driver visibility. Plate-mount is fabricated in Massachusetts and wouldn't be that difficult or expensive to have it changed should we change vehicles. Tom said he wasn't sure of the cost but would have an estimate very soon. Initial information on this configuration suggests it will be cheaper.

Estimate: \$134,000 for new 550 truck, including \$50,000 for chassis. This option provides us with present cost savings and long-term advantages, regarding replacements, although we may need a new sander chain. Tom suggested we look into a Dodge, given Ford's poor coverage on existing truck.

#### b. Small Truck

Concern expressed for affect of state forest roads. We shouldn't use our big trucks for these runs, nor should Tom be using his personal truck for errands. Kent added that any combination of two of our three trucks didn't meet our needs to accomplish the complete job. But we should plan for the future if we don't get another truck now. Keep the extra vehicle for now and use during the summer perhaps.

Estimate for a small, light-duty truck is \$36,000.

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## c. Revenues and Borrowing

We discussed possible trade in of our 550 for helping us find revenues, helping us to lower our borrowing. Tom mentioned looking for other items within the Highway Dept such as a compressor, old army truck, etc. We could borrow less than \$100,000 for the two trucks. Take \$80,000 from stabilization --amount affected by amount we can get for trade-in. Tom will check into estimate for trade-in. Tom will bring list of highway equipment with estimates to Selectboard before putting anything up for sale.

## 3. Street Scan

We would get more life out of our roads (17.25 miles of town roads are presently blacktop).

Street Scan Advantage: Longer road life with less maintenance cost over time.

Street Scan, if turning up defects on Washington Mt Rd, could be submitted to FEMA to bolster our claims of defective work/quality. Plus, if we don't like Street Scan after a year, we can cancel it. There's also a possibility that our cost could be reduced if Street Scan Owners gets more business in the area. Term of Contract: \$14,794.00 for first year (Chapter 90) and subsequent annual fee of \$1,725. We will evaluate renewal as we move forward.

Finance Committee voted on and approved unanimously.

Next step, recommend to Selectboard.

## NEW BUSINESS

Tom mentioned he was issued a credit card. We thought he should first make sure he's vetted to use it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully,

David Weissbrod, clerk