

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for the Public Hearings of February 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Relating to Borrowing in Excess of \$100,000
In Response to the July 10, 2023 Rainstorm Damages
and Purchase of a Highway Truck
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Jim Jennison; Ray Leonard; Kathi Bradt

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Jennifer Bland, Hwy. Admin. Assist/EMD

BUDGET COMMITTEE PRESENT: Judy Aron; Jennifer Bland; Conan Cook; Claudia Istel; Susan Metsack; Cheryl Sanctuary

OTHERS PRESENT: John & Tara Balla; Greg Bascom; Linda Christie; Mark Girard; Bill & Mary Hildreth; Steve & Lori Murray; Stephen Murrell; Ryanne Schoonover; Gregg Thibodeau; Robin Ungeheuer; Carole Wallace

CALL TO ORDER FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Jim called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Article 02 Borrowing in Excess of \$100,000 for July 10, 2023 Rainstorm Damages

Jim announced the public hearing was for discussion on borrowing up to one million dollars for a loan for road repairs.

Steve Murray questioned the budget impact on taking out the loan and what amount of debt would the million dollars create for the town. Kathi replied that we don't know that yet. She said the money will be for projects that are generated by the Engineer.

Linda noted that one million will not even cover completing everything but thought it was a good idea to get this loan to get the projects started and the reimbursement would go towards this loan.

Greg mentioned there is going to have to be some revolving debt. The work can't be done all in one year. If there is work that can be done this summer, we don't want to hold it up.

Article 03: Long Term Lease/Purchase of a 10-Wheel Truck to replace the F550

Jim announced this public hearing was for discussion on long term lease/purchase for a 10-Wheel truck for the Highway Dept. to replace the F550.

Kathi mentioned in 2021 there was a truck replacement article at the special town meeting which wasn't approved. Since then, we have paid for that decision in repair bills and contracting out when the F550 could not handle the load. This is on the Planning Board capital improvement plan with the recommendation to replace this truck, and now we know the F550 will not pass inspection this year.

Collin said the major thing replaced was the hydraulic pump. The cab mounts are broke, a crack in the frame, the rocker panels are gone.

Collin said the reason they went with the 10-wheeler is because, they still have the little truck, still have the Int'l which is similar in size as this truck. They are working on these trucks all the time because they are being used for things they shouldn't be. When plowing, Collin has to return to the shop around 10-11 times to reload with salt when Brian, using the Western star only has to return 4 times.

Kathi asked if having this truck would save on having to hire a trucking company. Collin said it would and that right now we are paying \$110/hour for this service and all our roads need material. A 10-wheeler holds 2 times the amount of the Int'l. By having a 10-wheeler, it will allow more work to be kept in house rather than contracting out.

Linda said buying a new truck will only last half as long due to the conditions of these roads. Collin said they are trying to get better equipment to better the roads.

Jennifer said we have paid \$29k in the past two years contracting out for trucking.

Carole wanted to consider a good used truck. Collin said they have talked about a used truck. He talked with the road agent in Unity who bought a 10-wheeler from the same vendor for \$110k. As soon as he got the truck back it was in the shop for repairs. You are essentially buying someone else's problem.

Mark asked how many years the warranty was. Collin said it is seven years. Mark pointed out that being the case then highway wouldn't be the mechanic working on the truck, they'll be out fixing the roads.

Kathi said the last couple years working with Glenn Elsesser on the CIP, he has emphasized that running an old truck is costing a lot of money and is slowing down our ability to keep up with road maintenance. The seven year warranty is something Glenn has been recommending for us to get for the past couple years. We have to get on a shorter rotation and running a 12-year old truck is not cost effective.

Linda asked about payments for the following year. Kathi said this will be part of the CIP process next year to project this out for the following years.

Tara asked what it comes with. Collin said it comes fully equipped with wings and plow.

Ray asked if Collin has reached out to any other trucking companies. Collin said they all run for St Pierre and JP is the only option.

With no further discussion, on a motion by Jim, seconded Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator