



TOWN OF HARWINTON

HARWINTON, CONNECTICUT 06791

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CAPITAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY JANUARY 26th, 2012

Chairman, John Fredsall, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Committee members present were, Tom Pollack, Stephen Camp, and myself. Bob Santamaria and Jim Savenella were unable to attend. The minutes from the previous meeting on September 22nd, 2012 were passed out and reviewed. Tom made a motion to accept with Stephen's second, and the motion to accept was unanimous.

The agenda for this meeting was to go over the equipment needs for the 2012-2013, budget year. A review of the updated list of the capital equipment, owned and operated, by the Town was reviewed by the committee. It was noted by the committee that the depreciation amount has increased to be slightly over \$201,000 per year, and that the Town did appropriate \$195,000 last year for equipment. \$165,000 was used to purchase Unit #1, pickup truck, and Unit #21, Loader/Backhoe. \$30,000 of that amount was added to the Capitol Equipment account for future years when large purchases may exceed money that the Town may wish to expend in one year. The members appreciate the tough economic conditions that the Town and the State are experiencing but feel they would be negligent in their duty to not make note of this to the Selectman and the Board of Finance and recommend that this policy continue if possible. It makes good economics sense to replace equipment on a regular and timely basis in order to maintain reliability and limit costs related to repairs.

John presented his thoughts for the coming year for the committee to consider and made a note that the next truck up for replacement will be Unit #5, a 40,000 lb plowing dump truck. It is at it's scheduled replacement date having been used for a spare during last year. John explained that he would like to go back to a 4x4 configuration for the new truck to be used in the Campville section, which is very hilly with difficult intersections and add a wing plow to help with winging work during heavy winters as the last two have been. The Town was unable to keep up with that work during the last two years and at one time a breakdown of the road grader wing really backed us up. It was also noted on the equipment list that both Unit #20, the 3-yard loader and Unit #16, the wood chipper have reached their scheduled replacement dates. The members discussed the priorities to come up with a plan, which would not overtax the capitol equipment budget for this year.

After some discussion the committee came up with what they felt is the best solution to hold the line and actually slightly reduce this year's budget request. The total for this year's equipment purchase would be a not to exceed budget amount of \$190,000. This is \$5,000 less than last years and would be used to replace Unit #5 with a similar unit only four wheel drive and be equipped with a wing. The loader and wood chipper would be scheduled for replacement in next years budget at approximately the same amount as this years. Members then noted that the Town should continue to expend the depreciation value that is on the Capitol Equipment List in order to not fall behind in the maintenance of the Town's equipment. This year that number is \$201,650, but in the spirit of trying hold the line on the budget the committee will recommend to the Board of Selectman the \$190,000 amount, which is \$11,000 less than depreciation. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Stephen to recommend the budget amount of \$190,000 to replace Unit #5. The motion carried unanimously.

With nothing else on agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

John D. Fredsall
Chairman, Capital Equipment Committee

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