



TOWN OF HARWINTON

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CAPITAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY JANUARY 30th, 2014

Chairman, John Fredsall, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Committee members present were, Tom Pollack, Stephen Camp, Bob Santamaria and myself. Jim Savenella was absent. The minutes from the previous meeting on July 31st, 2013 were passed out and reviewed. Steven made a motion to accept with Tom's second, and the motion to accept was unanimous.

The agenda for this meeting was to go over the equipment needs for the 2014-2015, 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 that the depreciation amount has increased to nearly \$220,000 per year, and that the Town appropriated \$200,000 last year for equipment even though the depreciation amount was well over \$211,000. 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 to the Selectman and the Board of Finance and recommend that years when actual purchases don't reach the depreciation amount that any shortage should be appropriated to the Capitol Equipment Account to be used in those years when needs may exceed the depreciation total or the amount the Town may wish to appropriate with taxes in any one year. 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. Even using a sound policy as the Town has done in the past, winter's like this one certainly strain the repair budget and the up-time of the equipment.

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 #13, a 2-wheel drive, 2002, 40,000 lb. dump truck, which is past its scheduled replacement date. The other item is to replace Unit #16, the Wood-chipper, which is 14 years old and has seen very heavy use over recent years because of the many severe storms that we have experienced requiring lots of tree removal work. It is one year ahead of its scheduled replacement because after next year there are many large pieces of equipment due in the same year so I'm trying to avoid as much as possible the impact in any one budget year. Estimates for the new truck with a plow and related equipment are \$160,000. The Wood-chipper purchase estimate is \$45,000 with a few needed options. Discussion followed. It was decided to use \$160,000 for the truck and \$45,000 for the Wood-chipper.

The total for this year's equipment purchases would be a not to exceed budget amount of \$205,000. The member's 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 \$219,765.00. The committee believes that it should recommend to the Board of Selectman and Finance that they appropriate \$220,000 for Capitol Equipment with \$205,000 being used this year and allow the balance of \$15,000 to rollover into the Capitol Equipment Account for years when it will be needed. After some discussion a motion was made by Bob and seconded by Tom to recommend the budget amount of \$220,000 with \$205,000 being expended this year and the balance rolled over into the Capitol Account be made to the Board's of Selectman and Finance for their action. The motion carried unanimously.

John also asked the committee members to consider adding a second Zero-turn mower to the Town's equipment. Presently the Public Works Department is mowing over 15-acres a week with the existing 5-year old mower with no real backup. John proposed buying a John Deere, model 997, which is the same as what the Town owns now. The advantage to purchasing this make and model is that the bagger will fit, service parts are the same, the mechanic is already knowledgeable in its upkeep, and the personal are familiar with its operation. The old mower will be used as a spare and for bagger operations when needed. John asked the committee if they were OK with not bidding the machine so as to be able to get this specific mower. The quote obtained in November from Farmington Valley Equipment was \$14,500. We would also turn in an old walk behind 4-foot mower. John is proposing to fund this purchase through the regular Public Works, misc. equipment line if funds are available in this line at fiscal year's end. If the line is needed before then the purchase would be postponed and the machine would be proposed with Capitol Equipment in next year's budget cycle. After some discussion the members agreed that this proposal makes sense. Stephen made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectman that John be allowed to make this purchase when the time is appropriate and if funding is sufficient. Tom seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The last item that John asked the committee to look at was a snow plow for the loader. It's not something he was going to pursue this budget cycle but was more interested in getting the members thoughts. The plow is a heavy-duty quick-tatch style made to fit the Towns loader and is manufactured by Holms. It is a combination straight, V-style design and John believes would work well, especially on the gravel roads during very heavy snow conditions but could also help out on any road in blizzard type storms like we had last February. The cost is around \$16,000. The members agreed that it may make sense to own this type of plow for big storms so John suggested that he will bring the idea back in a year when it may fit better into that year's appropriation.

With nothing else on agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

John D. Fredsall
Chairman, Capital Equipment Committee

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