



## TOWN OF HARWINTON

HARWINTON, CONNECTICUT 06791

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### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Chairman, John Fredsall, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Chairman Fredsall introduced new member David Bousquet who is replacing retiring Stephen Camp. Committee members present are Dave Bousquet, Jim Savenella, Bob Santamaria, Tom Pollack, and I. The minutes from the previous meeting of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 were passed out and reviewed. Bob made a motion to accept with Jim's second, and the motion to accept was unanimous.

The items on the agenda was for the committee to review the quotes the Town received for a new wood chipper, and a new highway truck, which the funding for was approved at the annual budget meeting and that the Town had asked for quotes. \$45,000 and \$160,000 were budgeted for the wood chipper and truck respectively.

The committee first reviewed the quotes for the wood chipper (Unit #16). The Town received two bids for this machine. One was from Newtown Power Equipment which was for a 2014 Morbark Beaver M15R at \$49,718, less \$8,000 for the Town's trade making the total bid \$41,718.00. The other bid was from Tyler Equipment of Berlin, Ct for a Brush Bandit 1390XP at \$49,550, less \$9,600 for the Town's trade making total bid \$39,950.00. After a check of the bids it was determined that both machines, as bid, meet or exceed our specifications. The Town presently owns and operates a Brush Bandit brand machine and has been happy with it. It was decided to approve Tyler's bid. Jim made a motion to recommend the 2014 Brush Bandit model 1390XP, @ \$39,950.00. With Tom's second the motion to accept carried unanimously.

The committee then took up the new Highway truck with its mounted equipment (Unit #13), for which the Town received two bids. Each bidder used W.H. Rose of Columbia, Ct. for the equipment package. One bid was from Freightliner of Hartford for a Model 114SD 2015 Freightliner at \$136,823.00 with the Town's trade-in. The other bid was from Marola Motor Sales of Torrington for a 2015 International; model #7500 Workstar at \$139,950.00 with the Town's trade-in. The members took some time to compare the Town's specifications and requests against the submitted bid specifications. Marola's bid met or exceeded the required specifications. The committee identified some deficiencies from Freightliners bid, though mostly small there were a number. Some of the noted items include no front springs helper assist, rear springs not listed as vari-rate and #30,000lbs, not the #31,000lbs that was specked. Two group 31 batteries not the three that were requested. Rear tires not studded as requested. No roof warning light with factory installed wiring and switch. No factory rear work light wiring and switch as requested.

Some other items noted but which were not actually part of the specifications, but the members felt were important included the clutch engagement torque was much higher for the International than the Freightliner. The International also reached its peak torque at a much lower RPM than the Freightliner. Both of these items are deemed to be important for snow removal work. Another item offered by International/Marola included a Parts and Service fleet data management system. This system is not only useable for this truck but also the Town's existing fleet of International's. The value is \$2,000 but is offered at no charge. Another item the committee considered was the portion of the bid that asked for the Dealers to list their Critical Service Plan. The

Freightliner dealership is open more hours during the week and on Saturday than Marola's, but does not list any after-hours service, or Sundays and holidays. Marola's plan offers contact numbers to reach key dealer personnel 24-hours a day, 365 days a year for parts and service. The members asked John if he has used any of this offered plan for any other trucks purchased from Marola's. John responded that the Town has used the after-hours parts room many times in years past and at least twice in his twelve year tenure have used the overnight service to get a truck repaired during major storms. Marola has also allowed the Town to use a truck when one of ours was unavailable. It was noted by the committee that even if the same service was available from Freightliner it would be very difficult to access during bad weather when the distances is considered.

The discussion ended with these conclusions. There are items missing in the Freightliner of Hartford's bid. The International's engine performance is better. International is offering a fleet management system valued at \$2,000. The economic advantages of maintaining a common fleet, which include duplicate spare parts and tools, training, directives, and driver familiarity, are of great value. The Critical Service Plan offered by International/Marola is superior when compared to Freightliner of Hartford. Marola's close proximity to Harwinton is of great value over the life of the truck especially in bad weather when the availability of the Town's vehicles are important for public safety. The members concluded the discussion with when all of these factors are calculated, the International is the best value for the Town and would recommend its purchase over the Freightliner.

The committee then addressed some options that it had asked to be included in the bid. It was also felt that since the pricing was better than estimated that the Town should buy an extended warranty as the complexity of these new trucks has added to service costs. It was agreed to add a full engine and chassis warranty to 60-months/100,000 miles from the standard warranty @ \$6,850.00. It was also agreed to purchase a new Roll Plow as bid with this truck as the Town's inventory of these plows are getting very old. The cost for this plow is \$8,950.00. John also asked to have electric windows and door locks added to the chassis for \$250 as it was overlooked in the specifications. The committee concurred. The total with these added options, less the Town's trade-in is \$156,030.00. Dave made a motion to recommend to the selectman the purchase of new Unit #13 from Marola Motor Sales for a new 2015 International 7500 Workstar with mounted equipment from W.H. Rose, @ \$156,030.00. With Tom's second the motion to accept carried unanimously.

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

John D. Fredsall  
Chairman, Capital Equipment Committee

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT  
ON 8/18/2014 AT 9:15AM  
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK