

Orford Budget Advisory Committee

Work Session – GoToMeeting Questions

December 1, 2020

12/4/20

To: Esther

From: Ruth, Chair

**** Note: forgot 3 items**

Highway Salary/wages by employee

- Adams said individual salaries are not usually provided.
- **In the past, we have been provided this information. Please provide the RSA that protects this information or provide the salary/wages as requested.**

DELINQUENT TAXES

- Johns response historically the Town runs between \$150,000 to \$200,000.
- **The BAC feels the Deferred taxes, estimated \$98,216.59, should be reflected in the town report under the Delinquent tax line.**

HIGHWAY

- New Snowplow bought last year not being used
 - Adams will check with the road agent as he may have plans to use in some manner, but will discuss the possibility of selling
 - **BAC would like to know the decision either the plan to use in some manner or selling.**
- Highway Vehicle Replacement schedule change.
 - Adams said the Selectboard agreed to look at using proposed 5yr for sm truck & 7yr lg truck, but not for 2021. Bob P will adjust the replacement spreadsheet for the Selectboard to review at a future date.
 - **Asked Bob P to send the adjusted replacement spreadsheet that he sends to the Selectboard to the Budget Advisory Committee at the same time.**
 - **** New Question: Why are we contracting out culverts when we have the equipment? Could you please breakdown the culverts replaced this year by Highway vs. Contracted.?**

WARRANT ARTICLES

- Proposed Warrant Article #7: \$219,000 10-wheeler Internal Dump Truck – BAC felt from 11/19/20 meeting, using Wages (used \$20/hourly) and total benefit package, came up with an estimated \$41.00/hourly cost – Conclusion by the BAC – will NOT save any money. – Bob P has since talked to the Road Agent Straight and Road Agent Straight felt the original \$41.00/hour was too high.
 - **Bob P re-adjusted the estimated \$20.00/hour by taking the wages & benefits along with fuel, wear & tear, etc. on the truck and dividing by 25%. The result was our original \$41.00/hourly cost was reduced to \$31.04/hour.**
 - **Ruth H expressed there are 3 crew members and as you don't know who would be driving the truck, it could be the highest or lowest paid employee, wages & benefits along with fuel, wear & tear, etc. on the truck should be divided by 3. This should bring**

us back to the original estimated \$41.00/hours cost – resulting in the same conclusion by the BAC – will NOT save any money. BAC members who have gone to the pit in N Haverhill said it was impossible to go up with a 10-wheeler, get filled, and return within an hour.

- The net \$3.00 savings was based on \$31.04/hour. - What is the saving based on the original \$41.00/hour? I believe from our previous meeting, we are losing money, thus the reason the BAC concluded we would NOT save money.
- What is the added cost of the 10-wheeler when you have to take in that there are 4 more wheels, extra truck chains, etc. above and beyond a 6-wheeler?
- Has the Selectboard studied the cost of a 10-wheeler vs a 6-wheeler? And what was the result?
- 10-wheeler
 - Total length from front bumper to back bumper – 24'5" long
 - Total length from front of plow to end of sander – 29'5" long
 - Total width with wing on – 9'4" in the up position
- **NEW QUESTION** – What is the height of the truck with an automatic load material cover added to new truck?
- **Previously asked:** What will Reed charge to pull a 10-wheeler out of a ditch?
- What have we paid Reed in the past to pull a 6-wheeler out of a ditch?

Sand Pit Reclamation – Tom Steketee is heading this project

Per an email from Tom Steketee's 12/1/20

- Not much to report on the sandpit reclamation plan.
- The Selectboard, voted to retain the services of Mary Pinkham-Langer.
- Mary recommended that we (SB) do the research on the various deeds and abutters who will have to be notified of any reclamation plan.
- Reclamation plan is on the to do list, not a high priority while we're in the middle of budget season. Tom Steketee expects it will be attended to after the new year.
- **BAC – this project has been on the to-do list for the past 2 years+. The town office has tax maps and copies of deeds. What is the hold-up?**
- **BAC - still concerned: This Reclamation is really important.**
 - Are we continuing to work back?
 - Are we maintaining a 3/1 slope from the boundary?
 - Have the Selectboard asked the abutter behind the pit (west side), if they would sell the town 10 – 12 acres (has been suggested in the past)?

Garage Grader Cover – Fred Kidder is heading this project

- How much more money would it cost beyond the \$8,800 quote that was accepted because of the increase cost for materials?

Garage Storage Addition – Fred Kidder is heading this project

- Received a response from Fred after our meeting.
- What is the most recent plan that is being worked on? We would like to see the draft drawing.

Warrant Article 9 \$1,200,000 Archertown Road bridge over Jacobs Brook

- How can you authorize the withdrawal of \$1,200,000 from Road Improvement CRF when the 2019 Annual town report estimated 2020 balance of \$568,307?
- The town's 20% \$240,000 can be covered, but what happens if the State does not reimburse the town 80% \$960,000? How do we cover the shortage?

****Purchasing Policy**

- There was a question about why when a project is put out for Engineer bids are some of the projects are NOT put out and awarded to DuBois & King? Noted was the BIG difference the Conservation Committee received for Engineer Fees for the Bog on the Orfordville Rd., Horizon \$10,000 and DuBois & King \$16,800. Horizon was awarded the bid.

****Could we please receive an update on the Miles & Hours on town vehicles and equipment.**

DRAFT