

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen
Budget Work Session Minutes
November 22, 2021

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Chase Kling

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Ruth Hook, Lawrence Hibbard, Bob Palifka, Laurence Duffy, Bill Paxton, Tom Thomson, Ken Wiren (called in)

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Adams asked the members of the Budget Advisory committee (BAC) if they had additional questions/comments from their 11/17/2021 meeting.

Hook asked when would the BAC be meeting with the Department heads – Adams said the Road Agent, Fire Chief and Police Chief are scheduled for the December 6, 2021 Budget meeting.

Fire Department Questions:

- Fire department Equipment – when radios and pagers are taken out of use, what do we do with them? Adams said they are reused when we can. Straight would be able to report on where they go if not reusable
- Fire Engine #1 was kept as a vehicle to be used to flush out culverts and clean off bridges – how many times did this occur in 2021?
- Warrant Article to upgrade the electrical system in Fire Engine #3 – If this upgrade extends the life of the fire engines, should all the engines be upgraded? Is this upgrade due to a code issue? If so, the BAC would like to see that documentation.

Highway Department Questions:

- Contracted Services includes funds in the event we need to hire out for plowing. If there are three trucks and three employees, why do we need contracted services? Adams said in the event a truck breaks down, we may need to contract plowing out. Hook asked which employee would not be working, as there would only be two trucks for the three employees.
- Gravel use – Thomson expressed his concern with the limited amount of material added to the roads in 2021, according to the report provided from the Road Agent. He feels this may be part of the reason for the lack of a crown on the roads - not enough material is being added. Thomson feels there is a real issue with the road maintenance. When the crew was working at the Quinttown Road corners a plan was supposed to be presented by the Road Agent and Thomson was to receive a copy of it, but never did. Adams said he will forward that plan to Thomson.
- Warrant for the Highway Truck – Will a fully loaded 10-wheeler be too heavy for the smaller bridges in town, as well as the smaller roads?

- How will the 10-Wheeler turn around at the end of the smaller roads when the turnaround is on private property without causing damage?

Hibbard said he spoke with the Road Agent in Sutton, NH regarding his fleet of highway trucks. He has a total of 6 (2-550 trucks, 3-6 wheelers and one heavy duty 6-wheeler used mostly in the winter). He replaces the trucks every 10 years or so, with a minimum of 60,000 miles on the 6-Wheelers. The most recent 6-wheeler was purchased for \$150,000. The price is kept low because he doesn't over spec, and doesn't have stainless steel. His annual maintenance for all trucks runs around \$30,000 for all but oil changes and possibly tires (Hibbard will confirm that).

Adams said the Road Commission will be reporting to the Selectboard during the Selectboard meeting of 11/24/21.

Police Department Questions:

- Warrant Article for the Speed Sign/Cart – where will this cart be stored? Duffy found a speed sign for \$3,000 and wondered if this could be an option vs the more expensive option. Two speed signs were installed in Fairlee – one is on the west side of Lake Morey, where is the other sign being used?
- Warrant Article for the Cruiser – can the Capital Reserve account be accessed to pay for a truck – the Trustees are reviewing this and will report to the Selectboard shortly, as well as their opinion on using the PD Software/Major Equipment CRF

Adjourn

Motion made by Kling, seconded by Kidder adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh