

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen
Budget Work Session Minutes
December 6, 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, Terry Straight, Jason Bachus

Call Meeting to Order

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

Highway Department - 2022 Proposed Budget

Asphalt Patch:

- Having spent less than \$500 in 2021, why is the budget for 2022 increased to \$4,000?
 - Straight said there was some product remaining from 2020 so there wasn't a need to purchase more in 2021. In 2022 the department plans to patch when replacing culverts on various paved roads

Road Signs:

- Why the increase to \$1500
 - Shortly after 9/11, road sign regulations were changed to require a certain size, and to be reflective. Because the town is required to post road signs, even for private roads, the budget was increased over the 2021 budget.
 - Additionally, there are certain street signs that are stolen on a consistent basis and they have to be replaced

Gravel:

- If stock piling already in 2021, why the increase to \$30,000 for 2022
 - The plan is to add gravel to several roads next year, and additional gravel will be needed when culverts are replaced.
- Was the gravel put out to bid?
 - It wasn't in 2021, but will in 2022
- How many yards will \$30,000 get the Town
 - Straight will calculate this – be sure to include the trucking costs

Road Improvement Projects:

- Why adding \$500, when in the past the Road agent wasn't sure what Berryman added this line item for

Culverts:

- In 2020 John Berryman provided a work plan – was this followed?
 - Adams said the plan hasn't been completed yet
- How many culverts were replaced in 2020 and 2021?
 - 9 and 5 respectively

Mousley Bridge repairs:

- When will this bridge be repaired?
 - Straight said repairs to the bridge are planned for the spring-summer of 2022. The road crew will complete the repairs

- Thomson said this needs to be repaired ASAP – it's been over a year and if someone goes off the bridge, the Town will have a lawsuit on their hands.
- Do we know what caused the damage?
 - Straight was told a log truck caused the damage, but wasn't told which company.

Highway Department - 2022 Proposed Warrant Articles

Purchase of a 10-Wheeler truck:

- What is the expected delivery date?
 - Looking at a delivery in late spring of 2022
- Will the 10-Wheeler fit in the garage with the other trucks and loader?
 - Straight said it would
- What impact will a 10-wheeler have on our smaller roads? How would the 10-wheeler turn around on some of the town back roads. Encroaching on resident's property may be an issue.
 - Straight said the trucks would need to back out as often occurs now because vehicles may be parked on the roads. Adams wants to have agreements between residents and the Town where the residents give written permission to let the trucks turn around on their property.
- The total cost of the 10-Wheeler with all the add-ons is \$218,400. What would the 6-Wheeler cost with all the same add-ons?
 - Straight said a truck similar to the one we'll be purchasing in early 2022 would cost \$194,000
- Thomson is still concerned that the Town is looking to trade-in a truck within only 42,000 miles on it for a new truck
 - Wiren commented on the repairs to the 2013 International in 2021 are very low and feels the 2013 International could be kept longer
 - Straight said the warranty is up on the 2013 International, and winters are hard on town vehicles – the longer we keep the more issues will come up, and then repair costs will increase.
 - Bean added that salt is very corrosive to the wiring on these trucks, and it's costly when it needs replacing.
- What will the extra weight of a fully loaded 10-Wheeler do to the bridges?
 - Straight said the bridges will hold up as currently we have several large trucks for logging and deliveries (Martin's Quarry) traveling over the town bridges
- What is the gross weight of a 10-Wheeler and 6-Wheeler
 - 60,000 and 46,000 respectively
 - Also, there would be less pounds per square inch in the tires on a 10-Wheeler

Paving:

- Cost to shim vs reclaiming of River Road
 - Blaktop prepared a working estimate for paving River Road, Brook Road and Dublin Road – River Road to reclaim and pave, the other two roads would be a shim coat.
- What is the cost per road?
 - Reclaiming of River Road would be \$16,490, paving of all three roads \$227,505
- Could the Road Agent get a more detailed breakdown of the various costs?
 - Straight will request from Blaktop

- What did the Road Commission recommend?
 - Bean said this was a topic that Mike Wright worked on, and he wasn't sure of his recommendation
- Should the warrant article be for one road only, or try to have more roads paved?
 - Thomson feels River Road needs to be the priority
 - Kling suggests amending the warrant article for a cost of \$250,000 to get some of these roads paved
 - Hook would like to see that Warrant Article be specific to River Road (exclude "Other Paving Projects") and limit the project to 1-year. She'd like to see the funds applied to the paving project that's listed on the warrant article.

Fire Department - 2022 Proposed Budget

Salary

- Why are the YTD salaries so low compared to the 2021 budget?
 - Dobbins-Marsh will be processing the 4th quarter payroll this week which will increase the total salary paid out for 2021

Equipment

- Why is the budget increasing to \$8,000?
 - The Fire Department wants to purchase a diesel generator that's on Truck #3 that's been problematic. Filling with gas creates a safety issue because of how the generator is filled with gas. The diesel generator can be linked directly to the trucks fuel tank.

Fire Department - 2022 Proposed Warrant Articles

Electrical Update for Engine #3

- Is this upgrade mandated? The light bar having issues and it's been challenging finding replacement bulbs. The light system no longer meets the NFPA standards. It's a safety issue being – the old-style lighting system relies heavily on the alternator. With new LED lights they won't use as much juice to operate, the lights will be brighter, sharper and easier to see, and will provide better visibility. This upgrade will extend the life of the Fire Truck by 8-10 years
- Is the harness part of the upgrade? That is not included with this upgrade.

Police Department - 2022 Proposed Operating Budget

Part Time Salary

- Why the increase in this line item – is this leading to a full time 2nd officer?
 - Bachus said this position would be an "on-call" position to cover the Town when he's on vacation, or needs town coverage when he's tied up in a major case. This increase is based on 100 hours of flex time per year. Bachus said he's not planning on having a second officer, and doesn't see a need for a full-time officer at this time, however, if the State Police continue to limit their coverage in towns, more staffing may be needed in the future.

Police Department - 2022 Proposed Warrant Articles

Cruiser

- Why a truck vs another SUV?
 - Bachus said a truck will have a higher ground clearance as well as providing more cabin room, which is helpful as he carries more equipment than in past years.
 - There is a F-150 truck that's pursuit rated.
 - The State of NH ordered 200 Silverado's – they are considered police vehicles. F&G claimed 150, with 50 remaining on a first come first serve basis.
 - Pricing for the options, base truck only - Silverado \$35,892, Ford F-150 \$36,806 and the Interceptor \$34,000
- How will you store all the equipment?
 - Bachus has a truck box that would be use on the bed of the truck. It would leave extra storage in the bed for items that don't need extra weather protection (cones, etc.)
- Why only one prisoner cage?
 - When there is more than one person that needs transportation, another police department is called in to help with transportation.
- What is the trade-in of the current cruiser?
 - Trade-in between \$5,000 - \$6,000, to sell out right between \$10,000 - \$13,000
- Does the truck have an extended warranty?
 - It comes with a standard 3-year, 36,000 miles, and a 100,000-mile drive train warranty
- Do we need a new radio?
 - The end life of the radio is 2023 and at that time will not be supported – if it stops working the cruiser will not have a radio for 1 to 1-1/2 months – Bachus feels it's better to purchase a new one now at a lower price. The office base radio is 20 years old – the current cruiser radio can be used for the office base radio.
- Do we need a new radar system?
 - The radar is over 17 years old and it's near the end of its life as well. It takes a long time calibrate once it's turned on.

Solar Trailer Speed Sign

- Is there room to park the speed trailer on the side of roads?
 - Bachus plans on obtaining property owners permission to place the speed trailer on their property if there isn't enough room on the side of the road
- Where will this be stored?
 - The unit can be stored in the small garage near the Historical Society building
- What is the battery life and cost to store data?
 - The unit has a solar panel to keep the battery operational, and the cost to store the data is \$190 per year

Bachus heard concerns regarding drivers trying to race towards the sign to see how high the number can go. He said the speed panel can be programmed to limit how high the speed is displayed.

Comments:

- Can the electrical system/LED lighting be updated on the Highway Trucks to extend their life?
- Hook is concerned when Capital Reserve accounts are amended to change the original purpose. The example used is when the CRF to maintain the Orfordville Town Building was amended to maintenance of all town buildings, a lot of funds were spent on the Highway Garage but little funds are being spent on the Town Office building. She thinks having a separate CRF for the Garage would have been a better option.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh