

Townshend Select Board Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING

April 26, 2010

Present:

Select Board: Hedy Harris; Steve Ovenden; Michael Charles, Jeff Russ, Bruce Bills

In attendance: Kurt Bostrom, Road Foreman; Irvin Stowell; Larry Gould; Warren Beattie; Joe Daigneault; Mitchell Putnam; Scott Nystrom; David Dezendorf; Dale Davis; Craig Hunt, administrative assistant

Call to Order: At 6:03, Harris called the meeting to Order and welcomed members of the public, explaining that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to be a general discussion about purchasing a new Highway Department truck.

Lengthy discussion followed, with Gould, Stowell and Putnam strongly urging the Town to not consider buying a tandem-axle, ten-wheel truck due to the greater size and weight of the vehicle on Townshend's smaller back roads, and the inability to control it, even with chained tires, in icy conditions.

When asked why the Town would consider a larger truck than any currently in the fleet, Bostrom explained that in consultation with others, particularly Gary Caruthers of Dover, that he was convinced a tandem axle would be more economical to operate and given its greater hauling capacity, would provide for better re-sale value when traded in after five years, or so, and with greater power, which would stress the engine less during plowing and sanding operations, actually reduce maintenance costs. Bostrom also believed that it would probably be as safe to operate, and noted that other Towns are using big trucks on back roads.

Discussion continued regarding the number of return trips for loads of sand that a larger truck would eliminate, and the labor cost-savings; the possible wear and tear on roads that a heavier truck with chains might cause; whether a large truck would be used efficiently other than during the winter; and the initial cost of a ten-wheel, at approximately \$20,000 more than a six.

Everyone concurred that the ten-year old T-3 and the nine-year old T-4, both currently in use, were overworked, underpowered, and were getting very expensive to maintain, and that the Town should replace one of them now, and the other in the near future. Beattie suggested buying a smaller truck this year, and saving tax dollars toward possibly buying a larger truck in the years to come. Gould suggested buying from a dealer more local than New York, agreeing that an International truck was probably a good choice.

At 6:47, Harris thanked the public for its input and advice, and requested that Bostrom and Bills put together a spread sheet comparison of projected costs between a ten-wheel and six-wheel truck.

Other Business: In other business, the Board approved the Payroll Warrants for the week ending April 24, 2010, following a motion by Harris and consent of those present.

Next Meeting: Regular Select Board Meeting May 3, 2010

Adjournment: Charles made a motion: **To adjourn at 7:10 p.m.**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, administrative assistant