

Selectmen's minutes of meeting February 18, 2020

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Joanne Grybosh
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Minutes reviewed and signed.

Purchase orders reviewed and signed.

Reviewed and signed the DLS IT Grant.

Reviewed and signed the agreement for the professional services with BETA for the Route 57 reconstruction.

Members of the fire department along with Fire Chief Ralph Morrison in to discuss a new fire truck. Ralph handed out information for explaining the cost of new fire apparatus and equipment with a performance bond. Ralph explained that they lowered the price by approx. \$30,000. Ralph stated that the equipment is old and unsafe for the fire fighters. Ho obtained an estimate to refurbish the 1996 Freightliner for \$200,000 plus and they would probably get 10 more years out of it. The pump will not pass ISO rating, the current jaws of life are 20 years old. Ralph presented a hand held radio that melted at his house.

Brian noted that at the bottom of the info page it states "these are estimates only". Ralph responded everything has to go out to bid. Smeal provided the estimates based on Ralph's specs. Brian would like to see a list of the equipment included in the cost, Ralph provided it.

Discussed the Scott Air Packs, there are 4 on each truck. They just received 6 from Tolland. Ralph does not recommend holding off on ordering new Scott Air Packs, SCBA self contained breathing apparatus.

Brian asked if there is a group or state organization that they can buy from. Ralph responded that everything he buys is from a state bid.

Seth Kershner said there is a group called the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. He will provide the information for Ralph.

If we pay up front for the truck we would save \$2,500.

Roger Brown from Finance Committee responded that this should be set up as a Capitol Improvement Project. They still have not received inventory of all the equipment so that they could set up a replacement schedule.

Mark asked about the weight of the fire truck, Ralph responded that it is 60,000 pounds. Per Ralph a CDL is not required to drive, but he does supply driver training. There are 5 firefighters trained to drive. There are 3 with CDL's.

Seth pointed out that we have a mutual aid agreement with Tolland and that they just bought a new fire truck for \$550,000.

Seth asked if the Capitol Improvement plan would be waived for this truck.

PSO Mike Johnson reviewed all the new equipment for the highway department due to the fire. He stated that there is no new large purchases for the DPW. He reviewed the age of the fire dept. equipment, it is older than any other dept.

Mike Morrison reviewed that the request for this truck has been on the agenda for 5 years.

George responded that when we did the budget reviews that a caveat was added that budgets were tentative until the school budge came in which just came in at a 9% increase for Sandisfield. The school budget is over half of our entire budget.

Mike Morrison asked if the Capitol Improvements are exempt from prop. 2 ½. It may be, we will need to follow up.

Ralph suggested taking \$100,000 from free cash and \$100,000 from Stabilization for the down payment and then lease the rest.

Brian asked what happens to the old truck, Ralph responded that no one wants it, he would put it on gov.deals to sell.

Brian would like to see a written proposal from Smeal with a hard fixed cost on their letterhead.

Dolores suggested going out to bid now before town meeting and including in the bid that the bid would be awarded upon successful funding from town meeting. This way they have an actual number to present.

George asked about the statement that their equipment is 30-40 years old but they just received equipment from Tolland and Colebrook.

Mike Morrison responded that that equipment is already 20 years old.

Brian asked about the life expectancy of the truck. Ralph responded 20-25 years. Brian asked if it is the truck or the equipment that is an issue. Brian responded that if the life expectancy is 20-25 years why did they start the process of requesting a new truck 5 years ago when the truck was only 19 years. Mike Morrison reviewed the many repairs the truck needs.

The Selectmen need to review the proposal and numbers.

Mark asked Ralph to put together as much information as he can.

Selectmen's updates:

All have been working on budgets.

Brian announced that Palmer Paving and Warner Brothers Asphalt were in to measure Cold Spring Road which will be paved this spring at no cost to the town.

Town Manager updates:

Joanne has been working with Kathy Jacobs from Finance Committee on budgets.

She has taken the budget work as far as she can, Finance Committee will need to get in touch with the Town Accountant for additional information.

She is having a phone installed at the Transfer Station.

She is advertising for part time help for the DPW.

She is working on RFQ's for Yanner Park parking lot, Complete Streets, the Backhoe and the Green Community solar panels and heat pumps.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Topics not reasonably anticipated:

Nina Carr provided an update on a call she made to Adam Hines office regarding the school budget situation. She stated that Sandisfield is getting minimum and there is a push to raise the amounts towns in Western Mass receive for school funding. It is not fully o'k yet and budget the budget still has to be back to the legislature. Nina was told that is enough Western Mass towns speak up and voice their concerns about the inequity and need for more funding, there is a chance that more will be added to the small towns. The same is true for the regional transportation budget. Nina is researching grant opportunities for preK.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley