Special Selectboard Meeting (with Road Crew) Minutes

October 19, 2017

In attendance:

Josh Dryden – Foreman

Jon Gordon

Frank Seawright – SB Chair

Kord Scott – Road Commissioner

Maureen Bell

* Discussed private road signs and the fact that the town previously approved taking responsibility for installing them.
* Josh is researching when and where we can use – 9” high signs versus 12”
* Discussed the summer/fall work that Josh still plans to complete.
* Discussed work involved (and underway) in gearing up for winter maintenance – plow installation, tire, tire chain, and plow edge inventory update, etc
* We don’t have front winter rims and tires for the new truck – will cost approx. $2500. Josh is ordering from Reed.
* Decision made to purchased sand from Palmer again - $14.25 (per ton?) – no increase, price is low, and quality is high
* Josh requested approval to purchase a new 11’ wing, with new wing arms, and a spare set of wing arms for Jon’s plow truck. Josh was not sure whether he had the authority to make this purchase as equipment/plow parts – or to shift budget money around to do it. The total cost is approx. $5300 - plus some relatively minor expenses in materials & for Hal Coleman to complete the necessary plow frame modifications so it will accept the new wing. The current wing and arms were manufactured by a company that is no longer in business - the parts are not readily available. Having duplicate wings and arms on both trucks, with one spare set of interchangeable wing arms (which are a part that can be damaged during plowing operations), from a reliable manufacturer will move towards better equipment redundancy, reduce the parts inventory, simplify emergency repairs, and save the town money over time. Josh also feels the current wing is too long (12’), is contributing to the damage to the asphalt and shoulders along Windham Hill Road, damage to the guardrails, and in many cases, forces the driver to operate the truck unsafely – partially in the oncoming lane. While these plow parts were not specifically planned for in the budget, Josh feels there is money in various other budget line items including, the equipment parts budget, the culvert purchase & installation, mowing, etc. that will cover this expense. He asked for approval to shift money as required to make this purchase. We unanimously approved authorizing him to make the purchase – with the understanding that the overall road expenditures would not exceed the annual budgeted amount. Josh will try and sell the 12’ wing and arms to help offset the cost.
* Josh asked us to consider implementing an HRA plan, dental plan, (and possibly life insurance) as part of the road crew compensation package. The hefty increase in the cost of the current health insurance plan was reiterated to the road crew and no promises were made. Kord will research some options and costs.
* Discussed plans for replacing the 550 – yellow truck – 100,000 miles. We have $30,000 in equipment fund. If we get $60,000 then we will have the funds to replace it. Josh has quotes
* Act 64 – Josh reported that Weston already ran into a problem with a large culvert replacement. The state was inconsistent in their design approval process. Has left Weston with a problem in terms of the out of pocket expense for what was an emergency replacement. Need to learn more about this whole process and be careful.
* Received a quote from Skip Lisle for installation of a Beaver Deceiver on Edson Drive - $1500. Josh gave him the go-ahead. To be completed before the end of the year.
* Discussed the level complaints re Burbee Pond. Planning to ask the Conservation Committee to help research this with the state.
* There are many increased demands on road crew hours. OSHA, flagging, reporting, etc. Looking toward the future we may need to consider a full time 3rd road crew member.
* Give Ellen the Winter Road Policy for inclusion in the WN&N. it’s a big plus having these guys close to work.
* Discussed the improvement in the unpaved road conditions from the extra chloride and improved crowning efforts.