

TOWN OF WHEELLOCK
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
Thursday 2025-02-27, 6:00pm
Minutes, draft for distribution
At Wheelock Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Mike Richardson, Scott Lange, Ann Lawless. Citizen and part time road crew member Chuck Dill.

Ann called the meeting to order at 6:11pm. Additions to agenda: sign warrants, overload permits, minutes.

ROAD EQUIPMENT: The meeting started late because the 09 truck broke down on Burroughs Road. The crew was able to limp it back to the garage. Chuck Dill reported on his research into new trucks:

- Freightliner of Maine (Bangor)
2015 Freightliner, automatic
New engine with 1 year warranty on engine only
12 ft wing, stainless body, same size tires as both our trucks
120,000 miles
TENCO setup, Detroit engine (easy to maintain)
Inspection sticker 6/24
\$289,000
Chuck spoke with the foreman in Tunbridge to ask why they sold it. It was time for their 7 year rotation.

- ATG Westminster (VT)
2018 Freightliner, automatic
120,000 miles
TENCO setup, automatic transmission, Detroit engine (easy to maintain)
\$79,000
Chuck drove it around the yard. It was not plugged in but it started right up.

- ATG Westminster (VT)
2015 Western Star, automatic
Under 80,000 miles
Needs a new dump body
\$75,000

Mike made a motion, seconded by Scott, to purchase the ME Freightliner, provided we have good answers to the questions generated in the discussion.

Discussion:

- Buying the least expensive trucks would be a stopgap for right now
 - ME Freightliner - engine warranty is a positive
 - Buying the ME Freightliner fits more with our replacement schedule, since we need to be building funding to replace the 2019.
 - Goal should be a 5-7 year replacement schedule
 - Projected repair costs for the 09, researched recently
 - Rear end \$8,000 to \$9,000 plus \$3,000 for towing = \$12,000
 - DPF exhaust system - \$12,000 to \$20,000
 - Transmission - (current one is a replacement of about 2 years) \$30,000
- Estimate \$53,000 to \$62,000

- The 09 has 179,781 miles. We are using approx. 12,840 miles per yr.
- Put the 09 up for auction, with or without a minimum bid. Consider putting any proceeds back into equipment reserve.
- Town meeting 2024: Voters approved purchase of a new dump truck to replace the 09, not to exceed \$240,262, less trade in of \$25,000....., total to be financed over a period not to exceed 5 years, in accordance with [24 V.S.A. Sec. 1786a](#). (YES 22/NO 5).
- How to address difference in purchase prices: Selectboard may act. See Sec. [24 V.S.A. Sec. 1786a](#) (b) and [19 V.S.A. § 304\(a\)\(3\)](#).
- Loan figuring: Keep the length of the loan to under 5 years. Projecting a purchase price of \$289,000, plus estimate of \$10,000 to include extended warranty, figuring 6% interest, we could still have a monthly payment of \$40,000 if we used funds from the Equipment Reserve Fund, and \$40,000 truck payment in 2025 budget.
- Questions (Chuck to follow up with ME Freightliner, Mike to ATG Lebanon, Ann re VT Bond Bank capital purchase financing:
 - Delivery – Would they deliver? Could we get the ME Freightliner moved to a closer dealer – Westbrook ME?
 - What would a warranty cost; warranty specs?
 - Where could we get the warranty service? Lancaster NH?
 - Dealer financing?
 - Doublecheck body length with plow.
 - Can we get out of the ATG Lebanon quote signed on 12/19/2023 for the 6-wheeler that still has no confirmed delivery date (\$240,262 with trade in allowance of \$25,000)

Vote on motion: Unanimous, YES

Ann will warn a special Selectboard meeting for Monday March 3, 6pm, regarding a truck purchase.

VERMONT BOND BANK APPLICATION FOR DISASTER EXPENSES

Scott motioned to vote to authorize the preliminary application Ann submitted to the MCRF 2025 Loan Round, seconded by Mike. So voted, unanimously.

Mike motioned, seconded by Scott, to engage bond counsel Eli Emerson, of Primmer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer, PC. His draft letter of 3/1/25 was reviewed. Bond counsel is a requirement of the MCRF process. So voted, unanimously.

WARRANTS, OVERLOAD PERMITS, MINUTES

Mike motioned, seconded by Scott, to sign the warrants, overload permits, minutes of 2/18/25. So voted, unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:22pm

Recorder, Ann Lawless

Ann Lawless

Scott Lang

Mike Richardson