

**TOWN OF WHEELOCK
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
Monday 2025-03-03, 6:00pm**

MINUTES, draft for distribution

Present: In person: Selectboard members Scott Lange, Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson. Chuck Dill, Dayton Blake. Via Zoom: Treasurer Erin Swigart, Teresa Stimson.

6:00pm, Ann called the meeting to order. There were no changes to the agenda.

Truck purchase

Board members reviewed the buyers order form, extended warranty, and a financing proposal from Freightliner & Western Star of Maine, salesman Mark Rafford, Bangor office.

2025 Western Star Model 47X, new, Fairfield body and plow system, red, priced at \$289,000.00 less a FET tax credit for tires of \$324.70, total \$249,995.30. Warranties are as follows:

Engine, 6 yr, 150K miles, \$2800
After, 6 yr, 150K miles, \$875
TC-4, 7 yr, 200K miles, \$4265
Trans, 5 yr, unlimited \$1125
Wiring, 7 yr, 100K mi, \$990
Towing, 7 yr, unlimited, \$1265 (to Lancaster for warranty work)
TOTAL \$11,320

Questions we asked after the last Selectboard meeting were answered. The truck length is 30 feet without the plow and 33.5 feet with plow on. The dealer could transport it at no charge to Westbrook ME which is closer to us for easier pickup.

Financing

Freightliner provided three options, for five, six and seven year terms, all with \$50,000 down. The five-year term is at 6.35% interest; the others slightly higher.

Erin provided a quote from Community National Bank for a loan of \$250,000 over a 5 year term, fixed, at 5.49%. Two amortization schedules were provided, with installments paid either once yearly or twice yearly.

The 2024 Town Meeting vote was discussed. The voters had authorized the purchase of a new dump truck, less deposit, in an amount not to exceed \$240,262.00, with financing up to 5 years.

Ann's research with the VT bond bank counsel Eli Emerson was that highway equipment borrowing does not require voter approval – even if it is long-term. VT Bond bank is not appropriate for highway equipment purchases and he recommended going to a local bank. Erin contacted Garrett Baxter at VLCT. He said the Selectboard would not have to obtain voter approval if the term of the loan is for five years or less.

Also discussed – using \$50,000 from the new equipment reserve account fund for the down payment. Also noted that we could re-allocate \$12,000 in the 2025 budget for repairs to the 09 truck.

Mike motioned, Scott seconded, to purchase the 2025 Western Star 47X, Fairfield body and plow system. So voted unanimously.

Mike motioned, Scott seconded, that we send the required deposit of \$2500 while we secure financing.

Dayton left at 6:50pm.

Scott motioned, Ann seconded, that we appoint Mike to sign the warrant to send the deposit of \$2500 to secure the truck. Mike recused, so voted.

Mike motioned, Scott seconded that we accept the Community National Bank proposal for a five year loan, for \$250,000, interest rate of 5.490% with the twice yearly payment plan, with the first payment of \$28,928.99, due October 1, 2025. So voted, unanimously.

Scott motioned, Mike seconded, that we utilize \$50,000 from the New Road Equipment Reserve fund for the down payment. So voted, unanimously.

Chuck offered to contact McLeans, a salvage dealer in Limerick ME for the 09 truck and also ask about the Galion grader.

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott and seconded by Mike at 7:15pm. So voted.

Scribe: Ann Lawless

Signatures:

Ann Lawless

Mike Richardson

Scott Lange