



TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
Selectboard
PO Box 121 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Selectboard Meeting Agenda
May 8, 2024 3:30pm PM
Townshend Town Hall
Approved: 5/14/24

Present: Allie Evans, Katie Marrow, Kate Jansak-Alley, Sherwood Lake, Nick Suarez
In Attendance: Connie Holt – Select Board Assistant.

Evans calls the meeting to order at 3:34pm.

Highway Equipment: Evans opens the discussion of three highway pieces of equipment needed and that the Select Board are still finalizing the plan. Evans updates the Board that at the last Selectboard meeting when the Board was putting together the numbers the \$66,000 annual grader loan payment was omitted. When it is factored in the total is more than the \$200,000 voted on by the residents for fiscal year 2025.

Marrow points out that the way the figures go over the \$200,000 is because of the loan. The Board authorized Zumbruski to get numbers for a grader lease. Marrow points out that there still may be a possibility that if the grader lease comes in at a number that does not push us over the \$200,000, we could address the equipment needs for under the \$200,000 cost. Suarez adds that the Board will need to decide on the grader loan by next Wednesday 5/15/24.

Jansak-Alley suggests that until we have the grader lease numbers, we cannot make a decision. She asks if there is any other purpose for meeting today. Holt states that there were some questions about the Backhoe lease and by signing into the lease and pursuing other agreements and purchases it may bring us over the \$200,000 amount. Holt states that the Select Board needs to decide if they are going forward on the approved commitments or is it going to change.

Suarez States that it comes down to the grader. He states his concern is that by doing a grader lease, we are missing out on savings from a 2% loan interest versus the 7% lease interest. He says it could represent \$20,000 difference. Marrow reiterates that if the town enters into two leases (backhoe and grader) the town could get 3 pieces of equipment for under the \$200,000 approved at town meeting. Holt suggests the other way to look at it how much of a trade in

for the grader could the town get. Maybe it is enough to bring the amount under the approved \$200,000 and still take advantage of the 2% loan.

Bob Desiervo, resident, states that the Selectboard is assuming that the \$200,000 for highway equipment will be voted in at next years' town meeting. He also states that the town is also looking at another big piece of equipment which is the Fire Truck.

Jansak-Alley states that we could not do the loan this year and take a loan next year for other equipment.

Holt states that one of the reasons for the meeting today was that Marrow and Zumbriski were expressing an urgency in signing the backhoe lease and not wanting to wait until the 5/14 Selectboard meeting. Marrow replies that Zumbriski wanted clarity on who is signing the lease. Marrow reiterates that the Board has approved the Backhoe lease. She continues that while there are larger numbers to look at, the Board has motioned and approved certain pieces of equipment. Evan states that she feels it important to get the Selectboard together to look at the dollar amounts and not go over the \$200,000. Evans wants a consensus from the Board on how to move. Lake states that there is funding that comes into the highway department from the state that can be used to off expenses at the end of the year.

Marrow recommends to the Board that they continue with the approved plan from the last Select Board meeting of an excavator renter, backhoe lease, grader lease, grader short term rental, and backhoe short term rental, and trailer purchase which leaves us with about \$118,000 left to solve the grader long term problem. She raises the need for an ongoing equipment plan: how much is the equipment depreciating and how long will they last and to fund the need. Suarez supports having an equipment plan that funds equipment replacement.

Suarez states that he looks forward to seeing a grader lease by next Tuesday's Board meeting. He also reiterated the need to have the language in the lease that allows the town to end the lease if the funding is not approved at Town Meeting.

Holt asks where does the Board stand on signing the backhoe lease. Does that happen tonight or does it wait for a discussion at the Select Board meeting on Tuesday, 5/14. The Board decides to sign the backhoe lease that evening.

Evans makes a motion to adjourn. Marrow seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0-0. Meeting is adjourned at 4:12pm.