

SPECIAL MEETING

April 3, 2012

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held April 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of opening bids for a used excavator and trailer. All Board members were present. Also present was Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield and Town Clerk Janice Burdick.

Bids were received from George + Swede, Bashmann and Vantage.

George + Swede:

2009 Linked Belt Excavator with 1792 hours: \$87,000.00

40DLA Trailer: \$15,000.00

Bashmann:

2006 Linked Belt Excavator with 3000 hours: \$64,980.00

New Eager Beaver Trailer: \$18,153.00

Vantage:

Trailer: \$17,564.10

Jerry Snyder noted that the one bid by Bashman is the one the Town rented and on 7/19/11 the cost to buy was \$63,706 which included two buckets.

Jamie Mansfield stated that he prefers the 2009 for the following reasons:

1. Was Cattaraugus County's so know it had good maintenance – looked at it and looked like it had been well maintained.
2. 3 years newer with less hours.

Jerry Snyder asked how it was going to be paid for?

Tom Mansfield stated that there was \$89,000.00 in the 2012 Budget for equipment.

\$43,000.00 2012 Budget CHIPS and \$23,892.00 from 2011 carried over.

Jerry Snyder asked about Sibley Road and the fact that the bid for that came in about \$29,000.00 over budget. Jamie Mansfield explained that FEMA will pay 87% so Town will have to pay about \$22,000.00. Jerry Snyder expressed his concerns with spending everything that is budgeted versus putting it in a reserve. If need a new truck every five years need to save.

Donn Lang stated that the Town should be able to budget enough every year and still stay within the 2% spending cap. After much discussion Jerry Snyder stated that he isn't against an excavator but need to be prudent. Would like to see a 20 year plan so money is there. Also, Mr. Snyder added that can rent one for \$3500/month. Do we want to invest over \$100,000 in a piece of equipment that is going to sit here a lot of the year. Asked Jamie Mansfield to explain why ditches can't be done with the Grader and loader like they were in the past. Jamie Mansfield explained that the ditches are much deeper than they used to be, can't reach in with grader like you can with an excavator. Example is Kenyon Road that has 4' ditches – can't clean with the loader. Can do a much better job with the excavator and won't have to redo for 5 years. Jerry Snyder stated that he feels they will not be using it enough to justify spending that kind of money. Fion MacCrea asked if it was used 500 hours per year – how long will it last? Jamie Mansfield felt it should last 10-15 years. J. Mansfield also added that if there is any flooding, can reach in and clean the pipes.

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Jerry Snyder stated that he feels it is the responsibility of the Town Board to have an equipment replacement plan and how it is going to be paid for. Can't afford to finance everything –need to manage wisely. Need to see a replacement plan so when it is time to replace something and it is in the plan, the money is there. Feels should continue to rent, not all the roads are built up with deep ditches. Jamie Mansfield explained that with the loader it is going across the road all the time – need flagman. Don't have enough men for that. With the excavator it is only on one side of the road so safer. Donn Lang stated that he has noticed that most of the crews use an excavator and feels the roads can be maintain better due to being able to clean the ditches better with an excavator.

Further discussion included looking at a older excavator, shared services, making sure a loader if bought in the future, is sufficient to clean ditches, what would happen if CHIPS money ended or reduced, consistently putting money in an equipment reserve account. Need trucks to plow and sand, don't need an excavator.

Jamie Mansfield stressed that need to keep the ditches clean in order to keep the roads. Can't replace equipment putting \$90,000.00 in a reserve/year. Would not be able to keep up with a replacement schedule – would need to put more in. Seasonal roads also need work.

Tom Mansfield asked the Board what they want to do – he feels it is needed. Jerry Snyder stated that he feels the Town can't afford it right now. Concerned that CHIPS may end and more unfunded State mandates will be handed down to the Town. If diligent and set money aside and be patient and get a plan. Rent an excavator for 2 months instead of one. Fion MacCrea asked about sharing the cost with another Town. Jamie Mansfield stated that other Towns are using theirs more so hard to share. He added that Almond uses theirs too much to share. Fion MacCrea agreed to prepare a spread sheet showing how much is needed to replace equipment on a schedule.

A motion was made by Jerry Snyder to table the purchase of an excavator and trailer until have a long term financial plan in place and discuss it further at the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Fion MacCrea. Mary Stearns stated that she thought the money budgeted was so an excavator could be purchased this year. After further discussion the motion was carried 5-0. Donn Lang stated that if Jamie Mansfield feels he needs to rent an excavator for three months. Need to know. Fion MacCrea stated he agrees with the need but also need to look at the whole picture.

Other Business: Board of Elections lacking inspectors for Town and Village.

Fire Numbers – received information about doing for a fund raiser and was referred to the Fire Department.

Mary Stearns attended the meeting in Penn Yan regarding Hydrofracking and what is the next step for the Town once a Moratorium is in place. Zoning Law should be looked at next and decide if want to actually have a ban. Does the Town want the Slottje's to look at the Zoning Law and Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm with a motion by Donn Lang, seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Burdick

Town Clerk

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