

**TOWN BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2020 – 1:00 P.M.
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Chair David Pfeiffer, Supervisor Janiece Bolender, Supervisor Jay Damkoehler, Supervisor Doug Larsson, Supervisor Eric Olson, Public Works Superintendent Alex Mesdjian

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pfeiffer called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding public works capital equipment retirement / sale / trade - in.

Board was presented with the best offer received for Town's Volvo grader advertised on Facebook marketplace. A decision by the board is needed because the buyer wishes to bring payment to the Town this weekend and pick up the attachments. He would return to pick up the grader at a later date which will provide time to ensure that the check clears. Discussion of the offer proceeded. The offer of \$40,000 substantially exceeds the \$18,000 trade-in value of the grader. This machine is no longer manufactured and parts are hard to obtain. Town could face a substantial repair bill at any time and there could also be a significant delay in getting the machine back in service due to difficulty in sourcing parts. The grader only functions are to grade gravel roads and push back accumulated snowfalls that are too heavy for plow trucks to move. The grader is too big for the job of grading gravel roads so it cannot properly leave a crown on these roads. The likelihood of accumulated snowfalls requiring the grader are unlikely due to the current policy of keeping at snow removal in the case of a heavy blizzard rather than surrendering the roads until the snow ends. As a result the grader gets minimal use and mostly sits taking up space and depreciating in our heated garage with very few hours put on it each year. If use of a grader was still needed, it could be rented for those limited uses at a cost far less than the current operating, maintenance and depreciation cost of a grader owned by the Town. Replacing the grader with a track loader with a grading attachment provides the Town with equipment that can do a better job of grading gravel driveways while also having the versatility to perform many other needed functions as has been demonstrated by public works staff using a loaner machine this fall. In addition to the track loader being more versatile, the cost is significantly less than a grader. This lowers the amount the Town must annually budget and set aside for capital equipment replacement. The space in our heated garage currently occupied by the grader can be used to store and protect the value of other more heavily used Town equipment. Supervisor Damkoehler recommended that the Town remove the communications radio from the grader before sale.

Motion by Damkoehler, 2nd by Larsson, to accept offer of \$40,000 from buyer in Northern MI to purchase Volvo grader and attachments. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Larsson, second by Sup. Damkoehler, to adjourn at 1:15 P.M. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectively Submitted,

David Pfeiffer
Town Chair