

**Town of Plainfield, Vermont
Special Select Board Meeting
June 2, 2020
Remote-Only Meeting Via Zoom
Approved Minutes**

Electronic Participants: Sasha Thayer (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Jim Volz (Select Board Member), Kathy Bizzoco, Mike Nolan (Road Crew) & Michael Bingham (Road Crew)

Sasha Thayer called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Approval of/changes to the Agenda

No changes

Announcements

Congratulation to the 2020 graduates and appreciation for family and community support. There will be a parade for graduates in Plainfield on June 13th, this is not something that the select board needs to approve.

Public Comment

No public comment

Loader Replacement – Highway Department

The interest rate on the Plainfield Town truck is at 2.59% (?), whereas current interest rates for the loader will be 2.39%, so it may make more sense to pay down on the truck instead of a larger down payment on the loader.

The prices for the two loaders are similar. Tammy discussed with Mike Nolan the pro's and con's of each machine. One of the things Mike liked about the John Deere is the positraction, which locks both front wheels together, which improves traction significantly. The positraction is an additional cost for the Komatsu loader; which is why there are two estimates. Komatsu has agreed to extend the maintenance warrantee to 5 years.

Tammy explained that the hydrostatic breaks might not be a selling factor as the current machine is 22 years old and the town of Plainfield has never replaced the breaks (only 50%) gone.

Michael Bingham indicated that the Komatsu and John Deere are both good machines.

John Deere currently has the machine on hold for the Town of Plainfield. Komatsu is 6-8 weeks out before delivery. Komatsu (2020-new) costs \$125,180 & the John Deere (2019-new) is \$121,900 (both after trade in). The current servicer for the equipment comes from Newbury, whereas the sales representative made it seem like the servicer comes from Barre, which is not accurate.

Mike Nolan stated that he prefers the John Deere, whereas Michael Bingham favors the Komatsu. Mike Nolan indicated that the current John Deere equipment has been reliable for the Town of Plainfield. The machine has higher horse power, positraction, and service out of Williston.

Michael explained that the Komatsu is more comfortable inside the cab, more vision, service is closer, cheaper and quicker (any part can be delivered in 1-day to East Montpelier), maintenance package makes more sense. Michael indicated that the positraction should be added if this machine is favorable, as it would definitely be helpful (+3,100).

Sasha indicated that servicing and warrantee is a huge component. If the machines are comparable, it seems as though comfort and servicing should be weighed in.

Sasha & Tammy indicated that based on the research the Komatsu seems like the more favorable machine. The production of the Komatsu machine might take longer than 6-8 weeks due to production during the pandemic. Tammy agreed to request for a commitment to use a loaner if the current machine was to breakdown during the production wait. Tammy is going to negotiate with Komatsu and reconvene on Monday (6/8). Interest rates will also be discussed on Monday to establish the best course of action for financing (5-years).

Executive Session under 1 V.S.A 312

Tammy moved to change to an executive session. This motion was confirmed by Jim Volz, Tammy Farnham & Sasha Thayer of the Select Board.

Conclusion of Executive Session

Upon return, there was report that no decisions were made.

Adjournment

A unanimous decision to adjourn was made at 6:55pm.