

Athens Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2025
6:00pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: David Bemis, Sandi Capponcelli, Janet Perry, Krista Gay (remote), Denise Randall, Hannah Regier, William Borsi

Called to order at 6:03

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

Truck Purchase

Janet shares the bids she got today. The truck that had previously been quoted for ~\$109,000 is no longer available.

F550 from a different dealer – isn't in stock but can be ordered. The total cost is now \$111,037 - \$15,000 trade in + dealer fees = \$96,602

F600 – in stock. It is the same size truck with heavier duty rear and front end. The UV joints are bigger. Matt likes this truck. The cost will be \$94,096, including the body, after a \$16,000 trade in. Total price was \$109,531 plus \$565 in dealer and other fees. The included back body costs \$36,000.

Both trucks are brand new 2024s. The plow will fit either. Matt would want to get winter tires for either of the new trucks. David points out that the 600 is less expensive than the 550.

David says that the 2% state loan is only available twice a year. He thinks the town should buy the truck using a town fund that isn't needed right now, like the paving fund, then pay it back when the loan comes through. Janet says the loan admin she spoke with says they have never denied a loan. April 15th is when the loans are available.

It will take 8 weeks to get the new truck because the back body needs to be built and electrical put in for the lights, plow & sander.

Hannah says that there is plenty of money in the bank to bridge the gap for a month or two. Denise says she's leery of spending the town's money upfront without going to the townspeople. David says the state says the selectboard can encumber the town as outlined in the last

meeting. The townspeople voted on the first small truck that was purchased, but not on subsequent trucks.

Hannah asks what the loan application asks for. Janet says they basically only want to know if the town has any debt. Hannah wants to make sure that they don't ask for an external audit, which the town can't provide. The loan will be a 5-year term. Denise says that funds will still need to be put into the equipment fund each year for the *next* new truck, plus the amount (\$10,000+) needed for the loan payment. The \$15,000 in the R&M budget line can be used for the current year loan payment.

The board reviews the trucks' warranties. Both are: 3 yr / 36k miles bumper-to-bumper; 5 yr / 60k powertrain & roadside; 5 yr/100k diesel engine. David says that they won't have to budget any R&M for 3 years.

Denise points out that if the current small truck fails before it gets traded in, there won't be the \$16,000 trade-in value. David suggests telling Matt to mostly use the big truck while waiting for the new small truck to arrive. Janet says they've been using the grader to plow the dirt roads. David says the small truck should be used as little as possible.

Sandi makes a motion to purchase the F600 for a total of ~\$94,096 (contingent on the trade in value of the current truck), using ~\$38,000 from the Equipment Fund and applying to the state of Vermont Equipment Loan Fund for an April award for the balance. The town will cover the upfront cost with funds currently in the bank, with loan funds repaying this outlay. David is authorized to sign the purchase order for the truck. Janet seconds. Put to a vote: David, Denise, Janet, Sandi in favor. Krista opposed.

Krista says she doesn't disagree with the purchase but thinks it should be voted on by the townspeople.

The board wants the new truck to have Town of Athens signage on it. Krista says that she did make contact with Vermont Ts about the truck signage. They do have a record that they're doing a job for the Town of Athens. David asks Krista to reach out to them again and he will also talk to another business that does signage. Krista will either try to get the town's money back or get the signage, depending on what has already been made.

Further Business

*Sandi makes a motion to adjourn. Denise Seconds. All in favor.
Adjourned at 6:33pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk

