



Town of Lee Board of Public Works
MEETING MINUTES of February 26, 2024
Select Board Office

Members Present: David Forrest, Robert Wright, Jim Ethier, Ashley Shepardson

Others Present: Town Administrator Chris Brittain, Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino, Wastewater Supervisor Todd Tyer

Chairman Dave Forrest called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

Minutes

Jim Ethier made a motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2024. Ashley Shepardson seconded the motion, it passed unanimously. (4-0) Clerk Rob Wright asked a follow up question to the minutes asking if one of the new trucks will have a gas powered engine. It was clarified that the F600 will be diesel and the F250 will be gas powered.

Wastewater Department

Wastewater Supervisor Todd Tyer attended the meeting to discuss septic dumping rates. These fees are what the Town collects when outside haulers dump septic waste into the Town's Wastewater Plant. Last year, the Wastewater Department increased (\$200/1000gallons) septic dumping rates to combat escalating sludge disposal and operational costs. Chairman Dave Forrest asked why they weren't notified of a price increase, though he was more than happy to accept the new rate. Supervisor Tyer and Town Administrator Chris Brittain explained that it was an oversight and it would not happen again. Every two years the Wastewater Department renews a contract with a company that is paid to get rid of the Town's sludge. 9000gal Tanker trucks come approximately four times a week. Tyer stated that sometimes the price is adjusted with a new contract but this past contract the sludge haulers increased prices by a heavier margin than had been seen in the past. Tyer asked if this happens again, should the Board sit down with him to discuss increasing the rates. Chairman Forrest stated that it would be a crying shame if the Town had to shut off outside haulers because the Town is losing money. He asked that Tyer send a letter to the Board or attend a meeting to let them know what Tyer plans to do with the rates.

The sludge the Town pumps out is mostly what comes in through the town collection system (sewer lines) into the Wastewater Plant. Before the new plant was built, there was an old 9000 gallon tanker as the storage tank and it had to be perfectly timed so that a tanker truck could come to empty it. The new plant included a new tank that can hold 20,000 gallons of sludge giving the Wastewater Department more flexibility.

When the new wastewater plant was built it was designed to be less expensive for sludge disposal. With this design a certain percentage of water is taken out to make it a thicker slurry, the less water present is that much less that the Town needs to pay to get rid of. Any changes that would be made to switch the style of sludge would be a very expensive capital project. A driving force in the price increase is the cost of truck fuel and newer PFAS sludge disposal regulations increasing incineration costs.

Chairman Forrest asked Tyer if he has any major expenditures coming up. Tyer talked about continual collection system work and pump rebuilds at 4 of the 5 pump stations. I&I (Infiltration and Inflow) is constant and state requirements require a substantial amount of work dedicated to it yearly. He stated that it is a never ending loop

of maintenance. Tyler indicated that there are 25 manholes that are scheduled to have a liner sprayed on them to prevent them from leaking. There are also plastic inserts that can be used to stop water flow if a road is flooded and the manhole is under water.

The Wastewater Department was recently awarded a grant of \$150,000 that will help pay for a portion of the I&I. All the I&I work is subbed out because the Town does not have the manpower nor the equipment to complete it.

For outside septic haulers, there is 10,000 gallon daily limit. There is a machine that measures in gallons what the septic haulers are dumping. However, in the winter, it is taken off line and gallons aren't measured. Currently, in the winter months the haulers write out a receipt. If they have half a load, they are charged half a load. In other municipalities, they charge a minimum of one full load. This brings more haulers to Lee because they aren't required to pay for a full load. The Board agrees that this makes good business sense and to continue.

Cemetery/Highway Departments

Sidewalk Machine Demo

Chairman Forrest asked Highway Supervisor how the demo for the new sidewalk machine went. Jim Ethier asked Chairman Forrest why he didn't attend the demo while he was on site. Sorrentino opened the overhead garage door for him, but Chairman Forrest left because the regular door to the Highway Garage wasn't left open for anyone to attend the demo. The regular door entrance to the Highway Garage is kept locked at all times for insurance and liability purposes.

Ashley Shepardson asked how the demonstrations went. Highway Supervisor Zachary Sorrentino discussed the different features that were available. There are 15 different sets of tires available ranging from agricultural tires to tires as thin as racing slicks. He reported that he will give the company the specs that would reach the specific height needed and the grip level needed. Low hanging business signs were brought up again. Chairman Forrest pointed out that the sign by Carberry's would not be an easy adjustment. It won't be known until the specs are finished whether signs will need to be adjusted. Jim Ethier asked about the three signs in question, whether it was worth all the trouble to customize the machine to work around them. Sorrentino replied that he doesn't want businesses to feel that the town is ignoring them or that the highway crew has to revisit these sites after 12 hours of plowing to use a snowblower. Notices cannot be provided to the businesses until the final specs.

The machine brought in for the demonstration was an F75 and had all the bells and whistles. It is 4.5 inches taller and 4 inches wider than the Town's current sidewalk machine and cannot be made any smaller. There is a different model, a C70, that is medium grade and would more closely match the size of the current machine. Sorrentino stated that the model brought for demo was overkill for what the Town needs.

The sidewalk machine will be outfitted with a stainless steel sander. The Town has a Downeaster plow that originally came with the holder. It is currently unused and is the same plow the company would sell to the Town. If the trailer bracket is removed, it will attach. The drop spreader for the holder will be retrofitted to the new sidewalk machine with just adaptor plates and hydro plumbing and hydraulic lines.

The Town has two plows, a V shape and a straight plow. 5.5 inches would have to be taken off the frame work of the straight blade due to the design of the lifting arms. The V plow does not have a main push plate on the street blade so it could have been picked up that day. There is an old dump body that could be used but Sorrentino would have to bring in Mark Saunders to weld an insert bracket to sit on the new machine.

Chairman Forrest asked what the lead time is, Sorrentino replied that if they can agree on the specs and attachments, getting the quotes and all the paperwork completed by July 2nd, they have a drop date of November 1st. At Annual Town Meeting, the sidewalk machine will appear as a separate article because it's being financed. This company is used to working with municipalities and understands the processes to receive funding. After Town Meeting in May, Sorrentino can put the order in and start building and working on the specifications.

Chairman Forrest asked Sorrentino if he had looked into the hook and go truck that Bart's had available. Forrest said that it looked wonderful, but would say no because it's old. No matter what type of body it is, fenders would still have to be added to the frame. Forrest indicated that everything would have to be included in the price. Regarding the new F600, he asked if they made a stainless steel flatbed. If a stainless steel sander is mounted on a steel slide, the dissimilar metals would rust faster. Due to salt, Forrest says that it's not going to last very long. Sorrentino said that the spreader can have its own frame mounted so when the truck needs to be cleaned, the whole sander could come off. The truck would be its own carrier unit like taking the bottom side of a roll off dumpster if it had no sheet metal on the bottom and a sander was put on it. The sander would be its own entity.

Forrest and Sorrentino debated on how many truck bodies. Sorrentino said that it all depends on cost, aluminum bodies are lighter but also more expensive. Forrest replied that if it is mainly going to be used in the summer time with masonry work, aluminum wouldn't be necessary. Sorrentino wants a dump body.

Clerk Rob Wright asked follow-up questions for the new International Truck. At a prior meeting, the fit of the new sander was discussed. Sorrentino and Town Mechanic Patrick Li were looking into the shape of the sander and the gap it created in the truck bed. Currently the only 5 yard, electric sander is 9 feet long which leaves a gap in the 11 ft bed. This was the only option for that capacity. Sorrentino said that they would have to get over the awkwardness of having a 2 foot gap. Li and Sorrentino have the front seats taken out to see how to attach the radios alongside the sander and pilot controls. They are looking to find a better way to attach a bracket off the actual body of the truck, which is more secure than screwing it into the dashboard.

Ethier asked the status of the Bassett/Holt Cemetery lot that has been discussed at previous meetings. Admin Assistant Samantha Lovett had passed the Board's message to the funeral home and reached out to the Town's legal counsel, Jeremia Pollard, for a document to cease the family's access to the lots.

Cemetery Supervisor Sorrentino explained how the stone that was approved at the last meeting will fit in the plot with the current stones and vaults. There is an external concrete vault surrounding eight plots. This does not allow a full foundation to be poured below the frost line for the new stone. If the stone needs to be pinned in place, there will be nothing to pin it to. There is not enough room to mow the area currently so the stone will not be adding any additional obstacles for maintaining the cemetery.

Clerk Wright had a follow up question for the new F600 that will be ordered during FY25, asking when the hard date is that the truck needs to be spec'd out. It needs to be completed before Town Meeting.

Sorrentino also provided an update on the water truck that is being held due to a recall. He and Li were able to go to MHQ on Friday and see the progress on the F350 for the Water Department. MHQ told them that it would be another six to eight weeks with the work they wanted to complete. Sorrentino said that they would take the truck and finish the rest. By telling them to stop building and selling accessories, Sorrentino was able to save \$12,000.

As MHQ has proved to be unreliable, other dealerships are being investigated including Colonial Motor Group (CMG) out of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Another option would be to build a spec sheet in excel and go out to bid. That is more difficult due to more leg work and requires three bids.

There was more discussion about plow blades and the pros of having a Ford technician on board with the DPW.

Rob Wright made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jim Ethier, it was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Lovett