

**TOWN OF LISBON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
3/03/16

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Stephen Knox (S. Knox), Donald Butson (D. Butson), Thomas Demers (T. Demers).

Town Administrator: Dan Merhalski (D. Merhalski), DPW Director Kevin Clement

**MEETING OPENED:** S. Knox opened the meeting at 5:01 pm.

**SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS:**

**Discussion of Town Truck Repair Issue:**

K. Clement addressed the Board regarding his request for a Special Board Meeting to discuss the repair of the DPW Dump Truck. He reviewed the status of the Truck – Sterling #2 dump truck – stating it was a 2000 model year with 130,000 miles and 11,600 hours of time on it. The hydraulic pump had failed and after requesting a replacement of the pump, and installing the new pump, there was a failure of the hydraulic system that was traced back to the old pump having broken and contaminated the hydraulic lines with metal pieces that they believe broke the new pump when it was installed and now results in a need to replace the entire hydraulic system. He said there was no way they could have known this before installing the new pump. He said the DPW does not want to attempt to rebuild the new pump until they know what the Board would like to do as any attempt to rebuild the part will void its warrantee.

D. Butson asked how much it would cost to flush the hydraulic system and repair the truck?

K. Clement said he hadn't gotten an estimate to flush the system, but that the repair would require two staff members if done in-house and would take approx. three weeks of labor.

D. Butson asked if the problem was a failure of the new pump? K. Clement said it was possible, but that they didn't know as they only ran the pump for about three minutes.

S. Knox asked what the cost for the parts was for the repair? K. Clement said it would be \$10,000 in addition to the costs of labor.

D. Buston asked what the value of the truck was when it was fixed? K. Clement said he was purely guessing, but that he thought it would be about \$10,000-\$12,000, if it was working.

D. Butson asked what it would cost to be repaired by an outside mechanic? K. Clement said he didn't know but could look into that.

S. Knox asked K. Clement to find out the costs of a repair of the existing truck, the possible costs of a new truck, and the possible costs of a replacement truck that was used.

D. Butson said the Town did need to look at updating the fleet in the future.

D. Merhalski said that the Town was going to be creating its Capital Improvement Plan this year and replacement of vehicles at the DPW would be included in this plan.

K. Clement presented the Board with terms for a lease of a new vehicle for their review.

D. Butson asked if we could do a short-term rental of a vehicle? K. Clement said that companies won't do a lease of a new vehicle for a short-term due to the workload and wear and tear on these types of vehicles. He said that there was a lease possible for an older, used truck for \$11,000 total and that the company would then buy back the truck, minus depreciation, and the Town would have to maintain the truck while it was in our possession.

D. Merhalski said that there were options available to look into getting a vehicle for next year, but that the warrant was set and that a request for a new truck costing over \$100,000 would require a petition to Superior Court to hold a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of expending over \$100,000 in a lease/bond and that such a request would only be able to be granted if the Town could prove that it was an emergency and that it was not something that they could have prevented.

D. Butson said that an \$11,000 used truck would likely get us through the year until Town Meeting in 2017 when they Town could look at replacing the truck through a warrant article.

T. Demers asked who had the used truck? K. Clement said either Tempco or Charlevoix.

D. Merhalski asked K. Clement to comment on the used truck that he had spoken to him about that the Town of Bath had available. K. Clement said that Bath had a 2002 Mack truck that they would rent to the Town for \$800 a week.

D. Merhalski asked what K. Clement's recommendation to the Board was? K. Clement was recommending a new truck.

D. Merhalski said that the Board had three options, and that they only needed to decide tonight about one of them. They could get the existing truck fixed and get an estimate from a mechanic on what was wrong and what the repair would cost. They could look at a lease for one year to get to Town Meeting next year, or they could get a new truck. If they wanted to get a new truck, they had \$128,000 in the existing Capital Reserve Account for the highway dept. but a new truck would cost over \$185,000, so that gap would have to be financed some way. The only possibility for this year, if the Board wanted to pursue this, would be to decide tonight that they wanted to add the amount of money needed to bridge the gap as a floor amendment to the Town's Capital Reserve Accounts Warrant Article to add an additional \$57,000+ to this account.

The Board discussed the options and agreed that they were not in favor of a new truck. They asked K. Clement to get them costs for a repair of the existing truck, including a flush of the system, from an outside mechanic and the parts estimate if done in-house, costs for a short-term lease and the used truck in Bath or a similar used truck for sale for the one-year period between now and Town Meeting, and to provide that information to D. Merhalski by March 11<sup>th</sup> for the Board meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. K. Clement said he would get this info to D. Merhalski by then.

S. Knox made a motion to adjourn, seconded by D, Butson. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Merhalski, Town Administrator