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A Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York was held at the Town Office Building, 2 Academy Street, Greenwich, New York on Tuesday, April 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was called to consider lease/purchase options for highway machinery as well as any other business that may come before the Board.

PRESENT:	Sara Idleman	Supervisor
	Bob Jeffords	Councilman
	Steven Patrick	Councilman
	George Perkins	Councilman
	Eric Whitehouse	Councilman

Others Present: Elaine Kelly, Kellie Blake, Alan Wrigley, Rick Sullivan. Stanley Mattison, DJ McDonald, Tim Tefft – The Journal Press and Mike Connors.

Dispensing with formalities, Supervisor Idleman opened the meeting.

Garden Maintenance. Last month the Town advertised for proposals for gardening services for the gardens located at the Town Hall, including spring cleanup and weekly maintenance of the gardens. One letter of interest was received from Sara Scheeren. She was out of town at the time but she has been in contact and is able to begin this weekend, May 1st.

RESOLUTION NO. 48-10
Commons-Garden Maintenance

Resolution by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that Sara Scheeren be hired for garden maintenance for the 2010 season at a rate of \$9.00 per hour.

Lease program: Excerpt from April 13th minutes: *Councilman Whitehouse updated the Board about a municipal lease program. After looking at the expenses for maintenance on various town vehicles he has come up with a 10 year replacement plan. This year he highly recommends replacing a tandem plow truck and the road grader. Through municipal leasing the Town has the ability to utilize a five-year payment plan which can be done quickly and easily and has the potential to save the town a lot of money in the long run. The ten-year equipment replacement plan will start rotating equipment which the Town has neglected to do over the years in the interest of saving money. It saved the Town in the short term but he feels that in the long term that it has really hurt us. Over the years the maintenance cost for some of the vehicles has been more than 50% of the purchase cost. He feels that it is time to be aggressive on replacing equipment and has submitted his plan to three municipal leasing companies, two of which responded by tonight's meeting and of those, Dennis McDonald was present. Councilman Whitehouse stated that with an \$80,000 down payment from the equipment reserve fund, and purchasing the tandem plow truck and the road grader this year, then next year's payment at 4.79%*

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interest would be \$67,329.47. Councilman Jeffords asked if bonding rates had been taken into consideration as they are currently around 2%. Mr. McDonald feels that it will cost the taxpayers more money to bond something. He said that the Town may save in the long run but upfront a bonding company has more fees and will not lock in its price where his is locked in for 30 days. Councilman Jeffords stated that the Town does business directly with the bank and there are no fees. He also stated that he while he is in favor of the equipment replacement plan the Board still needs to look at this as each \$10,000 of debt is a 1% increase in taxes therefore the first year payment of \$67,329.47 would raise taxes by 6%.

Supervisor Idleman stated that she will be calling a special meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 27th to further discuss the equipment replacement plan and subsequent financing.

Tonight: Councilman Whitehouse stated:

- He would like to document a five or ten year plan to effectively replace the fleet rather than do it piecemeal each year.
- First, the Board needs to decide if they are on board with the plan and if so, what will be replaced and when, and at what cost. Once those things are decided, next would be to decide on the type of financing.
- To get the plan started and considering the safety factor and maintenance cost factor of the equipment, he would like to see the grader and the 1993 tandem truck replaced this year.
- Explained the replacement plan that was handed out stating that he had estimated on the high end hoping that these figures would consider future inflation.
- Schedule as presented shows replacement of off-road pieces of equipment in the odd years and replacements of trucks in the even years.
- Town has done a very good job of keeping taxes as low as possible. Not in favor of spending money just for the sake of getting new equipment, but looking out for the Town in the long term. Assess the equipment we have and what has been neglected in replacing. Feels this plan is a necessity or we may end up with several trucks in the garage not covering the roads safely and effectively. Fear is that it will someday become a scramble to replace multiple large pieces of equipment in a very short amount of time.

Supervisor Idleman:

- Makes sense to have a long term plan and start replacing equipment rather than spending a lot of money in repairs. Feels debt free is not always the best way to go but by the same token we can't have a huge tax increase either. Needs to be worked out and look at the numbers for purchase vs. lease.

Councilman Jeffords:

- We're actually still purchasing, but may finance it with a lease. It comes down to the interest rate.

Councilman Patrick:

- Two different issues here. One is the plan and one is the financing.
- The plan – do we want to do it?

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- The financing – Bond Anticipation Notes (statutory bond which is a fixed rate for 5 years; renewable bond which is renewed annually) vs. leasing.

Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan:

- Likes the idea of every other year replacement of off-road equipment. Fiat loader is on its last legs. Two more years at best.
- Schedule looks good.
- Feels the 93 tandem will last another couple years but grader is needed first.

Councilman Whitehouse:

- Not looking at this plan as... here it iswe have to follow it...just trying to look at the big picture but feels that the biggest issue is the 93 tandem truck and the grader and that they are our most dire pieces of equipment.

Supervisor Idleman:

- Seems that the Board can make a decision on the plan and then decide how we want to purchase the first two items.

Councilman Whitehouse:

- If everyone agrees to do only one item this year, it's still a start. Feels the truck should be replaced before the grader.

Councilman Jeffords:

- Questioned that the first round of grader work is done for this year and second won't start up until August, correct?

Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan:

- Plan is to do a lot of grader work shortly including ditching projects and begin work on Hardscrabble Lane. Feels the grader should be replaced first and that the truck will last a couple more years.

Councilman Whitehouse:

- Thinks both pieces need to be replaced. Already stretched the truck as it needed to be replaced two years ago.

Councilman Perkins:

- Hidden savings in this plan is less equipment down time meaning less manpower down time.

RESOLUTION NO. 49-10
Highway Equipment Replacement

Resolution by Councilman Patrick

Seconded by Councilman Jeffords

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that Board agrees to the concept of the Highway Equipment Replacement Plan to purchase equipment but not be locked into the schedule necessarily and that this be revisited each year.

Councilman Whitehouse:

- Would like to move forward with putting out specs and getting bids for both pieces of equipment.

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Councilman Jeffords:

- Need to bid the equipment first to decide if we are going to buy it and then decide how we are going to finance it.

Discussion followed on the specs and Attorney Wrigley reminded Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan that specs cannot be written for a certain manufacturer.

Rick will get the specs for both pieces of equipment and give them to the Highway Committee by Thursday May 6th so they may be included in the Town Board packets for the May 11th Town Board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 50-10
Highway Equipment Bids

Resolution by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the Town of Greenwich advertise for sealed proposals for a new grader and a new tandem truck with a 4-way plow, and be it further

RESOLVED, that such sealed proposals shall be received until 4:00 PM on Thursday, June 3, 2010 and will be opened at a Special Meeting at 7:00 PM that evening with possible award at the June 8th meeting.

Councilman Whitehouse thanked DJ McDonald for his assistance.

Motion by Supervisor Idleman
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords
and passed unanimously by said Board,
that the Board enters into Executive Session at 7:55 P.M. for personnel discussions.

Motion by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords
and passed unanimously by said Board,
that the Regular meeting be resumed at 8:55 PM.

Supervisor Idleman stated that the Executive session was devoted to personnel discussions with no decisions being made.

Supervisor Idleman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A. Kelly, RMC, CMC
Town Clerk