



**Office of Board of Selectmen  
Town of Mason**

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## Selectmen / HWY Meeting 12/27/2022

*Approved Minutes*

**Present:** Selectmen Kate Batcheller, Charlie Moser, John Suiter; Admin Asst Jen Tenney; Accountant Brenda Wiley; Road Agent Dave Morrison; Resident Nate Archambault

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Chair Kate Batcheller, attendance was taken by roll call as reflected above.

**New Business:**

- Selectmen congratulated Dave and the Highway Department for their excellent work with the recent storm clean up.
- Dave plans to make another salt purchase after the first of the year.
- Dave has someone interested in helping with snow removal. Selectmen asked to have them forward a proposal for review.
- Dave asked if part time employee hours can be increased; Selectmen approved as long as they do not work full time hours as defined in the Personnel Policies and Procedure Manual.
- Dave discussed a staff suggestion that overtime begin after working eight hours in a day instead of after working 40 hours in one week. Selectmen stated it would remain as it is.
- Selectmen reviewed that 40 hours of vacation time can be carried into the next year.
- Overtime hours were reviewed.
- After this year we will own the magnesium equipment from Innovative Surface Solution as our contract will be complete. If we sign a new contract, Innovative Surface Solution will continue to cover the pump maintenance.

Nate from A-1 Services came to discuss maintenance and repair issues with the highway department vehicles.

Nate emphasized that it is imperative to hose/clean the salt off of the vehicles, especially the undercarriage, within a few days after use in a storm. Dave states this is not being done regularly due to being short staffed. To allow time for Nate to discuss the vehicles, Selectmen decided to discuss this with Dave at a later time.

- 074: 2000 Dump Truck – Minimum of \$5k will be needed in repairs in 2023 to get this inspected. This may allow use for a few years but is all dependent on how bad the frame is. Brakes +/- springs are needed. The frame is opening up in spots, the body appears to be ok. The trade for this would be around \$1500-\$2k. Selectmen agree to move forward with the repairs needed at this time.

Dave has considered replacing this truck with a lighter truck so no CDL license will be required to drive it. Nate suggests not buying below a 550 so we can use a 9ft plow. Consider freightliner 2500 or a 4300 international. Nate will spec out replacements and give the information to Dave. Minimum replacement cost will be \$100k.

The Highway Equipment Capital Reserve account was discussed. There will be ~\$94k in this account at the end of the year. Depending on how the warrant article was written, expenditures may be able to be made without a warrant article. Consider using these funds and the additional \$40k from the proposed 2023 budget to use towards leasing a replacement vehicle.

- 075: 2007 Heavy Duty Truck – Front tires and rims are needed. Body, transmission and clutch are ok at this time.
- 077: 2006 Truck – No concerns at this time. Transmission and brakes were done last year and the truck is in good shape.
- 178: 2004 Dump Truck – Rear tires needed. Nate recommends removing the side plow (wing) since the truck isn't heavy enough for it. The wing could be put on when/if needed. It is less likely to get stuck with the wing off. Selectmen support this suggestion and Dave will have the wing taken off.

- 076: 2011 Pickup – Good shape, no concerns at this time.
- 181: 2022 Dump/Plow Truck – New truck, no concerns.
- 2006 Loader – fenders and battery boxes are rotted, side steps have fallen off, the machine appears to be in ok condition. Minimum cost for repairs in 2023 will be \$10k. Nate believes it is a good investment to repair since it costs ~\$250k to replace.
- 2015 Backhoe – Concerned with emission problems.
- 1987 Grader – Highest replacement priority. Nate states no motors, and likely no parts, will be available to attempt to fix the grader once it does breakdown. A used grader would likely cost \$200k, a new grader would cost ~\$400k. Charlie recommended looking into bonding options for a new grader. Kate suggests having a 2024 warrant article for a replacement grader. Nate will look into costs for a new grader.
- 071: 2011 F250 Pickup – All set for a few years.
- 2009 Tahoe – Tires needed.
- 2022 Ram Pickup – New truck, no concerns.

Nate discussed tire prices and options for purchasing them. Nate suggested purchasing two sets of tires, one for the spring and one with chains for the winter. Chains ruin tires quickly and Nate believes having two sets of tires will be more cost effective.

Nate is working to set up a town account with Sullivan Tires and Tri State Parts in order to get reduced pricing.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Kate motioned to adjourn, second from John. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jennifer Tenney*  
 BOS Administrative Assistant