

**BUDGET COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MAY 21, 2019**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

Present: Ken Jacques, B. Manning, Justin Hastings, Tim Cook, Leigh Callaway, Darrin Patten, Tamara Butcher, Dick Hendl, and Peter Abair. Absent: Jeff Milne and George McCusker.

This meeting was scheduled to review the inspection results recently done on the loader by Milton CAT.

Ken Jacques opened the meeting. He explained that during the budget process the subject of purchasing a new or used loader for the Highway Department was discussed. At that time, there was a sense that the Board of Selectmen should hire CAT to evaluate the condition of the town's loader and what repairs it may need for a better sense whether to repair or replace the loader.

Dick Hendl was the primary contact with CAT. A thorough inspection was done which included testing of fluids. Some members of the Budget Committee were present at the meeting with Mike Cote from Milton Cat. Dick had shared the 10-page inspection report with Board members when he received it. He had also asked CAT to prepare an estimate for the cost of a rebuilt engine for comparison purposes.

Peter stated the loader now has a lot of "blow-by" and requires the addition of oil periodically. They use the loader about 200 to 300 hours per year as a back-up piece of equipment for loading trucks and pushing snow around the town buildings in the winter. He has found used loaders with 5K to 6K hours for 50K to 60K, for a 2014.

Options Reviewed.

1. Repair includes replacing worn parts, seals and gaskets and is estimated at \$10,600 including time and travel costs for a mechanic to come here at least two days to do the work. The cost would be less if the loader could be taken there. Pete estimated a cost of \$500.00 to have the loader delivered to CAT. B. said he thought it could be done for less.
2. Cost for rebuilt engine \$20,000 to \$30,000.
3. Continue to add oil to the loader, and it could run for a long time.

Dick felt that once the repair work is done, the Town is in fairly good shape to know what the status of the loader is.

Ken asked for comments. Most of those in attendance were comfortable with spending the \$10,000 for repairs. The loader is used as a back-up piece of equipment to the backhoe. It makes sense to put some money into repairs and keep it as long as possible. The backhoe is the more versatile piece.

Peter stated the replacement schedule for the backhoe needs to be kept in mind. The backhoe is 15 years old, and once they get over 7K hours they are hard to trade in. He estimates the backhoe is worth 30K to 40K as a trade-in.

Dick stated with other things taking place, he is not sure whether the budget will allow for work on the loader to be done this year. He will wait until later in the year to re-evaluate.

Ken thanked Dick for putting this information together.

Select Board proceedings:

Dick and Tamara signed the tax warrant for 2019 first bill.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,  
Administrative Assistant.