

**Wentworth Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2020**

**Those present:** Via Zoom Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, Paul Manson and Linda Franz

**Called to Order:** Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the options for leasing/purchasing a new plow truck for the Highway Department.

Western Star has one opening for an order to build a truck if the order is placed by January 2021. It would be ready for delivery to Tenco by June 2021 for completion and final delivery to the Town in October 2021. If we wait until March 2021 (after Town Meeting) to order the truck, we would not get delivery until October 2022. So timing is critical.

With legal advice from Natche Greyes of the NH Municipal Association, two options were considered.

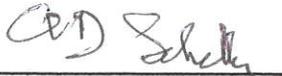
1. Option one was to encumber the funds needed for the first-year lease/purchase payment. This would require that the Town enter into a lease agreement with an escape clause. This would increase the finance rate and cost the Town approximately \$7,000 in additional interest. A Town vote would not be needed. However, there would be no guarantee that the Town would fund the lease in future years, and the Town may lose its lease payment if the escape clause is implemented.
2. The second option was to just order the truck now, before Town Meeting. The Town will not have to enter into a lease/purchase agreement yet, and the annual payment will be due when the truck is delivered. The lease will be for seven years. The Town normally puts \$25,000 into the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. We would not do this in 2021, but pay the first-year lease payment instead, therefore, no significant increase to the budget. This will have to be included in a warrant article and voted upon. There is a risk that the Town will not vote in favor of the lease, but no money is at stake. Western Star would simply take back the order and sell the truck to someone else.

It was agreed by all that the second option would work best.

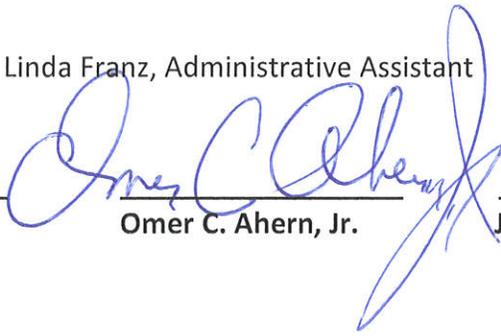
**A.Scheller made a motion to proceed with ordering the Western Star plow truck with an automatic transmission and to move ahead with a lease/purchase agreement. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.**

**A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and meeting was adjourned at 4:29 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant



Arnold Scheller, Chair



Omer C. Ahern, Jr.



Jordan King