

Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 14 2021
Townsend Town Hall
5:00 p.m.

Chairperson Carla Van Camp called the meeting to order at 5pm

Roll call: Chairperson Carla VanCamp, Supervisor Linda Adamczyk, Supervisor Joe Heyrman, Treasurer Beth Hartman, Clerk Linda Ziegler. 39citizens

The meeting was turned over the Fire Chief Dawn Herlache to discuss the proposed new fire truck.

Herlache gave an overview of the current trucks and personnel. The primary engine, #2912, was built in 1988 and purchased by the town in 2011. At this age, the engine is nearing its usefulness and parts are getting harder to find. The Townsend Fire Department currently has 21 volunteer members, the majority of them over the age of 50. Newer equipment is designed to be easier to use ergonomically and technologically as well as safer for the operators.

The department received 4 quote for new equipment. Pierce Manufacturing, in Appleton, quoted the better price along with financing and or leasing options. The estimated cost of an engine specifically designed for the needs of Townsend will be \$549,696.00 and will have use expectancy of 25-30 years.

Herlache has been working on a grant from the USDA, hoping to obtain \$50,000.00. The Town of Townsend has \$30,500 in the FD depreciation fund, the Fireman's wives have put up \$70,000.00; the McCaslin Lions have promised \$2500. The Fire Department would continue to hold their annual fund raisers and contribute yearly to the payment of the engine.

Herlache estimated that the cost of the engine, approx. \$500,000, divided by a 10-year loan and divided up between 2600 parcels would equate to \$20.00 per parcel per year.

One elector asked if there was the possibility of the towns merging fire departments. Herlache said this is not been brought up. She explained that consolidating equipment with the towns would reduce the ISO (insurance safety office) grading and increase homeowner insurance costs.

Dan Schultz from Pierce Manufacturing stated that the truck would take 16-18 month to complete. Due to the current supply chain issues, the materials cost will increase 7.2% as of February 1, 2022. If the town signs a contract by January 28, 2021, the price will be locked in and payment will not be required until completion. Mr. Schultz also discussed a payment deferred and lease plan.

Supervisor Adamczyk asked about the ease of operating new equipment. Mr. Schultz stated that the current engine (1988) has mechanical mechanisms to operate and, just like a new car, the current technology is much more user friendly and ergonomically better for the operators. Pierce would supply all training and be available in the future for additional training.

VanCamp thanked Herlache for the presentation and stated the board and Fire Department will meet to discuss their options.

VanCamp made the motion to adjourn at 6:22pm, 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A

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