

Public Works Meeting

March 29, 2023

Present: Joel Banham, John Sheridan, Chad Cantrell, Greg Welty, Greg Dicken, Bruce Newton, Chris Allen, Jonalie Comeau

Topic: Vacuum Excavator

The meeting came to order at 9:00 am.

The public works crew are presenting to the committee a vacuum excavator. One has already been found, to be purchased from Vermeer Mountain West for \$80,000. This includes a strong arm and hyd jack, plus new equipment guarantee. The excavator we're looking at is a 2022, but it is new (never been purchased).

Advantages presented by the public works crew:

- If there is digging that needs to be done on a service line, it will be easier to move dirt, etc out of the way. This will be especially helpful when having to dig around other lines, like Blackfoot, as there will be a much smaller chance of hitting another line.
- When meter cans are full or water, silt, dirt – it will take only a few minutes to clean out the can as opposed to an hour more of digging with a short-handled shovel in an awkward small space.
- With this in mind, it will make it much easier to get the inventory required by DEQ, which is due by October 2024.
- This will help in prevention and repair of potholes, as it would suck out the water and other debris in the way. Repair of potholes can go more quickly, as everything will be out of the way in a matter of minutes.
- When there was the emergency at the lagoons this winter, that situation would have been quickly handled with this machine, instead of the hours in cold.
- The excavator would be helpful for preventative maintenance and repair work for the splitter box.
- Our system is old. When we can take good care of it, everything will last longer. This will help keep lines clear.
- Having a good system in place, having good equipment will be more attractive to future residents and, more importantly, future public works crewmen.
- There are some jobs that we have to hire out; with this, we can do the work ourselves.

Questions raised by public works committee:

- How does it dump? Discharge valve.
- How is it moved around? On a double-axle trailer; it could be pulled by a pickup.
- What kind of engine? Diesel engine.
- Does the county have one? If not, we could rent to them on occasion.

- Will we buy outright or finance? Chris's hope is that we can buy it outright.
- From which part of the budget will the money come? Streets, Water, Sewer as all three will benefit from this.
- What is the tank size? 500 gallons
- What is the hose size? Four inches

John commented that this is coming at a \$20k discount. There are not many used for sale because it is a good machine and people are not parting with them.

This Monday a vacuum excavator is being brought to Plains for a demonstration.

Overall, the committee agreed this would be a good purchase. However, they would like to wait until they see the demonstration before making a final decision.

Another item that was brought up is the load limits. Should we get an ordinance in Plains to prevent heavy loads being brought in/through town. Jonalie will investigate what the county has for ordinances regarding load limits.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Jonalie Comeau, Deputy Clerk