

## Town of Rensselaerville Highway Department

### Monthly Town Board Report

April 8, 2010

- 1. Bid Results:** Low bids are highlighted in yellow for stone and asphalt products, road and dust oils, pipe, gabion baskets, geotextile fabric, gas, diesel and #2 fuel oil. Everything looked OK with the bids except for a couple of items. Carver Sand and Gravel submitted quotes for stone products from two different locations. Some of Carver's stone product low bids are from a location I am not familiar with and I would like to verify that the location is a NYSDOT approved source, meets hardness tests and has ample material on hand to supply the town. Main Care Energy submitted a bid for mid-grade gasoline with mathematical errors, but they were the only bidder. How does the board want to handle this?
- 2. Highway Contract:** Attached is my proposed highway contract for the 2010 season. The intent is to address the worst unpaved roads that are also school bus routes. Once a highway agreement is approved, I will submit a long-range plan to improve our roads. Included in the contract is the cost of anticipated equipment rentals. I have attached a list of proposed equipment to rent. Also attached is a list of equipment that should be put out to bid because it is no longer needed or used, outdated and unsafe to run, or no longer cost effective to own. I also anticipate the hiring of one full-time employee and possibly one part-time employee (for summer only).
- 3. Non-Maintained Roads:** I am sure this has been asked before, but I would like to entertain the idea of looking into the abandonment of our maintenance easements on roads that have not been used or maintained in years. This could be a cost savings to the town in the long run.
- 4. Underground Utilities:** We have underground telephone cables buried in our roadbeds, shoulders and ditches which won't allow us to properly maintain some of the roads. I am in the process of contacting Verizon and hopefully getting them on a plan to relocate their cables.
- 5. Superintendents School:** I would like to attend the 2010 Highway School in Cornell on June 7,8 and 9. Some of the topics include 'Highway Right-of-Way' and 'Energy Impacted Roads (wind power and gas drilling projects)'.
- 6. Safety and Training:** The Highway Department is currently engaged (bi-weekly) with the Cornell Local Roads Program (CLRP), and at no charge to the town, on a video/dvd share program. Topics range from road maintenance to a variety of safety topics. Additionally, I will be sending interested highway employees to the Operating Engineers School for training on different machinery when offered.

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7. **Capital Improvement Plan:** Attached is a proposed capital improvement plan to start updating our trucks and equipment. The last time the town invested in a truck or piece of equipment was over 6 years ago. The need to start such a plan was evident this past winter when plow trucks were continually breaking down. At times we were plowing main roads with pickups. The highway department has already spent over \$29k on the trucks this year in repairs alone. That is almost enough to cover one year's payment on a new truck.
8. **New Equipment:** The Highway Departments immediate needs would be to replace Truck 2 (1991 International 4x2 plow/dump) with a Heavy Duty Truck such as a 2010 International 4x4 plow/wing/dump truck. Truck 2 is old and tired and it is not cost effective to keep putting money into it. It was broken down for half the winter. Truck 9 (1999 Ford F350, 4x4 plow/dump/sander) should be replaced with a heavier truck such as a medium duty truck (i.e. Ford F550). This truck was also broken down for half the winter and has had three transmissions put in it. It is not heavy enough for plowing our small roads (10) that the bigger trucks can't get into because of their size or lack of four-wheel drive. The Heavy Duty Truck would come with a 84 month warranty and the Medium Duty Truck a 60 month warranty that would relieve us of repair costs and they have a service life of 15 years and 10 years respectively.
9. **Resolution:** Is it possible to pass a resolution to standardize our plow trucks? Most of our trucks (and surrounding towns) are Internationals and parts are easier to get since there are two dealers nearby. Can our roads be posted for weight restrictions during 'mud season'? We have an unpaved road that has developed ruts due to log trucks.
10. **Website/Newsletter:** Can we have a page on the towns website for a 'highway page' where information can be posted that is relevant to the public (i.e. roads to be worked on)? Same for the newsletter, except in written form?
11. **Summer Hours:** Starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Highway Department will be switching to four(4) ten-hour(10hr) day work weeks until October 29<sup>th</sup> (daylight permitting).

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Zeh  
Highway Superintendent