

Road trip June 21,2019 approved Town Board Meeting July 9, 2019

Looking for backhoe/loader to replace Cruz Aire

Meeting called to order at 8:31 am. Present were Jim Patrick, Dale Zawislan, Dennis Brunner and Tim Ecker.

Discussion regarding possible purchase of a backhoe included asking if we should hire our culvert excavation work done. Evaluation of time frames, the number of culverts remaining to be replaced in the town, snow removal in the parking lot and the shop yard, and needing a tractor with a bucket for loading sand, gravel and other material used for our work in the town left us with apparent need for a backhoe loader. At 9 am, we adjourned for travel to the following dealers. First stop was Chili Implement, where the tractor we wished to see was not available. There was nothing else to evaluate. We then proceeded to Swiderski Implement in Mosinee. They had a unit for us to examine and Tim operated the unit. The 2015 John Deere 310SK has 3015 hours on it. The unit performed well, and would perform the jobs we had outlined. The unit had worn tires on back, tires were of different makes, and the general appearance of the machine left us with the opinion it might have been well used. The controls were responsive and the unit appeared to have sufficient power for our use.

The price was \$54,995 with 2 new rear tires, and a new 30 inch trenching bucket with teeth and pins. Our impression was it might be too expensive for our needs, but we would consider this unit if we did not find a different unit. The price and hours were consistent across several other units found on the internet, but there were also units with 2000 or so hours for the listed price.

Next stop was at the Miller Bradford dealership in Marathon. Following some general discussion about our anticipated needs and uses, we examined the information provided on a unit at another location. The 580M backhoe loader has 4000 hours on it. The internet price was \$41,700. He quoted us a price of \$40,000. While the hours are greater, the machine is a 2008, which indicated roughly 400 hours per year of operation. Discussion followed regarding frequency of service and filters etc. and the general cost of materials for service for one year. With service intervals of 500 and 1000 hours of use, the anticipated cost of supplies was about \$500 per year. The difference in price for our use of 300-400 hours per year left us with the impression that we could perform some repairs for the \$15,000 we would not spend to purchase the unit. We then examined a new unit which is similar to the one in question. We returned to the office and continued discussing pricing. When he asked what we were considering as our bottom line, we indicated \$37,500. He said he would have about \$1000 in trucking to get it to here but that he had some play left in the price, and if we were sure, he would bring it up next week for us to examine. If it did not come to our expectations, we would just go our separate ways. We shook hands on \$37,500. Our initial discussion had included a bucket for ditch cleaning for about \$1300. I am unsure if that is still included in the price. He also indicated he would contact a local buyer of Cruz Aire wheeled hoes and try to sell the machine for us. Scrap value is about \$2500, and we could get more since our unit still runs, although it leaks a lot.

We returned to the town hall at about 4:30 pm. Motion to adjourn by Dale Zawislan, seconded by Jim Patrick. Motion passed.