

TOWN OF CARY
5688 ACCOLA ROAD
PITTSVILLE, WI 54466
Cary Town Board and Electorate
From Chairman Mark Gosh
March 10, 2026

For some time now the Board has been considering the current autonomous position that owing our own snow removal equipment puts us at an advantage. We still think that having our own equipment is the right decision despite the upkeep. The advantages far outweigh the contracting with the Wood County Highway Department or a private business to remove snow and keep our roads passable. I won't at this time discuss this but take into consideration even just one advantage and that is taking care of not scraping the road gravel in the ditch especially after a springtime snow fall when the gravel is soft. Our road employee seems to take great care and in the end game saves us money on roads to be able to buy more gravel for our roads.

In saying the above, I do need to let you know that a considerable amount of time has been spent on evaluating whether the town should purchase a new truck, a smaller piece of snow removal equipment that may not be adequate in a large, heavy snowfall. The board has investigated costs pertaining to the purchase of a Ram 4-Wheel Drive 6.7 Turbo Diesel engine cab and chassis outfitted with 10 ft. snow plow, dump box and salt and gravel spreader. This combination would cost roughly \$105,000.00. The advantages and disadvantages have been considered which leads us to the present discussion. The board does not want to ever be surprised with an expensive development, so future must be available and awareness of what can and usually does happen does not have to end in hasty decision making.

Our current situation in regards to our 11-12-year-old Western Star dump truck and plow set-up is as follows: The truck has roughly 23,000 miles. Rust is starting to take a toll. We have spent some money this year on repair and upkeep. We purchased carbide blades and shoes. They hold-up remarkably well, much better than previous purchases.

One of the main issues that brought this discussion to light was that we are under the impression that the driver of our current truck must have a CDL to be DOT compliant. I looked into this and a conversation with DMV personnel in Marshfield shed light on the fact that only a person hired commercially or working commercially must have a CDL. A person operating for a municipality can operate a 26,000 GVW truck as well as other occupations such as farming. Our truck, the board just learned, weighs less than 26,000 GVW and would not require a CDL anyway, even loaded with gravel up to 33,000 pounds. So, this puts the town in compliance.

The board has had conversations with our machinery operator, and he is satisfied with the maintenance of our plow truck. A current price on a new truck like ours is \$250,000.00, with a 2 and a half year wait.

Upon researching the current value of the Western Star, it was somewhat discerning. V & H, where the truck was purchased, thought that its value was something over \$90,000.00. WISSURPLUS.COM was researched and similar equipment varied greatly. I would be very concerned that the town could get considerably less than \$50,000.00, based on research. The Town of Sigel, upon hearing of our consideration to sell, was anxious to purchase our truck, when described. I do not know what they would be prepared to pay.

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The board continued its evaluation of the Western Star and determined that it is in good repair, good working condition and is certainly adequate in any amount of snowfall. With the RAM 5500, we still would need to hire a business like Dupee Excavating to handle large storms. Based on the above information, and of course other considerations, this leads me to believe that we on the board should not be hasty. The Chair believes that the purchase of different snow removal equipment is not necessary currently. The Chair believes that even after 4 more years the value will not change all that much, especially considering the milage of the vehicle at this time. The Chair thinks that another evaluation should be made again in 2030 to determine where we are at, at that time. Maybe even to consider hiring out.

Thank you, to the rest of the board and electorate that helped with this consideration and unless there is a seriously expensive breakdown to our equipment, we should be okay. Remember, we still have the town grader in a pinch and can also hire out.

Thank you

Mark A. Gosh