

Town of Litchfield  
Select Board Emergency Meeting  
July 6, 2022  
Final Meeting Minutes

**1.0 Convened at 6:02 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen:** Gary Parker, Chairman, Clarence Gowell III (identified as Rick Gowell in these minutes), Scott Weeks; **Staff:** Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; Michael Sherman, Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Greg Williams via zoom.

**2.0 Scheduled Business:**

2.1 Review survey and specification information. A. In answer to a question from Scott about how we got to this point versus following the bid process, Kelly explained that due to vehicle shortages and unpredictability of arrival of inventory, and that Larry had found only one dealer (O'Connor) that could promise a truck before the next plow season, it was not likely that more than one bid would be returned. In order to show due diligence, all heavy truck dealers in Maine were called to confirm that trucks were not available. Answers provided during the telephone survey were that availability would not be known until the end of September, and delivery of any available truck would then be in spring, (April/May) with build out to follow. Based on those results, and the need to lock-in a build date with O'Connor in order to ensure delivery for the upcoming plowing season, it seems reasonable to forego the strict bid process for this purchase.

B. Ricky asked if the spec'd truck had been built yet. Larry answered it would be due by the end of December.

C. Larry discussed the truck specifications: The engine is a 515 horsepower Detroit, which has less torque than a 445 Cummings, but is available with the needed front power-take-off, where the Cummings is not. To save money, the gauge package is lower end, and wheel rims are steel. It is an 18-speed manual instead of automatic.

D. Gary asked if the quoted price is what the town will pay. Larry answered that the only addition might be increased manufacturing fees that the dealer will pass directly to the town. Gary stated that regardless of increases, the contract should be not-to-exceed \$270,000 since that is what was approved at Town Meeting. Larry noted that the MSRP on the truck is \$100,000 more than what the town will pay due to a municipal discount. Gary pointed out the \$270k is 11-12% (\$36k) over the purchase price, and Larry explained that even though he was ok with a \$250,000 approval, that he and the town manager had discussed it and felt \$270,000 would ensure that any increases were covered.

E. Rick Gowell moved to approve purchase of a Western Star 49x truck with the provided specifications at a price not-to-exceed \$270,000, Scott Weeks seconded, voted 3-0.

**3.0 Unscheduled Business** None.

**4.0 Other Business** None.

**5.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/ Communication** None.

**6.0 Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kelly Weissenfels