

STAFF REPORT: Engineering & Public Works Department

REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: May 10, 2011
REPORT NO.: EPW.11.041
SUBJECT: Disposal of 1979 Champion Grader and
 1990 Ford Tractor
PREPARED BY: Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads and
 Drainage Division

A. Recommendations

THAT Council declare the 1979 Champion Grader and 1990 Ford Tractor as surplus to the needs of the Roads and Drainage Division and authorize Staff to initiate the disposal of both vehicles in accordance with Town Policy as detailed in Staff Report EPW.11.041, entitled "Disposal of 1979 Champion Grader and 1990 Ford Tractor".

B. Background

The Roads and Drainage Division for some time has operated the road maintenance fleet at the level of four road graders and three plow/dump trucks. The recent purchase of an all wheel drive plow/dump truck has increased the fleet balance to four and four.

The oldest road grader in the fleet is a 1979 Champion. Staff feel the purchase of an all wheel drive plow/dump truck would allow the 1979 road grader to be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with Town Policy. The all wheel drive truck is able to perform the winter maintenance tasks of the fourth road grader, as well as being able to apply sand/salt or brine and is considered a more useful piece of equipment. The fleet balance would then be three road graders and four plow/dump trucks.

Given that the Town has three newer road graders, together with the all wheel drive plow/dump truck, Staff recommend the Town dispose of the fourth road grader, being the 1979 Champion.

If the 1979 Champion is retained, it will have to be maintained regularly so as to be available if utilized. Storage of the fourth grader is also an area of concern. While there may be benefit in retaining the fourth road grader for use in extreme winter weather events, it may be problematic in having operators for all eight pieces of winter maintenance equipment, given Provincial restrictions on hours of work.

The grader could be utilized as a spare in case of mechanical failure of the remaining fleet, however, Staff feel the cost of maintenance to keep the machine at a municipal level of reliability is not warranted by the benefit received.

The Roads and Drainage Division purchased an all wheel drive tractor with attachments in 2010. During consideration and discussion with Roads Staff and the Director of Engineering and Public Works, it was agreed that a four wheel drive tractor with attachments should be purchased to replace the 1990 Ford two wheel drive tractor. The 1990 Ford tractor and current attachments do not operate reliably and the vehicle suffers from high repair costs and long down times.

If the 1979 Champion is declared surplus, it would be difficult to provide an estimate of value. A figure of \$10,000 or less could be considered. Administrative Policy FS.08.07 states that if a Town asset is declared surplus by a Department, it must first be offered to other Town Departments at an estimated value. If the asset is not retained internally, it may then be disposed of by sealed bid, auction or trade-in.

If the 1990 Ford tractor is declared surplus the same process would be utilized. A figure of \$3,000 or less could be considered. Staff propose to dispose of the grader and tractor through a sealed bid process if the equipment is not transferred internally.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Consideration of the road maintenance fleet balance would represent efforts to further the Town's Strategic Goal No. 2, "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs".

D. Environmental Impacts

Any emissions increase in operating the subject equipment would be minimal, as operation of the entire road maintenance fleet at the same time would be rare. Regular annual maintenance of the 1979 road grader and 1990 tractor would result in a relatively minimal amount of waste material being generated.

E. Financial Impact

If the road grader and tractor are retained, regular annual maintenance would be required.

If the road grader and tractor are disposed of, a market value for each would be received and placed in the Roads Equipment Reserve.

F. Attached

1. Photograph, 1979 Champion road grader with winter maintenance attachments.
2. Photograph, 1990 Ford Tractor with attachments.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McCannell

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