

**Emergency Meeting  
Select Board Fire & Rescue Tanker Bid Review  
Video Conference  
October 25, 2023**

**Convenes 4:08 pm; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen and Guests present.**

Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman; Clarence Gowell III (identified as Rick in these minutes).  
Fire Department and town staff: Chief Sherman, Deputy Chief Regie Poirier; Betsey Sherman, Larry Nadeau, Road Commissioner; Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager.

Gary opened the meeting with an explanation of why the short notice meeting was required to discuss the bids for the new truck. If the bids were not reviewed and a tanker did not get purchased, the price of said tanker truck was expected to increase by at least \$100,000.00 as of November 1, 2023.

There was a motion made by Gary Parker to start an emergency meeting to discuss the purchase of the new fire truck. Rick 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 2-0.

Gary informed the team that the Board will take the Fire Department's recommendations at this time and look seriously as they aren't necessarily looking to take the lowest bid. The Select Board would like to get the truck that best suits the Fire Department's needs AND that can be maintained in a timely and reasonable manner.

Chief Sherman summarized the work to date. At the Litchfield Town Meeting a new Fire and Rescue tanker truck that was approved by the voters for purchase as replacement of tanker truck #62. This has been part of the Capital Improvements Plan for a while. Chief Sherman and a few members of his team have been doing the groundwork, speaking, and meeting with multiple companies to discuss specs, etc. All to ensure the truck is exactly what they want and need and can be maintained locally when needed. After meeting with 3 companies that seemed to have the closest to what the Fire Department needed (separately) to discuss all their options, the bids are now in for the purchase of the new truck. The following are the minutes of the bid review.

Chief Sherman summarized the Fire Department's recommendations: Over three months the specifications were refined so that they were nearly identical. There are some differences in warranties and financing options.

All three companies can provide a truck with a single channel "C" frame. However, the E1 does not have the single channel in the in a Freightliner chassis, instead they would offer it in an International frame at the same price. However, the Freightliner cab is preferred due to better visibility (you can see someone walking in front of the truck at the bumper, which is not the case with the International cab).

Northeast Emergency Apparatus – Ferrara Fire Trucks

Bid Total: \$465,914.00 100% Prepayment Option: 4% of purchase price APR rebate per calendar year of manufacture. (estimated \$40,000.00 rebate over the 2-year build time).

\*Single Frame means you can see further in front of the truck. Someone walks in front of the truck you can see the tops of their heads.

\*Warranty – 2 to 3 years.

\* One service center, located in Auburn.

\*Chief Sherman is not certain if this company stocks its own parts and supplies for maintenance.

However, the Service Center is in Auburn, Maine.

\*Build timeframe is a little over 2 years.

Allegiance Fire – Peirce Fire Trucks

Bid Total: \$450,300.00 100% Prepayment Option: \$17,740.00 discount, for final total of \$432,560.00.

\*Single Frame means you can see further in front of the truck. Someone walks in front of the truck you can see the tops of their heads.

\*Warranty – 5 years, 100,000 miles; 7 years for the pump.

\*Per Chief Sherman, the sales representative, during the sales pitch meeting indicated that they do carry quite a back stock of parts and supplies for maintenance requirements. Closest Service Center is in Auburn, but there are a total of four service centers in Maine and they keep parts in stock.

\*Engine: The deadline is November 1, 2023 to still get the Cummings L9 engine specified for all trucks. This due to upcoming emissions requirements that are expected to

\*Build timeframe is a little over 2 years.

Greenwood Emergency Vehicles (out of Brunswick, ME) – E1 Fire trucks

Bid Total: \$403,355.00 Prepayment Option: \$20,000.00 discount, for final total of \$383,355.00

\*Double frame, unless the option of going with the International (single frame) (at no price difference, per Greenwood Emergency).

\*Warranty – 2 to 3 years

\*Chief Sherman is not certain if this company stocks its own parts and supplies for maintenance.

\* One service center, located in Brunswick.

\*Build timeframe is a little over 2 years.

Per Chief Sherman after all the meetings and discussion the Fire Department's recommendation is Allegiance Fire – Peirce Fire Trucks. This isn't the lowest costing tanker, however some of the benefits outweigh the cost. Also, the final cost is still within the budgetary restraints set at Litchfield Town Meeting.

Benefits of going with Allegiance Fire:

Single Frame being offered.

A foot shorter wheelbase – worth mentioning, but not a deal breaker - having all the turn radius you can get on some of the camp roads, etc. is very helpful when in tight spots.

Four Service Centers (3 in Maine and 1 in Massachusetts) 2 being in reasonable driving distance.

Parts for these trucks are kept in stock.

The warrantee(s) being offered through this company are better than the others.

General warrantee is 5 years or 100,000 miles.

Chassis, truck, pump and parts built onto the truck have significantly longer warranties than the other bids. It's also the only offer with a transmission warranty direct from the manufacturer.

This truck also carries 100 more gallons than the other two trucks. Chief Sherman wanted to be clear that this is NOT one of the main benefits he is taking into consideration. This is a bonus benefit.

Chief Sherman's justification in recommending Allegiance Fire – Pierce Fire Trucks as the winning bid is that the warrantee far exceeds the other 2. Also, their Service Centers are within reasonable driving distance. Finally, according to the company representative for Allegiance Fire there is a large back stock of parts that they have direct access to.

Chief Sherman stated there was a lot of discussion about the E1 since it has a significantly lower price, but ultimately better warranties, parts availability and the inability to get a Freightliner single channel frame (with the preferred cab) led to the choice of the Pierce truck.

Gary commended Fire and Rescue for the thoroughness of the investigation of purchase options and the due diligence with which the truck committee had carried out the bidding process.

A motion was made by Rick to accept the recommendation from the committee (including Chief Sherman) for the purchase of a Pierce Fire Truck from Allegiance Fire in the amount of \$432,560.00. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vote 2-0.

There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Rick that the Town Manager be allowed to sign the contract once presented outside of this meeting. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vote 2-0.

Kelly recommended that the difference in funds from what the citizens voted to spend at the Town Meeting, and what will be spent for purchase of the new tanker truck be kept in a reserve account to help with future repairs, etc. Gary agreed but noted that needs to be put on a future agenda for voting.

**Adjournment** at 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Angela Parker