

Exhibit A 05112023

This letter voices questions and concerns about Street's proposed purchase of a tar patch machine and a machine that uses water for digging holes. Both are expensive items. The amounts mentioned in the 2023 April Board Meeting, I believe, were \$135,000 and \$85,000 respectively for a total of \$220,000.

Presently, the village uses the tar patch machine that belongs to Downs, Oldtown and Empire Townships collectively. It is meant for township use, but the townships have been generous in allowing the village to use it when it is not being used by any of the three townships. That does mean its availability for village use is limited and driven by the calendars of the 3 townships. Villages without this option rent tar patch machines. The rental is expensive, but the village would be able to have the machine when they are ready to use it, which would keep the rental cost to a minimum. How many days per year on average would Streets need this machine? If Downs rented a machine, how much per year would that cost on average?

Buying a brand-new tar patch machine with the idea of renting it to other villages and towns to offset the original cost is an idea that has merit. I strongly feel, before asking the people of Downs to foot the bill for this expensive equipment, we need to see actual pledges from other towns and villages to rent the machine. They and we need to know how much the rentals would be. The machine takes 2 people to run. Who would those people be: Downs employees trained on the use and maintenance of the machine or workers from the other towns? How would we ascertain those using the machine were qualified to run and maintain it? Is there any liability for Downs if anyone is hurt using the machine? How would shared use be handled? Would each town have certain calendar dates of use each year or would they check it out as needed? If so, how would that be decided? Who would keep track of that calendar? Who is responsible for maintenance and repairs? If it is not cleaned after each use or if it's left on to keep the tar hot, the machine can be damaged and out of commission until fixed.

The tar patch machine would come with additional costs. Where would we store it? Would there be extra attachments needed, such as a large tank to hold oil? Tar patch machines hold around 200 gallons of oil, which sounds like a lot but goes quickly. Each fill-up means taking the machine to an oil station. The machine is slow moving and an employee would have to drive it there and back. Having a large tank to store oil would be more efficient use of machine and employee time. Where would that tank be located? Does storing this type of oil pose any safety problems?

I don't know much about the machine that uses water to dig holes, but many of the questions posed about the tar patch machine apply to it as well: Would we share it with other villages to reduce the cost to Downs residents? If so, how would shared use be handled? What's the cost of renting it? What's the cost of additional attachments that might be desirable? Where would it be stored? What training needs and costs would we incur for all of those using it? What's a reasonable estimate for basic maintenance costs?

Before approving big ticket item purchases like these, usually bought with money from the General Fund which pays for the majority of Streets expenses, I urge the board to find answers to the above questions and explore all options before rushing to buy. One option is, instead of Downs residents footing the entire bill, have all the villages who will be using the machinery pay a share of the purchase. Each village could be responsible for maintaining and repairing the machinery when they use it.

Thank you, Peggy Keylin 5/11/2023

Question for Board meeting May 11th

External

Inbox



Cheryl

Tue, May 9,
9:06 AM

to Village, me

Could you get an update on the Village Market?

They are less than a month from opening and have seen/heard nothing.

No signs up etc

Thanks

Cheryl Bach