



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2019

TO: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Board of Public Works

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Regional Pothole Patcher Sale/Disposal

The Department of Public Works in conjunction with the towns of Plainville and Plymouth purchased a dedicated machine to patch roadway potholes. Since its purchase for \$298,000 in 2013 the machine has had limited use by the three communities primarily due to mechanical problems. To date the machine hours of operation are limited to 200 hrs.

In addition to mechanical problems, DPW work crews have reported that there is poor visibility of the work (pothole) area which makes use of the machine as designed problematic. Since the pothole patcher has not been available to the DPW, we currently use a paving "hot box" to store hot asphalt while patching potholes. The use of an asphalt hot box meets the DPW need and, therefore, the use of a dedicated pothole patcher is not required by DPW.

Due to the mechanical problems experienced with the pothole patcher, the equipment manufacturer – Superior Roads Inc. – has been contacted to resolve the issues. Although in general they have not been responsive and have not been able to repair the patcher, they did ship the patcher back to Canada in July of 2018 to make repairs. Unfortunately, the repairs made did not make the patcher functional. The pothole patcher was forwarded to Tyler Equipment to make repairs including repairs to the brake system and has not been used by the City or adjacent towns. The City has discussed pursuing legal action against Superior Roads Inc., however the fact that they are a foreign company was determined to be an impediment to pursuing legal action by our Corporation Counsel.

The City has been in recent contact with Superior Roads Inc. in an attempt to resolve these issues. Their latest offer consisted of, once again, shipping the pothole patcher back to Canada for repairs. The work would be performed on the condition that the City utilize the patcher for a minimum time period of one year. If the City was unsatisfied with the patcher after a year, Superior Roads Inc. indicated that they would buy back the patcher for \$80,000. The City has also been contacted by a private party regarding purchasing the patcher for \$100,000.

City of Bristol Public Works
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860-584-6125 or 860-584-7791

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The City met with the Town Manager of Plainville, Robert Lee, and the Director of Public Works of Plymouth, Charlie Wiegert, to discuss both offers. Based on the referenced meeting it was recommended to reject Superior Roads proposed agreement, primarily due to the extensive mechanical problems experienced to date and the functional problems with the machine. The consensus of the meeting was to pursue selling / disposal of the pothole patcher, either by negotiating with the current interested party or if the sale to the current interested party is not completed, the recommendation was to pursue other opportunities for sale. The town representatives did understand that ultimately the sale of the pothole patcher may be for less than the \$80,000 or \$100,000 currently being discussed, however any sale revenue will be distributed to the towns based on the percentage contributed at the time of purchase.

I have also discussed this matter with the City's Purchasing Agent, Roger Rousseau, who typically disposes of City equipment. He has indicated that the DPW is authorized to pursue the sale of the pothole patcher. The City also contacted the State of Connecticut, which contributed \$150,000 for the purchase of the machine through grant funds, and they have indicated that repayment to the State would not be required.

Based on the information provided in this correspondence, I request the following action by the Board of Public Works:

Authorize the Director of Public Works to sell/dispose of the Pothole Patcher manufactured by Superior Roads subject to approval of the City's Purchasing Agent and the Mayor.

If the recent inquirer for sale indicated in the correspondence does not come to fruition the City will pursue other avenues for private sale in addition to equipment auctions.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 860-584-6113.