

➤ **Article 4G: Capital – GPS Survey Equipment**

9/14/16

Sid Kashi, Town Engineer, presented Article 4G. We have used our GPS survey equipment for the past 16 years. It has stopped working and the manufacturer no longer provides service or parts for this unit. We are asking for \$25,000 to replace the equipment.

Questions:

- How often is it used? (C Merrill) Whenever we are in the field, basically daily, except when it is snowing.
- Have you looked into renting or leasing? (C Merrill) No. These are tools we use everyday and use them for a great number of years so we purchase our equipment. The last one lasted 16 years.
- You have never investigating leasing equipment where every 5 years or so you can turn the equipment in for the latest model? (J Moody) I have been in this industry for 35 years and we have never leased survey equipment. We purchase our equipment through capital or article 8. There is no line in the Engineering operating budget to pay for leasing. If we did turn it over more frequently, there would be inefficiency in having to retrain on the new equipment.
- Can this work be outsourced to a survey company? (C Merrill) Yes, but there is no money in our operating budget to fund that.

**Scott Stephenson made a motion to recommend Article 4G to Town Meeting. Patrick O'Brien, second.**

Discussion:

- This town needs to do a better job at cost analysis of purchasing versus leasing, particularly when equipment may become obsolete in 5 years. (C Merrill)
- This article is a no-brainer and I support it fully. I work in the industry and it costs \$2,000 for an engineer to come to a job site and look at a foundation for no longer than an hour. Even if this equipment only lasts 5 years, that is only \$5,000 per year total for all of the projects they handle. (E Kusmin)
- This topic of leasing has come up time and time again. I just googled the equipment and it leases for \$1200 to \$2000 per month. Not sure if I will vote to approve purchase or vote no to send a message. (H Helm)
- It is a no-brainer. 2 employees use this equipment almost daily. Do not hold off on principle. They need this equipment to do their jobs, why make it more difficult for them? (P O'Brien)
- I have used survey equipment at work and leased equipment is never as good a quality. It is never cheaper to outsource than to do the work in house. (B Cavacco)
- We have heard from many at the DPW that they do not lease equipment. This is a conversation to have with department and division heads during sub-committee meetings. It is ludicrous to ask for this leasing cost analysis the night of the article presentation. I believe Mr. Kashi when he says this equipment is vital and needed. (M Sirrico)

**The motion carries (12-2-0). Christopher Merrill and Harry Helm, opposed.**