

Auction

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trating them, causing lost time, and costing extra money to complete projects. "We all benefit, from the workers to the taxpayers," Kelly said.

"We got rid of clutter, removed rusting items taking up space, broken equipment leaking oil that we don't need anymore," he said.

He called on his colleagues and town staff to set a policy for obtaining new or used equipment in good condition, rather than trying to get by with clever but short-term jury-rigging on old equipment.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser agreed, saying he "endorsed the replacement of outdated items. It was just throwing good money after bad. We will be applying (the philosophy) for all departments."

The councilors initially backed the goal of obtaining good equipment by endorsing budget items, including bonding \$557,000 for six major items, that voters approved at the annual financial town meeting.

Auction set up

Kelly called for the auction more than a year ago, and plan was not finalized until specifications were prepared for new equipment and it was obtained. Kelly praised Public Works Di-

rector Steven Goslee and Assistant Public Works Director Michael Gray, who is also the town engineer, for co-ordinating the cleanup and auction They dredged up the rusting, dilapidated equipment from the deteriorating highway barn at Fort Wetherill, from the yard of the Town Offices on Southwest Avenue, and from the aging water treatment plant and the former landfill site on North Main Road. They also towed a decrepit handed-down police car used by town Building Official Fred Brown.

Kelly talked especially about the problems Brown had because the vehicle could not get out of ruts and mud holes on property under construction where he had to issue warnings or stop-work orders.

The five-member council voted unanimously last year to have Goslee determine the items to be sold or to be designated to sell as scrap from among the equipment he had jurisdiction over. They directed Keiser to identify equipment and materials in other town departments for inclusion in the sale. The police department contributed quite a collection of outdated property from their department, including accumulations of old office equipment and unclaimed lost bikes. Unsold smaller items that still may be usable will be donated to appropriate charitable organizations,

Kelly noted.

Councilors specified that funds realized from the disposal of all equipment should be placed in the capital account because the auctioned-off equipment had been purchased from that account.

When the town awarded bids on new DPW equipment, Kelly praised Keiser for leading the town through the bidding process that featured the lease plans, trade-in negotiations, attention to details, and, in one case, being able to piggyback a Providence bid on a road sweeper. Keiser in turn credited Goslee and Gray for pursuing all cost effective options. Kelly said the trade-in deals "were smart deals."

Kelly also observed that the morale of the public works crew already was higher "because we're paying attention to them." DPW workers have expressed feelings of being town orphans because of the 25-year-plus, still-unsettled battle over where to put a new town highway barn.

Town officials said the new equipment gives workers a chance to "show their stuff" because they were frustrated not being able to do all the jobs they are trained and expected to do.

The auction items included a roller, trash trailer, pickup truck, mini-bus, street sweeper, police car and four boats. The town this summer made lease purchases of a backhoe loader, a multi-purpose loader, a mower and brush cutter tractor, a road sweeper, and two dump trucks.

What's next

In related work, Kelly and Keiser are next looking to do "selective salvaging" such as finding a buyer for appliances, known as white goods in the trade, that town residents need to trash. The town currently pays to have it trucked away, with the hauler getting any payment that may be available for the goods.

Buildings audit to start soon

By Sam Bari

The Jamestown Buildings and Facilities Committee reviewed and discussed the upcoming audit of all town-owned or managed buildings and sites at its Dec. 12 meeting. Committee Chairman Duncan Pendlebury passed out a matrix to committee members of all town-owned buildings and facilities as well as a list of building features that needed to be fulfilled to satisfy the requirements of the audit.

Pendlebury said he would compile a list for the first meeting of the new year on Jan. 23 that prioritized the order of the audit. After discussing the list at length, the committee decided that the first three tours will include Ft. Wetherill, the Town Offices on Southwest Avenue, and possibly the Community Center. These sites will probably be audited before the January meeting.

The suggested dates of Jan. 12 and 19 are pending depending on availability of personnel.

Vice Chairman Nick Robertson emphasized the importance of inspecting and maintaining all rights-of-way to beach areas. He said that the rights-of-way should be high priority items because of encroachment by landowners attempting to block access by planting vegetation and even placing boulders on the pathways to discourage use. Robertson mentioned that one right-of-way was recently lost due to lack of use and an abutting landowner claiming adverse possession.

Town Council Liaison Bill Kelly suggested using public works department employees with their new equipment for maintenance. He said that the heated backhoe allows maintenance personnel to work through

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