

Demo deal too good to pass up

Written by MARK JAEGER

Wednesday, 04 September 2013 16:54

Trustees approve purchase of lightly used Mack truck for DPW, knocking \$10,000 off price

The Village of Saukville's Public Works Committee saw a deal on a tandem-axel patrol truck that was too good to resist last week.

On the recommendation of Public Works Supt. Ray de Bruijn, the committee agreed to buy a demo 2013 diesel Mack truck. In the process, the village will be saving \$10,000.

"This truck has 95% of what we would want in a new patrol truck, plus it has the advantage of being on the lot and ready to go," de Bruijn said.

The asking price for the demo vehicle from Casper Truck Equipment of Little Chute is \$161,000, which de Bruijn said includes painting it Saukville green.

The truck will come equipped with a plow and wing, along with the latest joystick controller.

De Bruijn said the plow array is ideal for clearing snow from roads without curbs and gutters, as are found in the industrial park, around the treatment plant grounds and on the east side roundabouts.

The demo truck has less than 1,000 miles on its odometer, and the dealer said the vehicle line has under gone five \$1,500 price increases since it came off the assembly line last year.

As a manufacturer's demo from Mack Truck, the vehicle will have full warranty starting on the date the village take's delivery.

The Village Board has already borrowed \$175,000 for the replacement truck, which is in the 2014 capital budget. The total cost of outfitting the demo to village specifications is not expected to exceed \$165,000.

In addition, de Bruijn said the village will have the advantage of time on its side.

If the village had ordered a new truck, he said it would have taken up to seven months before it could be delivered.

"This way we will be able to put our existing truck up for auction before the snow season, when there will be highest demand. We'll probably be able to get \$30,000 to \$40,000 for it," de Bruijn said.

"We will also avoid having to use it for another plowing season, where there is a greater chance we would have to put money into it for repairs."

The auction proceeds will be placed in the public works equipment replacement fund.

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The Finance Committee and Village Board unanimously approved the committee recommendation to purchase the truck.

The dealer brought the truck to Village Hall for the series of meetings, which proved to be a temptation for two public works employees, de Bruijn said.

“They must have been pretty confident you were going to approve buying the truck, because they are already out taking it for a drive,” he told trustees