

OCTOBER 3, 2016 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: M. Hraban, R. Moore, M. Platteter. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, Z. Gotham, A. Lobermeier, D. Parker, T. Verdegan.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Moore called the meeting to order.

Contract Award:

Project designer Z. Gotham from Morgan & Parmley reviewed three bids received for the Shady Lane repair project, and explained the difference in the scope of work between Base Bid A and Base Bid B. Mr. Moore stated his preference for supporting the less costly Base Bid B. Town of Flambeau Chair D. Murray and DPW Gorsegner each indicated their preference for Base Bid A, which is likely to be a longer lasting, albeit costlier fix. The former stated "I'd like to do it cheap, but do it the right way". Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Platteter to award the contract to rebuild the City portion of Shady Lane east of Old 8 Rd. to the low bidder, John S. Olynick. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Moore-no; Hraban-yes. Motion carried. There seemed to be concurrence that paving next spring may be best so it has the winter to settle better by going through a freeze thaw cycle.

2017 Budget:

Comptroller Verdegan reviewed debt and total interest payments that would result from borrowing \$408,129 for 5 years vs. 10 years. She also reviewed how much that would raise taxes for an owner of property valued at \$100,000.

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Council that \$300,000 of the general fund balance be applied to meet anticipated capital purchase needs and that \$388,000 also be borrowed for ten years, when the time is appropriate; maybe from the State Trust Fund. These actions will effectively remove some capital spending items from the draft 2017 budget, thereby allowing it to be balanced.

Comptroller Verdegan will adjust the budget and slate the public hearing on the draft 2017 general operations budget for Monday, November 14th.

Fees:

It was suggested that, perhaps, a fee should be established to review and process requests to put up data or communications towers such as with the recent Mobilitie request. Green Bay recently charged \$25,000 to process requests for several towers; about \$1,000 each. Mr. Platteter referenced a list of cost items that municipalities may cover with such charges. Ladysmith could not charge to process the Mobilitie request because our ordinance currently does not allow for it. If it had, the considerable time Atty. Kenyon and Mr. Gorsegner had into it could have been covered. Upon motion by M. Hraban, which was seconded by Moore and carried by voice vote, the Committee recommends that the Legal Affairs Committee consider whether to establish such fee and at what amount.

It was also noted that there has been no statistical variation in number of building permits issued that suggests not charging hasn't stimulated projects. It seems, in fact, that some property owners likely believe that because there is no longer a fee there is no longer a permit requirement. This fee typically raised about \$5,000 annually, sometimes more, toward the cost of providing building inspection. Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Council that it reinstate building permit fees effective January 1, 2017.