

JUNE 15, 2015 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4 p.m., Members present: K. Brown, M. Hraban, M. Platteter. Others present: A. Christianson, k. Gorsegner, K. Julien, L. Klink, A. Lobermeier, C. Schultz, T. Verdegan.

Public Works Equipment:

A question was raised whether public works employees had input into proposed equipment purchases. It was noted that the doors are always open and discussions of equipment are ongoing. Still, their needs and desires have to be weighed against other input, sources of funds and limitations on their uses.

It was noted that, while the draft resolution provides for transfer of \$100,000, actual costs may be less. It was decided to transfer funds once rather and reduce the likelihood of having to come back and ask for more.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to recommend that the Council adopt a resolution transferring monies from the fund balance into the 2015 budget to facilitate purchase of some needed equipment. It was noted that money that had been designated to revise the snorkel to serve as a bucket truck was eliminated given that vehicles limitations for that use.

Reinstate Police Position:

Chief Lobermeier, Lt. Julien and P&FC Chair C. Schultz appeared in favor of reinstating a police officer position essentially eliminated in the course of developing the 2015 budget, as was one public works position. They cited the following reasons in support of their request:

- *Inadequate staffing due to an officer resignation and another out due to injury leave. While these are temporary losses, they are currently having a very adverse effect. As an aside, Lt. Julien was commended for covering man of the open shifts.
- *Several major cases are taking considerable time of late.
- *Considerable overtime costs are being incurred.
- *LPD is currently operating with single coverage most weekdays.
- *The drug officer position had already been eliminated in 2012.

It was noted during discussion that most police departments are having difficulty recruiting new officers. The following were indicated as contributing causes:

- *There are fewer younger people entering the workforce.
- *People can make as much or more money in far less dangerous occupations.
- *Many young people encountered today are far less respectful than those of previous generations.

There may be advantages to using part time officers. The P&FC will take the matter of p.t. officers up at its next meeting.

Chief Lobermeier filed a grant application earlier in the day seeking three years of funding assistance to help with adding a position. It is likely to be some time before LPD gets a response on this request. It is expected that the competition for these dollars will be very stiff.

The Comptroller noted, in response to a question, that about \$300,000 in undesignated monies in the current fund balance could be applied, and that reinstating the position for the remainder of 2015 may cost \$43,000. The Comptroller emphasized, however, that because this will be a one-time use of fund

balance, the bigger problem will be how to support it in the 2016 budget and beyond given that taxes can hardly be raised. So, that will mean raising other revenues or cutting current expenditures.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.