

JUNE 22, 2017 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: M. Hraban, R. Moore, M. Platteter. Others present: a. Christianson, K. Gorsegrner, A. Lobermeier, D. Parker, R. Schmit, K. Welke.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Moore called the meeting to order.

Animal Shelter:

There was discussion of City participation in the cost of financing the planned new Animal Shelter. Adm. Christianson asked if our best move might be identifying and fining those who are not registering their animals or just dropping them off or letting them go. Although they do not have the time, the sanitation crew probably knows more than anyone about where the dogs and cats are. [Maybe we can pay John Kmosena a consulting fee.] In the towns the grader operator may know the most. It is largely because of the irresponsible acts of these people this money is being spent.

[The cost saving between paying 22.9% and 40% is \$49,590 (\$66,410 vs. \$116,000), which equates to a full time job at \$16/hr. plus benefits. So, if we hire somebody to spend a year tracking down where the dogs and cats are the savings would not only cover that cost, but increase license fees going forward, which can be applied toward our annual 40% share of shelter operating costs.]

Financing options would seem to include the following:

- Make an annual payment to Rusk County to help it cover repayment of 30% of anticipated County borrowing for the project.
- Take a hard line on population based split: 22.9% City; 77.1% County.
- Withdraw from direct involvement and donate 22.9% to the Friends of Animal Shelter, if legal, or to the LDC as an intermediary.

Even though the City has states intentions to stay involved in financing annual shelter operating costs, these have not been estimated. While the new building will be much more efficient, it will also be much larger. These costs could end up higher.

2018 Budget:

Attention turned to identifying items that need to be considered for addition to the 2018 budget for reasons varying from mandates to choices. There was also discussion of which of the items identified are best borrowed for to tie their costs to their useful lives. A new or different grader is an items that seem to fit this category.

Advertising and Promotion

It was suggested that the City use room tax revenues to support what has become our annual ad in the Northwoods Escape insert to the Ladysmith News.

Animal Shelter

The JMC left it to the City and County Administrators to work out a deal, if they could. Adm. Christianson is stuck on a split based on Ladysmith's population as a percentage of total county population; 22.9% of \$290,000, or \$66,410. Adm. Christianson went on to ask why in the discussion of animal shelter costs nobody seems to be discussing the root problem; that being the irresponsible actions of those who drop pets off at the animal shelter or along country roads. Why can't they be identified and held accountable.

Cemetery

The Governor has pulled the Camp Flambeau crew away from other work such as our mowing to assist with storm clean up. As a result, we have had to pull up to five summer workers off other work to mow the cemetery. It is currently uncertain how long this will go on.

Election Equipment

Clerk Kavanagh advised that new election equipment (a tabulator) will need to be provided for in next year's budget at a cost of \$18-20,000.

Fire Department

A sizeable roof leak of unknown origin is a concern at the fire hall.

General Government

The exterior of City Hall is in need of repainting. The cost has not been estimated.

Lake Avenue Resurfacing

Engineering contribution of \$31,250 is expected to be paid in 2018 even though construction is slated for 2020.

Library

The JMC only supports door replacement at from \$500-10,500 for 2018. Some, including the minute taker, do not believe the roof needs replacing. There are a couple schools of thought on moisture trapped behind the insulation based siding. Mr. Morgan believes it may be due to hairline cracks caused by vibration along the rail line. Mr. Reynolds believes the residential furnaces fans should be run almost constantly to provide better air movement. Mr. Gorsegner agrees that lack of air movement plays a role.

Parks

It was requested that parks repairs be itemized. Adm. Christianson advised that he misspoke when he said the cost of developing/obtaining a dredging permit for a bridge over Falge Park Drive will be \$7,000. These are estimated at \$1,900, of which \$1,000 is a DNR review fee. Bridge design fees were quoted at several thousand dollars. He may be able to secure bridge design as a donation.

Police Dept.

The Comptroller will need to identify costs associate with the Chief's expected retirement. The Dept. expects to purchase a new squad in 2018, toward which \$15,000 is set aside in this year's budget.

Public Works

The hydraulic lift at the City garage apparently hasn't worked for over 20 years. At the same time Rands Trucking has advised that the need to deal with its own vehicles may mean that City vehicles would have to sit until they could be worked in. It is proposed to buy a moveable single wheel lift that can be used at the shop. The \$200,000 increase in the street construction fund is probably wishful thinking as we play catch up.

School Requests

Although we are told the school district is going to be requesting some infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of LMS we are currently short on details.

Rail Display

A quote is needed to fabricate and install a roof over the restored boxcar.

Veterans Mural

This is supposed to be a "pay its own way" venture.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at about 6 p.m.