

## **SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

4 p.m. Council Chamber. Finance members present: R. Moore, B. Morgan for M. Hraban, M. Platteter. Absent: M. Hraban. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, H. Helmecci, A. Lobermeier, B. Stoneberg, D. Tuma, T. Verdegan.

### **Call to Order:**

Finance Chair R. Moore called the meeting to order.

### **LFD Tanker:**

Fire Chief Dave Tuma appeared to explain that he feels if the City puts a new tank on our 25 year old chassis we would be back in a few years switching that tank over to a new chassis. He also projected that installing a new steel tank on the current tanker would only have a useful life of about 10 years. Mr. Morgan countered that the City can't afford to tie up that many dollars in new vehicles that sit unused so much. Mrs. Stoneberg stated that emergency equipment absolutely has to be reliable.

Chief Tuma advised that a new tanker Darley quoted at \$199,000 last November is already up to \$210,000. The least costly tanker he found on line, equipped with a 2,300 gal. tank, is priced at \$198,000. It comes with a small pump and hose reel. He also noted that, while surrounding fire departments used to rely on the well equipped LFD for mutual aid, Bruce and Weyerhaeuser currently have more capable pumpers than does the LFD. It was clarified that, while ladders and pumps are what are certified by NFPA, they also inspect a truck's chassis at the same time.

It was suggested that, perhaps, Northern Machining could fabricate a new tank. It was noted, in response, that the owner advised that he doesn't have the room or capability to do that job.

### **Seasonal Public Works Compensation:**

Motion was made by Platteter, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Council that seasonal public works pay be increased from minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour for 2017 to attract more applicants. The net impact is expected to be about \$3,000 annually.

### **Negotiations:**

It remains uncertain when LPPA contract negotiations will proceed as the LPPA rep is on vacation.

### **Borrowing:**

#### Budget Balancing

Those present reviewed items in the draft 2017 general operations budget, which could be borrowed for instead, allowing the budget to be close to balanced. These are in the general categories of street reconstruction; building repairs and improvements; and, equipment purchases. The following items, in particular, were mentioned.

- \$420,000 for street work.
- \$50,000 for City Hall upgrades.
- \$200,000 for the aforementioned fire tanker.

#### City Hall Upgrades

DPW Gorsegner and Comptroller Verdegan both responded to a question about the purpose for proposed City Hall upgrades, including the following:

- While the Clerk and Treasurer have primary responsibility for monitoring walk-in traffic, it is awkward and time consuming for both as their desks are behind walls that obstruct their view of the counter

and take time to get out from behind.

-There is a need for increased security, especially when these folks are working alone, as happens. Two glass or Plexiglas windows with pass through openings at the bottom would replace the current open counter.

Initial floor plans for realigning walls in the front area of City Hall were reviewed. This alignment would create two access points both considerably more visible to both the Clerk and Treasurer. Each would be signed to indicate service generally available at that walk up. Hoover Const. and Ringstad Const. have been asked for ideas and quotes on this remodel job.

#### Street Work

DPW Gorsegner reviewed a cost estimate for several street construction projects under consideration. These revised numbers include the most recent estimates with utility costs subtracted. This estimate is attached.

#### Equipment

Mr. Morgan stated that, in his estimation, spending \$200,000 on a newer road grader isn't warranted when it will sit unused most of the year. He added that Rands Trucking picked up a decent used grader locally for only \$28,000. DPW Gorsegner countered that when you need a grader you need it then and can't be chasing one down. You don't want to be in the position of having a contractor deciding whether it is more important that he be using his grader for your work or for others likely to be seeking the same snow removal services at the same time.

Attention then turned to use of a front end loader mounted wing plow for snow removal. Mr. Morgan feels the City's wing should be used more, adding that former employee Chuck Nichols made good use of it. Mr. Moore added that use of belly blades was much the same in the past. They can be useful in circumstances when operators know how and when to use them.

#### Short Term vs. Long Term

It was noted that it will be next August before we know if a Community Development Block Grant (DBG) grant will be available to assist the Pederson Ave., E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. and Center Ave. street reconstruction projects. Even if approved, actual construction isn't likely to be until 2018 owing to time required to get grant agreements in place and the project bid out and a contract awarded. The same kind of scenario is likely with the Summit Ave. project for which Local Road Improvements Program (LRIP) assistance will be sought. As such, only the 1st St./Phillips Ave. project, and possibly the Adams Ave. project, are likely to be done in 2017. That being the case, a smaller 2017 loan could be considered. Maybe a 2017 Wisconsin State Trust Fund loan for the following.

-City Hall upgrades at \$50,000  
-Phillips Ave. street project at \$180,000  
-LFD tanker at \$210,000  
Total \$440,000

#### **Outfall:**

There was a brief discussion of the condition/status of the storm water outfall behind Carnegie Hall.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next budget development meeting will be planned for Thursday, September 29th at 4 p.m.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.