

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 @ 5:00 pm., Board Room

Members Present: Nagle (C), Oberbeck, Winters

Members Excused: Brezinski, Nutting

Others Present: Gisselman, Mielke, Wagner, Kellbach, Rasmussen, Abitz, Bliven, Marquardt, Tipple, Groat, Jacobson, Loy, Giese, Werth, Goede, Deb Ryan

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nagle.

Consider 2014 Budget

Maryanne Groat conducted a PowerPoint presentation the details of the 2014 proposed budget. Highlights: Equalized value is a decrease of 1.31%; Estimated Assessed Valuation is an increase of .22%; Estimated Assessed Tax Rate of \$8.64, an increase of 13 cents or an impact of \$13 on a home with a value of \$100,000. Additional Budget Demands are for an additional Police Officer and the Landlord Licensing Program.

Continued budget influences: *Services and Demands* - Increasing Service Demands, Increasing Assets and Asset Maintenance, and Negative State Legislative Influence. *Revenue* - Tax Rate Pressure, Declining State Aids, New Levy Limitations, Impact of Health Care Reform on Ambulance Fees, and Negative State Legislative Influences. *Costs* – Cost of Living Increases, Health Insurance Costs, Staffing Level Pressures, Cat Costs, and New Refuse and Recycling Contract. *Capital Projects* – Street Maintenance, Affordable Debt, and Reductions in General Property Tax Levy.

Rasmussen questioned the status of the Boys & Girls Club service contract and whether it has been reviewed by the City Attorney. She indicated the contract was brought in by Brian Stezinski-Williams and needs a legal review prior to any signing of it. Budget discussion followed.

Nagle noted the next budget sessions will be Monday, October 28th and Tuesday, November 5th at 5:00 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting (10/08/2013).

Withdrawn.

Discuss formula for allocation methodology for the parks department budget

Withdrawn.

Discuss spring referendum in April 2014, regarding garbage collection method and garbage charges

Winters felt they needed to seriously consider taking garbage collection off of the property taxes and see if we can realize the kind of benefit that Tomahawk has realized. They were paying \$250,000 in tipping fees and were able to knock that down to \$140,000 because the pay per container method encourages conservation. He stated we have an ordinance on the books that says if we are going to add fees we should take it to referendum. He questioned if they wanted to put a referendum on the April 2014 Spring Election ballot. Rasmussen commented the April election will have a higher turnout and a non-binding referendum would at least provide accurate feedback. Groat pointed out the ordinance is existing at the pleasure of the Council and if they don't want it, they could repeal it.

Rasmussen stated their needs to be some public information disseminated as to the details that we got, because if the only information the public has is what the media reported after we got our presentation, the initial reaction was very mixed. She indicated she also received negative feedback. Winters agreed that he received some negative reaction and that a referendum campaign is a way to get out and educate the public on the issue. He felt the people from Tomahawk and others have put together a compelling story that using market mechanisms, a price signal for how

much garbage you put away has an effect on controlling how much garbage is put out, which reduces the cost of the garbage system. Rasmussen pointed out Tomahawk's 500% increase in recycling was pretty remarkable as well. Oberbeck questioned when the garbage contract expired and Groat stated 2014 was the last year of the current contract, so the timing was right. Marquardt questioned if they wanted to consider a stormwater utility at the same time. Winters felt that was biting off too much to chew at one time.

Nagle suggested this item be brought back for consideration at the next meeting since it was only listed today for discussion.

2013 Budget Modifications

Postponed.

Adjourn

Motion by Oberbeck, second by Winters to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.