

FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION

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

Members Present: Nagle (C), Oberbeck, Brezinski

Members Absent: Nutting (*Winters participated by telephone*)

Others Present: Mielke, Wagner, Kellbach, Bliven, Marquardt, Tipple, Groat, Jacobson, Loy, Giese, Werth, Duncanson, Klein, Goede, Pat Peckham

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.

Nagle noted that Keene Winters was participating in the meeting by telephone but he would not be voting.

Consider 2014 Budget

Groat handed out a summary of all of the departments and the funds of the city for the committee to use to propose budget modifications if they wished. She noted it included the additional police officer position.

Nagle questioned the ramifications of funding the additional police officer position. Groat stated they could increase the revenues to Municipal Court fees because the state just adopted new legislation that allows us to increase our court costs by \$10. She estimated it would bring in \$38,000 of revenue per year. She suggested decreasing the property tax contribution to the parking fund and increase the parking revenues to reflect the work that our two parking revenue enforcement officers are doing, as well as the fact that we have more inventory of parking stalls than last year. Nagle questioned what the levy increase would be and Groat stated there would not be any additional levy increase using this proposal. She also suggested they may want to increase the Police Department budget by \$126,000 and use \$63,000 as donations in the event they wanted to take advantage of the Alexander Foundation's offer for a second position.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Nagle to amend the budget to include one city funded police officer position. Motion carried 3-0.

Winters pointed out there is a proposal for landlord licensing program that is not in this budget and may still come to the budget through a future amendment. Groat noted the plan is for the rental licensing program to have a revenue source to offset any increase in expenses making it a levy neutral proposal.

Motion by Oberbeck to remove the Boys & Girls Club allocation of \$25,000 from the budget. Discussion followed. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Nagle to approve the 2014 budget as presented and amended to include one police officer position. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion on CCITC and Park Expenditures – including formulas and methodology for cost sharing and government service sharing agreements.

Winters indicated he asked for this discussion to be put on the agenda because he wants to know what all the expenses are that get put in the pot and how they are split to better understand how the contract for these departments works. Oberbeck commented he felt this was a discussion they didn't need to have and that splitting the city/county departments would be a step backwards.

Bill Duncanson provided and reviewed handouts of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department 2013 Budget FTE Allocations, Departmental Expenditures /Revenue, as well as the Bylaws of the Marathon County Park Commission.

He pointed out when the two departments merged a seven member Park Commission was formed, consisting of three City Council members, three County Board members, and one citizen member. He felt it was important to note even though Wausau has approximately one third of the population of the County, they have nearly 50% of the vote and are well represented in the decision making of the commission.

Winters commented the budget work they do is commendable but it is done in isolation of all the other demands that the city is going to face and when they are done and that number combined with the county number, it is presented to the Finance Committee as a take it or leave it number. He felt the work they do never gets blended with the rest of the priorities of the city. Duncanson responded that they take direction from the City Park & Recreation Committee as well as the Mayor's directives in assembling the budget.

Gerry Klein presented a PowerPoint of the City of Wausau Fall 2013 Technology Spending Overview consisting of a budget overview; how CCITC determines chargeback; why we need technology; tech highlights; and why it is so expensive. Klein commented if they use less technology, they will have less of a bill. He indicated they use a prioritization process for completing the work.

Consider 2014 Fee Schedule

Groat stated distributed and reviewed the Comprehensive Fee Schedule with the 2013 rates versus the 2014 rates and the increases. She indicated the Airport Committee has already reviewed the airport leases and have met with the tenants at the airport and made a recommendation for an increase based on CPI. Public Works has reviewed and made recommendations for increases to yard waste permits for contractors. Fire Department is going with a flat charge for standby and recovering the inspection costs in the permit fee rather than separate fees for a permit and inspection. The changes they proposed will help alleviate confusion over fees. She noted the Park & Recreation Committee has reviewed and approved the changes proposed.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Oberbeck to approve the 2014 Fee Schedule. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Brezinski, second by Oberbeck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.