

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 @ 5:00 pm., Board Room

Members Present: Nagle (C), Oberbeck, Brezinski, Nutting, Winters

Others Present: Mielke, Wagner, Kellbach, Rasmussen, Gisselman, Marquardt, Tipple, Groat, Giese, Werth, Stratz, Chmiel, Rayala, Lawrence, Lenz, Hardel, Berna-Karger, Clift, Peckham, LaFrombois

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.

Public Comment on matters appearing on the agenda.

None.

Minutes of the previous meetings. (11/05/13, 11/12/13)

Motion by Nutting, second by Winters to approve the minutes of the previous meetings on 11/05/13 and 11/12/13.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Airport Improvement Six Year Capital Plan

Airport Manager Chmiel reported that the plan must be updated and submitted to the State Bureau of Aeronautics if the City is interested in infrastructure improvement aid. The plan will also be presented at a public hearing of the Plan Commission prior to consideration by the Common Council.

Motion by Oberbeck, second by Nutting to approve the airport improvement Six Year Capital Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

Authorization to accept donation of 901 Stark Street

Stratz explained that Wells Fargo obtained this property during foreclosure. The City has orders on the house due to a tarp on the roof. Wells Fargo has offered to donate the property to the city. They have agreed to pay the real estate taxes and all closing costs. Staff has evaluated the building and recommends demolition. A single family residence that is architecturally compatible will be constructed on the vacant lot.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Winters to accept the conveyance of 901 Stark Street by donation from Wells Fargo, with Wells Fargo to pay closing costs and taxes. Motion carried 5-0.

Authorization to accept donation of 402 Chicago Avenue

Stratz explained that the owners have asked to donate the home to the City of Wausau. The home is in good condition and functioning as a duplex. The City will renovate and return it to a single family home. The City will pay closing costs and 2013 taxes.

Motion by Brezinski, Second by Nutting, to accept the conveyance of 402 Chicago Avenue by donation with the City of Wausau to pay closing costs and 2013 taxes. Motion carried 5-0.

Authorization to accept donation of Grand Avenue Kwik Trip Property

Werth indicated that Alderperson Nagle has been working with his constituents and Kwik Trip to determine beneficial re-use options for the Grand Avenue Kwik Trip Store. Werth indicated that Kwik Trip has removed the fuel tanks and canopies and is working with the DNR to final clearances and approvals. Any pollution liability and exposure is retained by Kwik Trip. Kwik Trip has offered to donate the property to the city. Their only contingencies are that the property may not be used as a convenience store, alcohol or cigarette outlet or adult novelty store. Oberbeck questioned whether the property would be rezoned and whether the new use would be residential or commercial. He also wanted to know whether we would likely demo the property and how long it

should be allowed to sit vacant. Ann indicated that the answer to these questions were unknown at this time. She indicated that the building was not that old and could serve a purpose such as a coffee shop. Nagle expressed appreciation for Kwik Trip's civic minded gift.

Motion by Brezinski, Second by Nutting, to accept the donation of Grand Avenue Kwik Trip Property. Motion carried 5-0.

Approving of Regional Animal Control Services Contract between the City of Wausau and Everest Metropolitan Police Department for the provision of certain animal control services from 1/1/14-12/31/14

Groat stated the City Attorney worked with Everest Metro to come up with a mutually agreeable contract. Hardel pointed out that the services we are providing to Everest Metro can be conducted only when the Humane Officer is working; when she is off, on vacation, or at training, services will not be supplied during those hours. He indicated he has asked the Attorney's Office to ensure that is made clear in the contract. He explained those services would then fall on their jurisdiction, just like our police department would respond when the Humane Officer's services are not available.

Winters questioned how long it would be before there were model contracts for the other six townships. Hardel stated it was a decision by Everest Metro and their Attorney Shane VanderWaal, Wally Sparks, the City Attorney's Office and himself that in the best interest of all of them, to have this contract first with Everest Metro for a year to see if we can provide all of the services. Winters felt having the townships on board and on our side was important and indicated he was willing to meet and discuss it. Oberbeck indicated he was still concerned with overextending ourselves with one person. We need to take care of the issues in the City of Wausau first and then expand services if we are able to and possibly add people if it justifies it. Winters commented we need other people to put money into the pot to cover a large enough staff to cover enough time of the day to take the burden off our officers.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Winters to approve the Animal Control Contract between the city and Everest Metro. Motion carried 4-1. (*Oberbeck was the dissenting vote.*)

Authorizing approval of Letter of Intent with the Humane Society of Marathon County for the Provision of Impound Services for Non-Dog Stray Animals and Animals held for Cause Beyond December 31, 2013.

Groat stated the clerk received a possible contract on December 3rd from the Humane Society, as well as the financial terms. Our contract would be \$80,000 per year and in the first year we would be reimbursed approximately \$21,000 from the County to offset that cost. She stated due to short notice Anne Jacobson felt rather than committing to this contract immediately, it would be in the City's best interests to have Council do a Letter of Intent that met the Humane Society's goals, in that we will contract with them for 2014. This would give the City Attorney more time to review the contract. Groat indicated Jacobson's request was for them to approve the Letter of Intent and after she completes her review of the contract it will be brought to Council at the first meeting in January. Groat noted there were actually two contracts to consider, which would include one for those animals that would have to be maintained on a longer term basis because of a possible lawsuit.

Linda Berna-Karger, Humane Society Board President, explained when an animal is brought in as a stray it has to be held of seven days because you can't assume that it is feral, it could be someone's pet. There is an admission fee for processing that animal in, a seven day fee and a disposition fee. At the conclusion of the seven day hold the animal becomes the property of Humane Society at which time we determine if it is suitable for adoption, would be transferred to a different rescue or another Humane Society organization, or humanely euthanized.

Winters stated it was his understanding that the seven day hold only applied to dogs and that there was no statute for cats. Berna-Karger stated the County has no responsibility for cats and suggested having the attorney check the

statutes relative to cats. Rasmussen felt they needed to address the length of stay for stray animals, as well as whose responsibility the intake charges are depending on who drops off the animal.

Brezinski stated it was his understanding that by signing a Letter of Intent we are simply saying we intend to negotiate a contract with them. He indicated he would not want to sign a Letter of Intent that stipulates anything else or had any prices in it. He envisioned it would only state that we intend to work with the Humane Society to formulate a contract that is mutually acceptable.

Wagner stated he would like the service to require that any cats or dogs in the municipality would have to be licensed right there upon adoption; the Humane Society would become an agent for the city and possibly get a part of the licensing fee. Berna-Karger noted they do inform the City of Wausau of every animal that is adopted into Wausau, which gives the Humane Officer the opportunity to follow up on licensing and shots. Groat questioned who these notices were being sent to because no one there was aware of them. Wagner felt there should be a working relationship and eliminate the middle man. Nutting agreed it ought to be a requirement for licensing by the Humane Society or veterinarians.

Berna-Karger stated the HS Board has made the decision that if they do not have a contract in place by January 1, 2014, they will not be able to provide these services, because it is not their fiscal responsibility; it is a municipal responsibility by statute. She indicated they are not willing to incur those costs after January 1st. She believed that was why Attorney Jacobson wanted the Letter of Intent with the contract amount or fees stated. Nagle questioned where the \$80,000 would come from. Groat stated it is not in the budget so it could come from carryover funds of 2013 or take it out of contingency. Groat clarified the Letter of Intent that was drafted does not have dollar amounts included, but it does indicate that if for whatever reason we were unable to reach an agreement by January 1st they would just charge us for animals brought to them in that interim period. Nagle clarified if they don't actually adopt an agreement pursuant to the Letter of Intent, it will cost the city \$332 for a feral cat.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Winters to approve the Letter of Intent with the Humane Society. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve proposal for assistance with grant applications to EPA for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant and two brownfield community-wide assessment grants with Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Brezinski stated this came before the Economic Development Committee earlier and he commended Brad for pursuing it to get funding for cleanup of our brownfields.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Winters to approve the grant applications to the EPA. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Purchase of 1306 N 1st Street Wausau WI

Tammy Stratz explained the property at 1306 N 1st Street is a duplex and the owner contacted us when one of the tenants moved out wondering if we would be interested in purchasing it. She indicated they obtained an appraisal and would like to discuss a price.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session for negotiating the purchase of properties. (1306 N. 1st Street)

Motion by Winters, second by Brezinski to move into closed session. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Brezinski, Nutting, Oberbeck, Winters, Nagle. Noes: 0. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned in Closed Session.