

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 @ 5:00 pm., Board Room

Members Present: Oberbeck (C), Mielke, Nutting, Nagle, Kellbach

Others Present: Lindman, Schock, Tipple, Neal, Wagner, Baeten, Bishop, Jacobson, Werth, Stratz, Kujawa, Barnes, Goede, Elizabeth Field, 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 Oberbeck.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes of previous meeting(s). (12/22/15)

Motion by Mielke, second by Nutting to approve the minutes of previous meetings (12/22/15). Motion carried 4-0.

Vaccination and MicroChip Clinic

Lt Todd Baeten reviewed with the committee how the first and second clinics went and what they've learned from them. He indicated they planned on having another clinic before the March 31st deadline for licensing. (*Kellbach entered the meeting.*) Baeten stated there was some discussion at PH&S as to whether we should impose a fee for the clinics to offset some of the cost. Ashlee Bishop would be able to contract with a company for microchips for \$9-\$10 each. There were some leftover chips and approximately 200 vaccines from the last clinic. He was willing to try a fee and see how it was received by the public and report back. Oberbeck suggested possible funding of that service be on a future agenda for discussion before the deadline. Consensus from the committee was to move forward with planning for a third clinic and bring back a proposal to impose a \$10 fee.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Wausau Live It Up Housing Project

Chris Schock reviewed a proposed new home ownership incentive program that would use private sector donations, TIF #2 funds and other sources to create a pot of money that could be used for homesteading of professionals. He explained they were trying to create drivers that would root professionals in the community. He noted there are a lot of people that work in the city that do not live in the city. It would be a recruiting tool for use by local companies who routinely point out one of the challenges is making sure employees are rooted and tied to the neighborhood.

Schock indicated the chamber was a potential partner and that the Community Foundation has created a non-profit fund just for this purpose, which will be the charitable arm of this effort. WHEDA, the state's arm for housing, is establishing a partnership where their programs will interlace with ours to create incentives for home purchase. It would be a marketing feature for local employers to inform employees, especially new ones, that the city is able to offer them this incentive. He explained it is a no interest loan for a period of time, potentially five years, but maybe longer depending on the structure of the loan, for a minimum of \$10,000 with the fifth or last year forgiven. He noted there is no restriction on income for the employee to qualify. He presented an outline of the process.

Schock stated they were hoping to use part of the TIF #2 money which was set aside specifically for housing programs and they were especially targeting historic areas (either in the historic core or over 50 years old) with a scaled incentive. Every employer is asked to make a non-profit donation to the Community Foundation to participate in the program, which is a way to make sure the employers are involved and engaged in the process and take a stake in their employees living locally.

Wagner clarified there will be no income restrictions; it is not gap financing, it is used for the downpayment; it is an incentive to get them as employees of a company to buy in a neighborhood within the City of Wausau. He felt it was important to understand this is a partnership not a city program. Schock agreed and reiterated it is not gap financing or an aid program; it is a different way of looking at homesteading focused on professionals and ensuring they are part of the neighborhoods of the city rather than Rib Mountain or Weston. It is down payment assistance to employees of participating businesses who wish to buy homes in Wausau. The business has to participate, which means to make a donation to the fund at the Community Foundation.

Schock stated they were looking to get Finance approval of allocation of \$130,000 of TIF #2 money and the go ahead to do the marketing pieces. He indicated they would issue an RFP to finish the branding, which will involve informational flyers, promotional brochure, and the website graphics and real estate signs.

Motion by Nutting, second by Kellbach to approve moving forward with the marketing piece of the program and allocate \$130,000 of TIF #2 funds. Motion carried 4-0, *Nagle abstained from voting*. Oberbeck noted the program was approved based on what was presented today and will be finalized by the Council for full review.

Discussion and possible action on setting a minimum amount for property acquisitions related to the Thomas Street Project

Lindman stated this was related to temporary limited easements on the Thomas Street Project as well as the small strip takings. He explained sometimes the appraisals or values of these properties is pretty small, so there is not a lot of incentive for the homeowners to sign the paperwork to get that information back to us so we can legally acquire the property. This would set those property acquisitions at \$200, which the state sets as their minimum. We believe it provides a large enough incentive for those property owners to sign. He noted if they don't sign we have to go to the eminent domain process which is going to cost us more money.

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to approve setting a minimum amount for property acquisition related to the Thomas Street Project. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on request of the Fire Department to carryover funds from 2015 to 2016 to finance Succession Planning

Chief Kujawa explained she was requesting carryover funding from the 2015 operational budget to the 2016 operational budget in the amount of approximately \$5,000 plus travel costs to pursue the Succession Planning Program. She indicated they are looking at a contract with Business Alignment Strategies.

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to approve the carryover request of the Fire Department. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action to provide fire and EMS services to the Township of Stettin

Kujawa indicated his past fall the Mayor and the City of Wausau was approached to provide both fire and EMS services to the Town of Stettin. She stated we really can't provide that service alone with the call volume in the city; the territory we cover is much too high to be able dedicate people and vehicles. She stated we would partner with the SAFER District and Maine Fire Department to provide the fire service and partner with SAFER District to provide the EMS service. The revenue back to the city would be approximately \$31,000 and additional monies through billing. Mayor Tipple commented this may open some doors for consolidation down the road.

Oberbeck commented he had a hard time with providing the same level of service the city of Wausau residents are paying for \$30,000. He did not see it as an advantage unless they were willing to come to the table at the same per capita rate that we are paying. Kujawa stated this is a way that we can increase revenue to the Fire Department and city as a whole. She did not feel that Stettin with their call volume could justify that cost to their residents. She noted with billing, the revenue could be more like \$40,000 - \$50,000. Discussion took place regarding charges and costs and possible renegotiation with Stettin. Oberbeck stated services to our residents could also be affected by this and he couldn't support it.

Motion by Nagle, second by Mielke to approve fire and EMS services to the Town of Stettin. Motion failed 2-3.

Discussion and possible action approving Assistance to Firefighters Grant application for the installation of mobile data terminals (MDTs) and first-in software

Kujawa stated she would like to apply of additional AFG grant money for mobile data terminals (MDTs) and software to put in fire trucks, similar to what the Police Department has had for many years. They would supply information at our fingertips, such as hydrant information, sewer lines, hazardous materials, site plans, floor plans weather, etc. She stated currently we have it only in written format which we can only access prior to leaving; there is nothing in the trucks. The software cost estimate is \$32,000 and we will need 10 MDTs and 8 computers at about \$35,000, so the total cost is right around \$67,000, thought the city's cost would be approximately \$6,000 if we receive the grant.

Motion by Nutting, second by Kellbach to approve the AFG grant application for the installation of MDTs and software. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding Sole Source Request for the Wausau Water Utility - Chemicals

Eric Lindman explained part of the treatment at the water plant for the drinking water in the city is the use of Allum to remove manganese and iron from the raw water. He indicated in the past they went from straight Allum to using a Polymer product; we use a lot less product and it is a lot more efficient.

Motion by Nutting, second by Mielke to approve the sole source request from the Water Utility for chemicals. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding a lease agreement with Evolution in Designs for parking on city-owned property bounded by McClellan Street and N. 1st Street.

Jacobson stated this is in regard to the lot bounded N 1st Street and McClellan Street and who is responsible for the sidewalk and parking lot maintenance. The west side of the block described as Lot #1, which we now own, and the east side of the block described as Lot #2, we lease from the parish. Evolutions in Design had an arrangement with the parish to allow his employees to park somewhere on that lot, which may be on city property. We need to enter into some type of lease arrangement to allow them to continue to park.

Werth explained Evolutions had a bartering arrangement with the church where they would supply flowers to the church every month and in return they would park 12 vehicles there. Right now somewhat difficult construction is going on there and we are proposing to let them continue to park there for the months of February, March and April at no cost. In the spring they would move to one of the ramps. Jacobson noted the city is responsible for clearing the sidewalks and the parish is responsible for plowing the lot.

Motion by Nagle, second by Mielke to approve the agreement for parking with Evolutions in Design. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

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