

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson, Michael Martens, Deb Ryan, and Dawn Herbst

Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Toni Vanderboom, Bob Barteck, Ben Bliven, Liz Brodek, Randy Fifrick, Anne Jacobson, Katie Rosenberg, Kraig Kruzan, Quinn Ambrosius, Rick Rubow, Scott Boers, Eric Lindman, Jamie Polley, Mary Goede, Kaitlyn Bernarde

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Rasmussen.

Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (2/08/22)

Dawn Herbst pointed out a typo in the minutes on the address for Divepoint to be corrected.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve all the minutes of the previous meeting on 2/08/22. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a used Hazardous Materials Team response tractor-trailer

Chief Bob Barteck introduced his HazMat leaders, Battalion Chief Kraig Kruzan and Lt. Quinn Ambrosius, who have inspected the vehicle along with the Fleet Supervisor and one of his mechanics. Barteck indicated he supported this purchase because the current HazMat trailer's axels are going bad, and the brakes are bad. He stated the cost to replace this unit with a new vehicle was very high in the range of \$500,000 - \$600,000.

Barteck explained through our contract with the State of Wisconsin to provide Regional Type 2 Hazardous Materials Response we collect \$81,000 per year, and with the new County contract there is another \$20,000 for a total of \$101,000 in revenue for the HazMat Response Team. All those funds go into a separate pot and are used any time we are deployed, for overtime, and backfill as well as for new meters. Anything not used is carried over and he indicated they have been able to save approximately \$253,000, which would be used for the purchase. He stated Quinn Ambrosius discovered this used rig for sale on the open market for \$125,000.

Kraig Kruzan stated the current trailer is a 1991 vehicle at the end of its lifespan and breaks down almost every time they have to travel on a call. He commented the state and the county expect us to be able to travel on calls because they are paying us, but we can't trust that vehicle anymore. Quinn Ambrosius indicated the trailer is in Madison which they bought brand new in 2010. The inspection by our DPW fleet mechanic found that the vehicle has been immaculately kept with immaculate maintenance records.

Motion by Ryan, second by Herbst to approve the purchase of a used HazMat tractor-trailer. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on rescinding prior resolution #12-0705, Joint Resolution of the Economic Development and Finance Committees approving the sale of to be surveyed Wausau Business Campus Expansion Area land at 9500-9600 Innovation Way to Composite Envisions (or their assignee) and reverse Tax Increment Financing (TIF) payments for 2 years not to exceed a total of \$49,000, adopted September 24, 2019

Randy Fifrick, Economic Development, explained the Attorney's Office has been trying to get in contact with Mr. Thorson for some time to determine his intent. A certified letter was sent to him and responded back that due to circumstances of what has been happening over the last couple years and building costs increasing tremendously, business expansion is questioned.

Rasmussen questioned if they were to rescind the agreement and the land reverts to the city, would it be made available for development for anyone that wants it. Fifrick confirmed as soon as the agreement is rescinded the land will be made available for development.

Motion by Ryan, second by Herbst to rescind prior resolution #12-0705. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on ARPA rating matrix

Maryanne Groat stated she made the changes to the criteria per the discussion at the last meeting. There was some duplications in the criteria and there was also discussion regarding the dollar amount thresholds in the cost and the

fact that there doesn't need to be a dollar amount, it is mainly to recognize whether someone is using all of the funds or if the funds are reasonable compared to the total amount of allocations.

Deb Ryan felt it should be used primarily for lead laterals, affordable housing, or help with infrastructure as the Biden administration intended. She was hoping the city's videographer would be doing a lot more education, especially water & sewer. She was concerned if they only used online as the way to market it would not be successful or help the most in need or elderly who don't use computers. She suggested using neighborhood groups, public access, and YouTube because it is important for the city to engage and start the conversation.

Rasmussen stated these are for the internal applications that are coming in from the departments. Groat stated we have census tract eligibility and those disproportionately negatively impacted by Covid 19 as one of the rating matrixes so they would score higher, as well as environmental concerns. Lead service and affordable housing would garner more points and the last item is for the rankers to have some latitude in giving points to something they think is important and very transformational for the city.

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to approve the ARPA rating matrix. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing the employment Flash Vote for Community ARPA surveys

Groat stated a couple public hearings were held on the ARPA funds, but turnout was very low. She indicated she looked at what other communities were doing with ARPA surveys and what type of response they were getting. She stated she happened upon a company called Flash Vote. She explained what sets Flash Vote apart from a passive survey posted on the website is something where you are engaging residents to be on a panel. The company would help us through a process reaching out to the neighborhood groups and other various means to find citizens who are interested in providing feedback on policy decisions throughout the year. Those individuals become a permanent anonymous panel member. When we have issues come up, we can reach out to the panel on how they feel about them. It is not a closed panel; people are allowed to sign up or terminate their participation at any time. We can be in a continual process of trying to recruit new residents. It assures you that you've got a group of people who will tell you how they feel about a subject and that they haven't signed up because of strong feelings on just one subject. She noted if people don't have computers, they can take this survey over the phone as well, including land lines.

Groat stated the price is \$6,900 annually for six surveys. Once the survey panel is set up it would be an additional \$1500 to accomplish that. She indicated she is suggesting the idea because it would be quickly available if we have emerging issues and if we are interested in taking the temperature of the community. They help with the questions in that there are professionals helping ensure the questions are concise and easy to respond to.

Michael Martens indicated he reviewed the information and checked out the website and liked that it states their surveys are statistically relevant, which he felt was a very important thing to consider when taking surveys.

Sarah Watson questioned how they establish a survey panel. Groat explained they send out a mailing to all residents asking them to sign up and would use our social media platforms. They are able to verify addresses so that it is City of Wausau residents. The anonymity component of it is that we will not know how someone on the panel has voted.

Groat indicated she would bring this item back to the next meeting after gathering more information on the sign up and how they attract members. Martens also wanted to know how they assure us that their surveys are significant. Deb Ryan suggested using ADRC to reach seniors and other agencies working with that population and with the disabled.

Discussion and possible action Amending Employee Handbook 4.07 – Protected Service Employees

Rasmussen stated this was approved and forwarded by the Human Resources Committee regarding reimbursement for training when an employee leaves.

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the amendment to the Handbook. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and Possible Action Creating a Temporary Part-Time Deputy Assessor Position

Rick Rubow, City Assessor, explained the department has an opportunity to keep the current Deputy Assessor, who wants to retire, on board until June 1st. The individual indicated he would be willing to stay on part-time due to it being a busy time of year, as well as to be able to help train the new person.

Motion by Watson, second by Herbst to approve creating the position. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the application for ARPA American Recovery Funds for the Water PFAS Treatment Investigation and Pilot Bench Testing and related budget amendment

Rasmussen indicated the Water Commission is recommending they commence a pilot study to determine in connection with adjustments to the new plant, what the appropriate mix of filtration media and resins to get the right treatment for PFAS for a long-term solution.

Eric Lindman, DPW and Water Utility Director, confirmed they'd like to pursue a pilot testing program to determine what the best options are for PFAS removal. He stated the proven technologies at this point would be resin granular activated carbon in a few different scenarios, along with the media we are also putting in the new facility. The scope of services is evolving and will go to the Wausau Water Works Commission on March 1st for discussion and finalization, which is the first step. He commented the sooner we can get started with this data the better, so we can present it to the DNR and get approval.

Deb Ryan felt the Water Commission and the Council needs to know where we are with the underground infrastructure in our streets regarding what has been upgraded and what still needs to be upgraded. She commented she understood the concerns about PFAS, but we also still have a lot of older homes with lead laterals. There is a need for filtering systems in people's kitchens now to be safe, as well determine how long it will take for upgrading the laterals.

Lindman stated they are currently working through a lead service line replacement plan, which is part of what is going to be required through the revisions of the EPA. Rasmussen clarified the pilot study proposed today is specifically for a long-term PFAS solution.

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the application for ARPA American Recovery Funds for the Water PFAS Treatment Investigation and Pilot Bench Testing and related budget amendment. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 6:03 pm.