

City of Norwich
Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting
August 4, 2009

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn presided at the meeting of the Finance/Personnel Committee held at 6:00 PM on August 4, 2009, in the Council Chambers.

Present:

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Robert Jeffrey

Also:

Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Community Planning Specialist Todd Dreyer
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Ald. Robert Carey
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Terry Bresina

Absent

None

Call to Order

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at One Court Plaza and called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Ald. Schermerhorn.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 7, 2009. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Public Safety

Fire

Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo informed the Committee that the new fire pumper truck is due to be delivered on or about August 23. A DEC grant for equipment and materials for brush-fire control has been approved in the maximum amount of \$1,000. It is a matching grant, wherein the City provides \$2,000 and DEC provides \$1,000. Chief Chawgo reminded the Committee that the Firemen's Parade will take place August 11 and the Gold Wing Motorcycle Rally will take place August 6-8. Ald. Jeffrey asked whether equipment for the new fire truck will be transferred from one of the older trucks. Chief Chawgo explained that personnel will be trained in the use of the new truck, then appropriate equipment will be moved from Engine 4 to the new first-responder truck. The Committee discussed the rolling inventory, and keeping the old Hahn truck as a back-up for as long as it did not incur any significant maintenance or represent any meaningful resale value.

Police

Equipment Replacement/Upgrade Police Chief Joseph Angelino reported that over his tenure the Police Equipment reserves have been built up to over \$70,000 in order to replace necessary equipment when it is outdated. The current portable radios are over 12 years old and will not work with the new digital radio system installed in police vehicles. The County purchased four radios and a base station for the Department in 2008, which covers one shift. Department handguns are also over 12 years old. The handguns are Glocks, and Glock, Inc. has suggested they may offer new weapons in trade at a 50% discount. Chief Angelino will investigate pricing and report to the Committee.

Chief Angelino further reported that the unfunded State mandate to move to digital fingerprinting has two options, LiveScan or Cardscan. LiveScan takes the fingerprint directly, Cardscan scans a standard ink

fingerprint. Price of the LiveScan system is approximately \$38,000-\$40,000, of the Cardscan system \$20,000-\$22,000. Chief Angelino discussed means of funding the required expenditure.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the condition of the Department's fleet of vehicles. Chief Angelino responded that two vehicles are in excellent condition, two in good condition, and two other older vehicles, the oldest of which is being adapted for the K9 unit. When the oldest vehicle is retired, the next oldest vehicle will be converted to K9 use.

Update & Planning in Event of Receiving Federal Grant Chief Angelino reminded the Committee that he applied for several grants under the stimulus program. The first one was under the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA - Federal Stimulus Program) to cover salary costs. The second grant involved the fingerprinting technology, discussed above. The third grant was submitted under the Rural Drug Enforcement Initiatives program, which would be a substantial amount of funding over two years for appointing a current police officer to the position of full-time detective, fully funded by the Federal grant. This would create a new hire backfill that would be partially funded under the two years. Additionally, the grant would include several thousand dollars of equipment and operational expenses. He further noted that after purchasing new radio equipment the Department can sell the outdated radios to the Water Department.

Public Works & Engineering

Clarifier Troughs Bid

DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson presented the results of bids to replace the second primary clarifier troughs. He noted that the submitted bid came in at \$10,000 less than the pre-bid estimates. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council award the bid to the qualified bidder, MFG Water Treatment of Union City, PA, in the amount of \$55,000.00. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

RBCs Update

C. Ivarson has reviewed the current list of those requesting specifications for the RBCs project. He expects three to five bids for the bid opening on August 18. He may request a special meeting of the Common Council to award the bid in order to expedite the project. He is dealing with three agencies regarding funding: the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, USDA-Rural Development, and the State Revolving Fund (Environmental Facilities Corp.). Director of Finance William Roberts stated the City is applying for a financial hardship determination, which may be announced soon. Ald. Jeffrey asked about stimulus funding for the project. W. Roberts explained that because the project was started two years prior to the stimulus program and was already listed under the above organizations, stimulus funding is not available. There is a good chance that the City may receive a 0%-interest loan for a portion of the funding, which could save the City \$2.5 million over the life of the project.

Creek Work

C. Ivarson reported that determinations from the NYS DEC and the Corps of Engineers regarding cleaning of three creeks have resulted in their decision that two of the creeks cannot be cleaned. Some work may be required at Black Bridge. He must respond to the Corps of Engineers by August 18, and is waiting to hear from the DEC regarding reconsideration for their issuance of a permit.

Executive Session

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to enter executive session at 6:38 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and the employment history of a particular corporation, the employment history of particular individuals, and matters impacting public safety. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 7:10 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Motion

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend the Council authorize additional funds not to exceed \$15,000 to cover Chenango Lake legal costs. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.