

Board of Aldermen Committee Minutes

Date: 1/25/16

Chair: Siliski

Convened: 5:30

Adjourned: 6:35

Committee	☐ Charter & Ordinance ☐ Community & Economic Development ☒ Finance ☐ General ☐ Human Resources	☐ Inter-municipal ☐ Public Safety ☐ Public Works ☐ Recreation ☐ Special Liquor
------------------	--	---

Committee	☒ Dave Allaire ☐ Matt Bloomer	☐ Ed Larson ☐ William Notte
Members	☒ Sharon Davis ☐ Tom DePoy ☐ Gary Donahue ☐ Christopher Etori	☒ Melinda Humphrey ☒ Christopher Siliski ☐ Jon Skates
Present		

Others	☐ Dave Allaire ☒ Matt Bloomer ☐ Sharon Davis ☐ Tom DePoy ☒ Gary Donahue ☒ Christopher Etori	☐ Ed Larson ☒ William Notte ☐ Melinda Humphrey ☐ Christopher Siliski ☐ Jon Skates ☒ Mayor Louras	☒ Treasurer Wilton ☐ Assessor Keefe ☐ City Attorney Romeo ☒ Rutland Herald ☐ Other Mike Coppinger ☒ Other Ray LaMoria (LAZ PARK)
Present			

Motions/Discussion:

Parking Garage Accounting and Garage Door Payment

GENERAL ACCOUNTING, CURRENT STATUS

The Treasurer reviewed a thorough summary of all accounting regarding the operation of the Transit Center (parking deck) from its inception until the end of FY '15.

1. The most important number relates to the balance sheet and the fact that, as of June 30, 2015, the Transit Center fund owes the General Fund \$182,809.

2. Currently, if one includes FY '16 A/R's from the State and A/P's to LAZ, GMP, etc., then it is estimated that the balance due to the General Fund is approximately \$93,000, a decrease of about \$90,000.

3. The Treasurer provided summaries of: 1. All receipts and disbursements through the end of FY 15' which constitute the \$182k due to GF; 2. Transit Center performance via agreement with the State of Vermont for FY 14' and 15'; and 3. FY 14' and 15' revenue and expenses related to LAZ's operations.

COST of ELECTRICITY CONCERN

For the third Finance Committee meeting on the Transit Center in a row, the Treasurer and Aldermen brought up their concerns with the cost of electricity, which is A or THE

major factor keeping the City from breaking even or better. Two specific concerns were raised/discussed:

1. Alderman Donahue again raised the concern that, given the extraordinarily high costs involved, other entities may be hooked into the Center's system and siphoning off electricity. He called for the City to hire a contractor to analyze if this might be true, i.e. look at the estimated KW draw of the facility vs. the total charged to the City. If a discrepancy exists, then the City should further its "investigation".

In a 1/26 follow-up e-mail by Ray LaMoria, LAZ's Operations Manager for the Center, he stated: "FYI, I did some follow up on the energy audit that I spoke about last night that was done at the request of LAZ Parking at the Parking Garage. Efficiency Vermont did in fact do an energy audit on the garage and found that no one is 'siphoning' energy and the costs are directly associated with the lighting."

2. The second concern focused on the status of transitioning from more expensive, traditional lighting to LED lights. The Mayor stated his skepticism of making a major City investment in lighting until a new and "final" agreement is reached with the State. He, as well as others in the room, is tentative about investing heavily in LED lights only for the State to take the facility back over. The Committee briefly talked about replacing only those lights that burn out with LED.

GARAGE DOOR PAYMENT

Finally, the Committee discussed various options to pay for the proposed garage doors, which are expected to help the City break-even on its investment or even get into the black.

1. All were in agreement that purchasing the doors will be of significant economic benefit to the City.

2. Specifically, two options were discussed: 1. Paying for the doors using Zamias outright as a "grant"; or 2. "Paying for the doors using Zamias as a loan. Many of the reasons recently discussed in the General Committee and on the floor of the full BoA were quickly rehashed.

- Those in favor of Zamias loaning the General Fund money focused on the expectation of the Transit Fund making a "profit" and being able to repay Zamias. This would allow for future, positive economic investments.
- Those arguing for a direct grant, including the Treasurer, referenced: 1. the already excessive amount of money the Transit fund owes the General Fund; 2. the Treasurer's concern that, even if the Transit Fund starts to make a net gain, it will not be able to pay back what it currently owes for years to come; and 3. future boards can vote to replenish the Zamias fund using net Transit income if and when that point is reached.

The committee voted 3:1 in favor of the following motion:

- Approve the purchase of the Transit Center overhead doors with an amount not to exceed \$47,000 to be taken as a grant from "Zamias".