

Finance Committee

Date: 6/10/2025

Agenda: 1) Fundraising and donation policy

2) Responses to legal services RFP

Committee Members: Alderman Whitcomb (chair) Alderwoman Davis, Alderman Cupoli, Alderwoman Savage, Alderwoman McClure.

Other's Present: Alderman Clifford, Alderman Gilliam, Alderwoman Tadio, Treasurer Markowski, Attorney LaChance, Interim recreation director Choiffi, Shelley Lutz, Gordon Dritchilo.

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM. The committee's initial agenda item was the fundraising and donation policy. Treasurer Markowski initiated the discussion by providing a comprehensive background on the necessity of this policy. She specifically highlighted that accepting donations of sculptures or other significant art pieces, for example, could lead to requirements for insurance coverage. Treasurer Markowski further explained that she developed the proposed policy based on models from existing policies used by other municipalities. Attorney LeChance offered clarification, stating that fundraising conducted by departments through unions would fall outside the scope of this proposed policy.

Alderwoman Davis made a motion to accept the City of Rutland Fundraising and Donation Policy as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

The committee then discussed responses to the legal services RFP. Attorney LaChance reported that the only response was from Paul Frank & Collins and provided their submitted materials (see attachment in packet). Attorney LaChance also presented a table comparing the city's current legal expenses with Paul Frank & Collins' proposed costs.

Alderwoman McClure asked if there would be a cost for board members to seek clarification on any item. Attorney LaChance confirmed that any contact for legal services would incur a cost.

Alderwoman Tadio inquired about a plan to replace the current City Attorney, who recently resigned. Attorney LaChance stated she was unaware of any expected replacement. Board members then discussed the challenges of finding a qualified City Attorney well-versed in municipal matters, noting potential difficulties with the position's current salary and the two-year appointment term.

The committee discussed the immediate gaps that might arise from not having a city attorney. Attorney LaChance emphasized that the city attorney acts as the traffic judge for the city and that outsourcing this role would likely not be fiscally prudent due to the cost of legal services.

The committee then considered issuing another RFP or having Paul Frank & Collins meet with the board to discuss their proposal. Additionally, the board stressed the importance of hearing from the Mayor regarding his thoughts on direction, given the current city attorney's departure.

The committee then made a Motion to instruct the city purchasing agent to put for an additional RFP for city legal services. The motion passed 5-0.

At this time there was no formal action taken by the committee related to the presented RFP and this item will remain open in the finance committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.