

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 5:30 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Michael Martens, Doug Diny, Carol Lukens, Sarah Watson

Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Anne Jacobson, Eric Lindman, Dustin Kraege, Solomon King, Jeremy Kopp, Jared Thompson, Ben Bliven, and Kaitlyn Bernarde

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

Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (1/10/23)

Motion by Lukens, second by Martens to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funding requests and related budget modification

Lisa Rasmussen stated there were not any new requests to consider tonight, but the electronic ranking sheet for the Council Chamber equipment presented by the IT Director at the last meeting will be going out this week and will be brought back to the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding cooperative purchasing of two replacement ambulances

Rasmussen explained the purchase of two of these fully outfitted ambulances would create a funding issue in the Motor Pool to the extent that we would have to do a budget modification for approximately \$200,000 that the fund does not have currently. She stated the Fire Department is working with a \$130,000 grant that needs to be expended this year. She referred to Deputy Chief Kopp's memo that provides other options, such as adjusting the equipment on the ambulances; or purchase one fully outfitted ambulance using the grant funds, not requiring a budget modification. The concern is that it is a substantial budget modification in week three of our budget year. She noted there is also the possibility that the cost may increase if they purchase the second ambulance later in the year.

Jeremy Kopp, Deputy Chief, stated ambulances Med 4 and Med 5 are 10 years old and need replacement. The department wanted to put together something that would meet the needs of our community with comfortability, reliability, as well as enhance our standards for CAAS accreditation, which the current ambulances do not. An ambulance committee was put together between the Fire Department personnel and DPW personnel. The \$130,000 grant would be \$100,000 for an ambulance and \$30,000 for the lift equipment for the cots. He indicated they did a lot of research, talked to a lot of vendors, and the EMS Division Chief Thompson visited one in Florida and one in North Carolina. The biggest concern is availability of ambulances; a lot of these companies stated if ordered right now they would be a minimum of two years out. This particular company, AEV, out of North Carolina, has some demo units that if we move forward, we could have them by October 2023. He pointed out the prices have gone up multiple times in the last couple years, three different times in 2022. They will go up another 7% at the end of the month and another price hike some time this year.

Rasmussen commented she was impressed that this model allows the crew to be able to work on the patient while wearing a restraint. She pointed out the situation where an ambulance from another department was hit and rolled over on its way to the hospital. The potential for injury to the patient and the staff is critical. She also noted in the proposal there is a different level of air filtration and purification, which we have found to be very important since Covid. She did not want to nickel and dime the vehicle in terms of lights, signs, and bumpers, etc.; if we spend the money, it should be properly equipped. She suggested they purchase one fully equipped ambulance rather than two that are picked apart and consider an advance order on the second unit, knowing that there is a possible two-year delivery.

Kopp indicated there was a potential for AEV to get seven more demos later in 2023, which could be considered for the second unit to get it quicker than two years. Rasmussen thought we many want to wait until further into the 2023 budget year to see if it is going in a positive direction.

Doug Diny questioned what criteria is used to trigger the disposal of the ambulances, if they have any value to other departments, or are they being traded in. Kopp stated DPW tracks the use of the ambulances, mileage, wear and tear. He indicated both he and Solomon King felt the trade-in offer was rather low compared to selling it outright. He noted the ambulances are doing 90% of the call volume at Wausau Fire Department and are used to point there is not much left to them and they are costing more to maintain. Chief Bob Barteck talked about price increases for ambulances they have seen across the board and about the fleet budget.

Sarah Watson questioned when they would know what the 2022 surplus is, and Groat indicated she'd bring that information to the next meeting.

Kopp added they were also given a financing plan from AEV with a 4% rate and if they would like to review that information, he will provide it. He stated the fire safety house donation is coming up on this agenda and pointed out \$40,000 is in the 2024 budget for its' replacement, but they no longer need to replace it due to changes in the school programs. This is another potential area of funding from the Fire Department.

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens to approve the purchase of one fully equipped ambulance and hold on the second ambulance. Motion carried 5-0.

Presentation on Utility Pilot payments

Deferred to future meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding donation of fire safety trailer

Rasmussen stated the school's educational programs have changed so it is no longer needed, however, Ringle Fire is still doing those programs and could make use of it.

Motion by Lukens, second by Martens to approve the donation. Motion carried 5-0

Discussion and possible action on enforcement action on KOZ Holdings LLC d/b/a Pro Players Sports Bar and Grill (parking) Lease Agreement – 206 Grand Avenue, Schofield

Rasmussen explained the lease is for a strip of property that is part of the airport property. They have had the lease for several years, but the last four years have not been paid. A collection letter could be sent, or another option is to terminate the lease, but that may not prevent people from still parking there. She questioned if they had the option to pursue collection on three of the four years, but not 2020 due to the pandemic adversely affecting restaurants/bars. She noted the rate is just over \$1,100 per year. Maryanne Groat stated the owner has not reached out to us to say he wasn't going to pay or asking for a discount. Anne Jacobson stated he does not respond at all.

Sarah Watson was in agreement of not charging for the one year 2020, but also suggested they could remove the delinquency finance charges, so they would just pay the rate for three years and continue the lease. Rasmussen stated if he does not pay then they would have to consider stiffer measures. Groat questioned if he decides not to lease it, would we have to police it and issue tickets to people parking there. A fence was suggested to keep vehicle off the site. *Discussion continued.*

Doug Diny commented we are negotiating with ourselves and need to have some dialogue with the owner to find out where he stands first. Jacobson indicated they have had difficulties with him since they executed the lease in 2015; he doesn't return phone calls, emails, or letters. Watson stated then perhaps a collection letter needs to be sent to get a response.

Motion by Diny, second by Watson to direct the City Attorney to send a formal collection letter to KOZ Holdings LLC. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding authorizing the amendment of fees to the City of Wausau Fees and Licenses Schedule adopted pursuant to Wausau Municipal Code Sec. 3.40.010(a) relating to commercial kennel permit fees

Rasmussen stated the Public Health & Safety Committee has been working on offering a permit whereby people can operate either commercial kennels or doggy daycares. She indicated PH&S recommends \$100 fee which mirrors the fees in other municipalities that have these same permits, including Weston which our Humane Officer also serves. She noted the commercial kennel ordinance has a definition that excludes anything that would act like a puppy mill.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve adding the \$100 fee for the permit. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Lukens, second by Diny to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.