

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers

Members Present: Michael Martens, Carol Lukens, and Doug Diny

Members Excused/Absent: Sarah Watson, and Lisa Rasmussen

Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Ben Bliven, Matt Barnes, Melinda Pauls, Todd Baeten, Robert Barteck, Eric Lindman, Dustin Kraege, Liz Brodek, Randy Fifrick, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Kody Hart

In compliance with Wis. Stat. § 19.84, notice of this meeting was duly posted and sent to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Noting the presence of a quorum, at approximately 5:35 p.m., Vice Chairperson Martens called the meeting to order.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (7/11/2023)**

Motion by Diny, seconded by Lukens, to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Martens stated that this item was in regard to the 700 Grand Ave. storm sewer rerouting infrastructure project.

Diny expressed a concern about approving this infrastructure project regardless of if the redevelopment project on this site would move forward. Randy Fifrick, Economic Development Manager, stated that the infrastructure project should move forward in order for the redevelopment project to begin. It was stated that regardless of if this particular redevelopment project proceeds, any redevelopment of that site would require the storm sewer rerouting.

Lukens requested that action on this item be moved to the next meeting of the Finance Committee to allow for ARPA scoring to be completed by all committee members.

Motion by Diny, seconded by Lukens, to approve postpone this item to the next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Discussion and possible action approving a State Municipal Agreement (SMA) for funding from the DOT through the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)**

Eric Lindman, Director of Public Works & Utilities, explained the terms of the agreements in securing funding for LED lighting and remote controlling on city roads. ARPA funding was alrighly allocated for this LED lighting and remote controlling, this would reimburse that cost.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Diny, to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Discussion and possible action approving budget modification for the Street Seal Coat project**

Martens stated that this was a budget modification to move funds from the asphalt overlay budget to the seal coating budget to finish seal coating projects. Martens questioned the durability of the soy-based seal coating specifically on Townline Road. It was stated that the durability is good based on the usage of the product by other municipalities. Martens asked if there was a savings in using the soy-based product. It was stated that there was no cost savings but that the soy-based product was being utilized as an environmentally friendly seal coating.

Motion by Diny, seconded by Lukens to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed Axon contract for Public Safety Software Suite of Services including body worn and in-squad cameras, tasers, interview room recording and digital evidence management and storage and related budget impacts.**

Captain Baeten provided context and details on the proposed contract. The Police Department is already a customer of Axon for tasers and body cameras. This would update the contract once the current contract expires at the end of this year to also include in-squad cameras, interview room recording, and digital evidence management and storage. An RFP was put out for these services and upon review, Axon was the best choice. The new contract would be on a ten-year term at a rate of approximately \$275,000 a year.

Diny questioned if more training would need to be conducted to take on this new equipment and evidence management and storage. It was stated that the time savings the management system would provide would offset the training time costs and provide opportunities for more efficiencies. Diny questioned how this was funded in the past.

It was stated that the current and expiring contract was approximately \$120,000 a year. The ten-year contract should realize significant savings and agreeing to a long-term contract can ensure a year-by-year rate does not increase.

Martens questioned if these are separate agreements for each item or a bundled agreement for all the outlined services. It was stated that tasers were separated out in the outlined agreement to carry out the RFP process.

Diny questioned if the Finance Director agreed the terms of the contract. Director Groat concurred agreement with the terms of the contract.

Motion by Diny, second by Lukens to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed early hire of police officers due to retirements in the next 6 months and related budget modifications and implications.**

Chief Bliven explained the request to allow the Police Department to hire three applicants in mid-August of this year to prepare for retirements in January of next year. It was stated the specific costs of the early hiring and the particulars of on-boarding new hires.

Groat outlined the funding mechanism for the early hiring. It was stated that funding would be generated by vacancies in positions that were budgeted. It is likely that even with the early hires, there will be a surplus in the budget due to vacancies.

Diny stated support for this item if the hiring market can be anticipated but expressed an interest in setting a standard for a timeline.

Motion by Diny, second by Lukens. Motion carried 3-0.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Lukens, second by Diny to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

*For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ7Jje6OS8c>*