

FINANCE

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – 7:15 p.m.

via Zoom

Present: Members: Chairman Witte, Vice Chairman Crawford, Alderman Panus, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Tim Richardson, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Witte called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, February 2, 2021)

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 Finance Committee meeting was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Monthly Finance & Bills Review

There were no questions or comments regarding the February Finance and Bills.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Bonding for Fleet Management equipment

Alderman Witte explained that Fleet Management has been talking about this, and it was mentioned during a previous meeting. She explained that the committee members received the minutes from the last Fleet meeting. She explained that the total amount to bond for a pumper for the Fire Department, as well as a sweeper, vac truck, and wheel loader for DPW, is \$1,373,900.

Chief Richardson explained that the base price for a new pumper through Sorcewell is \$557,000 and the cost for equipment such as hoses, ladders and portables is \$48,000. He explained that purchasing the equipment with the truck and using funds from bonding takes some of the strain off of line items in the budget to purchase the items separately. He explained that the

ladder truck purchased in 2015 was built by Rosenbauer, who would build the new pumper on a similar chassis. He explained that it will aid with the City Garage as the truck will use the same or similar equipment for repairs and maintenance as the current truck. He explained that the pumper would replace a 1996 model that can only currently be put into service during emergency situations. He explained that the newest pumper in the department is a 2011 model. If we follow NFPA recommendations, they recommend ten years as a front line truck and then ten years reserve being put out into the boneyard. He explained that we stretch that as far as possible with preventative maintenance.

Mayor Aiello explained that the sweeper is on its last legs and he does not know if it will hold up much longer. The cost for this is \$218,600. The vac truck is the big vehicle for sewers, and it also helps dig areas for new catch basins. The cost for this is \$390,000. The wheel loader is also known as a “hi lift” and has a cost of \$140,300. It can be used for various things done around the City.

Mayor Aiello explained that these four pieces of equipment have been talked about for quite some time and it was suggested by the Council a year ago or so to see what it would take, rather than purchasing on an individual basis, to bond for them all. He explained that we can talk about this further as we get into the budget process, but he wanted the Council to be aware of what the needs are.

Mayor Aiello noted that if you look at the Fleet minutes, you will see that Onondoga County has a contract where they purchased a vac truck for \$390,000 on State bid. He explained that they have to sell the vehicle to us under that price as well, under the contract. Alderman Witte added that most of these the City would try to get at State bid. She explained that at any time the committee members can talk to Chief Richardson or Mr. Ring regarding these needs. She explained that rather than discussing these in the budget they are recommending bonding.

b. Discussion – Replacement of Parks Department Tractor

Alderman Witte explained that there are issues with the Parks tractor with carbon monoxide building up in the cab. She explained that we sent the tractor to John Deere and they couldn't find anything wrong, but employees have been getting sick riding in it. It has been taken out of service for this safety reason. She explained that they would like to purchase a new tractor using \$17,900 from the Fleet account. She explained that the total cost would be \$33,975 and that the City would also receive a trade in value on the old tractor of about \$8,000.

Mayor Aiello added that there are actually two items that would be traded in, which are the tractor and a wing mower that is at the airport sitting in the garage unusable for \$7,800. He explained that the net price for the new tractor would be \$17,900. He explained that John Deere will allow us to lease a new tractor at a rate of 3.75% for two or three years. He

explained that the two year payment amount would be \$9,140 per year and the three year amount would be \$6,113 per year. He explained that if we go with a three year lease, the payment could very possibly be built into the budget. He noted that the Council could also opt to pay the entire \$17,900 up front. He explained that the attachments for the current mower will all work with this mower.

Alderman Crawford asked if this is a lease to own, and Mayor Aiello responded that it is. He explained that they call it a lease but we would actually pay for the item over two or three installments. Alderman Witte explained that we have done this with other pieces of equipment and it has worked well.

Alderman Robinson explained that they couldn't fix the old tractor and wondered how close in similarity the new one would be to the old one. He expressed concern that it could have the same issue. Mayor Aiello explained that the cab has been restructured in the new tractor and the exhaust has been moved away from the cab. He explained that he will also let the committee members know about the warranty that is provided with the new tractor.

Alderman Robinson explained that it would cost \$300 extra to finance over three years rather than two. He explained that he feels that the City should consider doing one payment and possibly cutting elsewhere, or doing two as a last resort. He does not feel that there is a need to spread this over three years.

Alderman Anastasia asked if there is money in the budget for one payment, and Alderman Witte responded that there is the Fleet account. Mr. Saradin explained that he believes that there is \$52,000 in Fleet Maintenance, and he would say that this is a good use for the funds but that another meeting is needed to ensure that the entire committee agrees with him.

Alderman Witte explained that there is a meeting on March 12, 2021, and she will take this back to Fleet to talk about funding and will follow up with the Council.

6. Committee Reports

None

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Robinson. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.