

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – October 26, 2015

Members Present: Phil Wedekind, Tom Kolb, and Mike Plautz. **Others Present:** Tom Pinion, Wade Peterson, Mark Schauf, Kevin Stieve, Ben Bromley, Bernadette Greenwood, Melissa McDonald, and Kris Jackson.

Call to Order - Committee Chairman Phil Wedekind called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. at the City Service Building, 450 Roundhouse Court, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the agenda as posted and by voice vote, the motion carried. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 meeting. By voice vote the motion carried.

New Business

- a. Discuss opportunities to help finance annual street improvements using a vehicle registration fee – Pinion said that this was discussed last month and he doesn't have a lot of new information. He said the League of Municipalities has a link on their site with some information. He said that there are seven municipalities within the State, and three Counties that have imposed Wheel Taxes. Wedekind asked how many vehicles are registered in the City and Pinion said, according to the DOT's official records there are 16,583, of that the City would maintain 99%, which would mean \$164,000 in annual revenue is the potential for the City. He said this fee would be collected as part of the vehicle registration. It was the consensus of the Committee to open this up to the public for more discussion. Kolb thought something could be placed in the Newscape. Plautz suggested a Referendum. Pinion said that he would solicit some community feedback, using Facebook, and meeting with Ben Bromley to see if local discussion can be generated and include an article in Newscape.
- b. Review Request from Jack Young Middle School's Science Club to promote a "clean watershed program" – Bernadette Greenwood said that a lot a Watershed Quality at the 6th grade level at the Middle School and also through Science Club they try to do Community Service Projects She said the idea of putting markers on the storm sewers has come up and a lot of people have the perception that the storm sewers go through a treatment center; however, it is know that they don't, it goes straight to the river. She went on to say that this is seen in Madison the markers are bright colored. She said that these would be bright colored and are glued to the storm sewers and are permanent. She said that they are hoping to make this a yearly project with the kids. She went on to say that they are approximately \$3-\$4 a piece, so raising the money, depending on how many storm sewers there are, the project could be done over a five to ten year period. Melissa McDonald said that they could help raise the money obviously to support them through the kids. McDonald said that the Middle School has approximately 700 students and 120 are in Science Club, and they usually have about 50 or 60 involved in service projects when they leave from the school. She said that they use to do their spring service trip to Badger, where they did prairie maintenance; but because of the changes at Badger that has been difficult, so they are looking for something new. Pinion said that the longevity of these stickers is very good and increasing the awareness is good. It was the consensus of the Committee to allow the Science Club to move forward with this project. McDonald then said that they are introducing a project for the 6th graders that has to do with filtration rates and they are working with an Engineer at MSA and something with Wastewater Treatment. It was moved by Kolb, seconded to Plautz to approve the request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Review and recommendation on continuing use of Air Curtain Destructor to burn brush – Pinion said that a few months ago when the neighborhood meeting was held regarding the fire prop there were no reservations about that; however, when brush is burned and when the City composts it stinks and creates ash. He said that Bob Koss assumed that this created a moratorium on continued use of the burner; therefore, as a trial he put together an arrangement with a local contractor to come in and actually grind the brush, which turns it into mulch and then eventually the contractor takes the mulch. He said that this would be approximately \$16,000/year out of the pocket, and he is not sure whether the City wants to discontinue the use of the brush burner. Wedekind asked if there was a contract for this. Pinion said that a purchase order has been done with him and there are a host of other communities that have the same arrangement with him, so it is a legitimate contractor that will be in it for the long haul with good equipment; however, the City does have a tremendous investment in the burner and feels that it could still be used. Wedekind feels that the City should keep it. Pinion said that it is one or the other, if the City keeps it, it should be used and not spend the extra money to grind. Wedekind thought the brush burner was \$100,000, and Pinion said if that was the case it would be about a six year payback. Pinion said that it isn't used a lot, we try and restrict burning to the wintertime when it's the most convenient; however, there are times when it is a low fire danger and the summertime when it is low windows, we can still burn brush. Kolb said that we still have complaints and he asked the possibility of the City purchasing their own grinder and sell the brush burner and perhaps sell the mulch in a marketplace. Pinion said that we give the mulch away and can't, so he doesn't know if it is reasonable to consider that a potential revenue stream to off-set the cost. Pinion said that he thinks that the contractor's end of it is more for agriculture; the mulch is being used for bedding. Kolb feels that, if that is the case, there may be a market for it. Kolb would like to see more information on it. Pinion said that if Committee would like this to be pursued further and Pinion said that he could put together more information. He said that he felt Koss's opinion was that there was an indirect directive to say no more burning. Pinion didn't feel that this is the case, and when burning is done under the right conditions it doesn't seem to create any problems. Kolb feels if the City did its own grinding, it could be done on a more regular basis. Plautz asked the value of the burner. Pinion said that he doesn't know, it is ten years old and doesn't feel that there would be a big demand; however, it works well. It was consensus of the Committee to get more information of doing grinding in-house.
- d. Review and recommendation on Snow and Ice Removal Proposal – Chief Schauf when property owners do not shovel within 24 hours notice is given that they need to do so and if another 24 hours pass a contractor is hired to remove the snow. He said that the City has used Sunrise Property Care to remove snow and ice from sidewalks for the past 8 to ten years. He said that this is a two-year contract and he sent out Request for Proposals to known contractors in the area, as well as posting it on Facebook and receive one response back from Sunrise Property Care. He said that they have provided good service and their proposal appears to be consistent with good practice and would recommend awarding them the contract. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to award the Snow and Ice Removal contract to Sunrise Property Care. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- a. Utility Superintendent's Report – Peterson said that there is a new hire starting in the Wastewater Treatment Plant on November 2 and a water position that is being filled on November 9. Kolb asked if he received any feedback on the Water Tower. Peterson said that the City was in a national competition for tower of the year, but it is no longer in the running.
- b. Street Superintendent's Report – Pinion said that both leaves vacs are out picking up leaves, along with street sweepers. He said alley projects and top soiling are done. He said that the street project has been closed out. He said he is waiting for some feedback on the budget. He said that things are pretty

well set up for snow and ice operations. Kolb asked Schauf if his department would be as diligent this year as last year regarding citizens blowing leaves into the street, Peterson answered in the affirmative.

- c. Police Chief's Report – Chief Schauf said that the department has had a busy October. He said that there was a gentleman that lives in the upper south side that over the weekend was using some illegal drugs, pulled out a gun and shot a hole in a wall turned into, what almost should have been a tactical situation when he went down to Bluffview, he actually pulled out a gun at a deputy and pulled the trigger several times. He said that it was poor firearm maintenance is the only reason the gun didn't go off. He pointed out how the staff members are working to keep this community safe, it can't be overstated how much appreciate he has for Chief Stieve, Engineer Pinion, Street Superintendent Koss, and their guys. He said that his department can't make these things happen without out help, starting with the homicide and going to the tactical situation last week. He said just utilizing the homicide as an example, it was a highly complex scene initially, and it only got worse because two different search warrants had to be served and tactical situations. Complex, tense dynamic, rapidly evolving, was all handled by local resources. He said that the only external resource that was utilized, except for in-county type was the crime lab, which consisted of one supervisor and one photographer, everything else done was done by the people that serve under him as officers. Kolb asked why the parameter was so big for the suicide situation. Schauf said it was big partially because of where it started. He said that there is an exterior and inner parameter, the exterior parameter is basically designed to keep everyone out, and the inner parameter is to keep the subject in. He said that it ended up so big because of how far everything was away, plus we knew he had a loaded gun and bullets can travel over a mile very easily. Wedekind asked about the drug problem. Schauf said that it is about the same. He said that the County is working on a drug court, which could be beneficial. He said a program called CARE Wisconsin is a program out of St. Vincent's down in Sauk. They have a drug called Vivatrol, which is literally the magic bullet when it comes to heroin. Wedekind asked if the department has it. Schauf said that they don't have it yet; however, it sounds like it is coming to the community, because the State Department of Human Services has a multi-million dollar grant that they are giving to the County to run that program. Wedekind has if the ambulance crews have it. Schauf stated that they don't have Vivatrol. Kolb said that Vivatrol is a treatment program. Schauf said that if someone would use heroin today, their body would want heroin for up to two years. Once an addict is clean and all the drug are out of their system, Vivatrol can be taken orally or by injection and it intercepts the brain pattern and makes it so they can actually resist. Wedekind asked where the heroin was coming from, and Schauf said that most of it is coming out of Chicago. He went on to say that they are seeing a resurgent of cocaine.
- d. Fire Chief's Report – Chief Stieve said that there will be a live fire tonight, and he isn't sure if there will be any more before the end of year or spring. He said the Swearing In Ceremony, Pining, and Retirement party will be held on November 1

ADJOURNMENT – Kolb moved, Plautz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Wedekind, Chairman