

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 12, 2013 AT 8:13 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER – 1519 WATER STREET**

PRESENT: Alderpersons Moore, R. Stroik, Slowinski, O'Meara and M. Stroik

ALSO

PRESENT: Mayor Halverson; City Attorney Beveridge; C/T Ladick; Ald. Trzebiatowski, Suomi, Patton, Phillips, Doxtator; Directors Lemke, Ostrowski, Schrader, Schatschneider; Asst. Police Chief Skibba; Fire Chief Kujawa; Deputy C/T Freeberg; Kelly Pazdernik; Brandi Makuski; Gene Kemmeter; Larry Lee

ITEM #1 – AUTHORIZE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR SAFER GRANT.

Motion made by Ald. R. Stroik, seconded by Ald. O'Meara to authorize the Fire Department to apply for the SAFER Grant.

Ald. Slowinski stated he is uncomfortable with funding this position after two years. If we are going to do this, he would like to see a long term commitment. He does not want to have to let someone go after two years because we do not have the money to keep him or her. He supports it, but is concerned with the long term.

Ald. Moore stated this item is only for applying for the grant and there is no guarantee that we will get the grant.

Ald. Slowinski asked if this is going to come back before us if we get the grant or if it will just move forward.

Mayor Halverson replied no, it will not come back before the Committee. Part of the grant documentation is signing off stating that we will do the best that we can to retain that person. He is comfortable with that, especially with the staffing levels being where they are currently at, we do need additional staff. He also stated it will show very good faith from the City's perspective with regards to the countywide ambulance service. He stated we have 800 acres that will be developed quickly and we will be creating millions and millions in tax base quickly, and even though it is in a TIF district, our new growth allowance will give us the help we need to carry that one body forward as a commitment to public safety.

C/T Ladick stated worst case scenario, if we are not able to retain that position, we would seek out a retirement and plan that ahead so that we would not be in the position of laying someone off.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

ITEM #2 – 2ND QUARTER ROOM TAX REPORTS.

Motion made by Ald. O'Meara, seconded by Ald. M. Stroik to accept the quarterly room tax report and place it on file.

Ald. Patton questioned if there is anything in place to measure whether or not the current plan is working the way we want it to and is the committee and the hotel owners and operators happy with the results.

C/T Ladick replied at least 70% of the room tax dollars are suppose to be used for things that are expected to generate paid room stays in Stevens Point. It is his understanding that the money is to help the hotels that are paying it, as far as events and infrastructure of the City.

Director Schrader stated that approximately 20 years ago, we started the Room Tax Committee and it meets every 5 years to establish a 5 year plan on how the funding is going to be spent. The Committee was comprised of business, hotel and restaurant owners and local citizens. The current one goes through 2012 or 2014 and was extended because we did some Goerke Stadium improvements. The Committee does not always agree on everything that is done, so everyone is not always happy. 65% goes towards major projects, 10% goes towards Arts Endowment and Arts, 10% goes towards Special Events and 15% goes towards plan maintenance. The plan maintenance account fixes items that were purchased with room tax money.

C/T Ladick clarified that those percentages refer to how the City divides the share it keeps, because we do pass some of the room tax along to the Convention and Visitors Bureau as well.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.

Motion made by Ald. R. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Slowinski to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$3,151,712.61.

The claims were discussed.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Adjournment at 8:25 p.m.