

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee

Monday, February 9, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St.

Present: Alderpersons Molski, Moore, Stroik, and Hanson

Excused: Alderperson Walther

Also Present: Mayor Halverson; C/T Schlice; City Attorney Molepske; Clerk Moe, Directors Popoff, Gardner, Schrader, Halverson; Assessor Siebers; Lt. Kudronowicz; Ald. Wiza, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Heart, Myers, Brooks; Fleet Maint. Supervisor Peplinski; Deputy C/T Freeberg; Kelley Pazdernik; Airport Manager Joe Wheeler; Gene Kemmeter; Bill Weronke; Joel Lemke; Quinton Woller; Mary Ann Laszewski; Reid Rocheleau

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1. Consideration of Implementation of a Fiber Network/Communications Project.
2. Approval of Payment of Claims.
3. Adjournment.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON:

1. CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF A FIBER NETWORK/COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT. Proposal

C/T Schlice stated this is a two part project, one dealing with the fiber network and the other dealing with the telephone system. The telephone system contract comes up at the end of this year and we currently pay a little over \$100,000 a year right now for our phone service, including land lines and cell phones. In October, the Council authorized a study on whether or not this would be feasible and what the costs would be, which is what we are bringing here tonight. He stated we are having problems with connectivity between a number of different buildings and the network and putting in fiber would correct those problems. We would be saving about \$50,000-\$60,000 per year if we put in the fiber and incorporated the phone system.

Joel Lemke stated that the driving force for this is establishing a phone system that is reliable. The phones that we have right now need attention but in addition to that, the data network needs a lot of attention. We do not have one right now, we have to rely on an outside provider. There is a lot more to gain from a unified communication system like this. There are a lot of safety features that would include the service staying up during power outages, city-wide paging and gained productivity with email and voice mail.

Ald. Stroik questioned the underground fiber optic network and the cost and whether or not it is the best way to do it.

Joel Lemke stated there are options listed in the packet to go aerial with the fiber. Initial cost for aerial is cheaper on two of the three options, but there would be additional costs relating to using poles belonging to others. He stated it would be about \$30-\$40 per pole per year. By putting our own system in, we would have total control over it. The underground system gives us scalability and anywhere where there isn't current conduit, we will be putting three in and will only be using one, which leaves it wide open for expansion.

Ald. Molski stated this is long overdue as there has been a problem communicating between buildings for some time.

Joel Lemke stated that the Fire Department and the 911 system will still have some analog lines to make sure there is back-up.

Ald. Trzebiatowski questioned if there will be enough room on the network to support all the users accounts and anything else that needs a lot of storage and whether or not the system would be able to support additional modules that could be needed in the future.

Joel Lemke stated yes to all and that the system we currently have supports the needs now and the plan is to keep that system in place.

Ald. Stroik questioned that with the current state economic status if this could potentially cause any budgetary problems.

C/T Schlice stated that he is recommending that this be included in the borrowing. The \$50,000 - \$60,000 reduction will come off from the operational area of the budget, so it would help us on our overall bottom line cost controls that we are under. Debt Service is not counted against those cost controls.

Ald. Stroik verified that the operational budget would not be negatively affected and he also questioned what the estimate is for the return on the investment.

C/T Schlice anticipates that the costs for the project will come in lower than what the estimates are. He anticipates the return on the investment would be under ten years.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Moore to approve the implementation of the fiber network/communications project.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Hanson to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$412,235.89.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Adjournment at 6:13 p.m.

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