

Minutes of the
Special Joint Personnel/Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 – 5:30 P.M.
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street

PRESENT:

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chairperson Moore; Alderpersons Molski, R. Stroik,
Brooks, Suomi

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Chairperson Molski; Alderpersons Slowinski, Moore,
Beveridge, Brooks

OTHERS

PRESENT: Alderpersons Trzebiatowski, O'Meara, Wiza; Clerk Moe;
Attorney Molepske, Reid Rocheleau; Barb Jacob; Tony
Patton; Directors Halverson, Ostrowski, Lemke, Schrader;
Chief Kujawa; Chief Ruder; Matthew Brown ~ Portage
County Gazette; Human Resource Manager Jakusz

Chairman Moore called the Finance Committee to order. Chairperson Molski called the Personnel Committee to order.

1. Discussion and possible action on elevating the annual salary for the position of City Attorney to Grade N, Step 11 (\$94,506) and full time status for 2012 and beyond.

Mayor Halverson referenced his cover memo and the comparables which indicate that other area cities and some close in population to ours dedicate more resources to legal matters in their respective city.

Alderman Trzebiatowski voiced his opinion that approving this request would cause the City to violated state statute as well as the state constitution.

Reid Rocheleau indicated that he spoke with Mr. Kennedy of the State Elections Board who opined that the City "can't do it". He stated that we can't get an opinion from Attorney Molepske because he's got a conflict of interest. He also added that if the individual isn't doing their job, he should be recalled.

Alderman R. Stroik questioned whether an outside legal counsel was sought on the matter. Mayor Halverson replied that it had not been. Alderman R. Stroik stated that in light of this, we ought to approach as second review.

It was suggested by Mayor Halverson that the matter be reviewed by, and a written opinion obtained from Attorney Dietrich of the Ruder Ware Law Firm. Mayor Halverson then raised concern that he may have a conflict as he acts as our labor attorney.

Alderman Wiza suggested getting a legal opinion from the League of Municipalities. Mayor Halverson responded that he didn't believe that the League would issue a written opinion, but he would contact them as well as others for written legal opinion(s).

Mayor indicated that he will seek other written opinion(s) and report back.

Alderman Molski moved to postpone action on the matter to get legal counsel/written opinions; Alderman Moore seconded. Ayes all; nays none. Motion Carried.

Adjournment ~ 5:49 p.m.