

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2012 AT 6:05 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER – 1519 WATER STREET**

PRESENT: Alderpersons Moore, Molski, R. Stroik, Brooks and Suomi

ALSO

PRESENT: Mayor Halverson; Deputy C/T Freeberg; City Attorney Molepske; Clerk Moe; Ald. Wiza, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Ald. O'Meara; M. Stroik, Beveridge; Directors Lemke, Halverson, Schrader, Ostrowski; Assessor Siebers; Police Chief Ruder; Kelley Pazdernik; Tricia Church; Matthew Brown; Brian Kowalski; Jack Negaard; Barb Jacob; Mike Phillips; Kathy Dugan; Kurt Schoen; Erik Carlson

ITEM #1 – CONSIDERATION OF CLAIM – WALGREEN'S.

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. R. Stroik, to deny the claim from Walgreens.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

ITEM #2 – MCDILL AGREEMENT.

Mayor Halverson stated the McDill Lake District, County Highway Committee and County Finance Committee have passed both the Transfer Agreement and the Repair Agreement. This agreement binds the City to pay 1/3 of the obligation of the repair costs, taking over the local share that Whiting would have been paying on the grant they were awarded for repair of the dam. Portage County, McDill Lake District and the City have all agreed to add \$25,000 in case something is discovered and needs to be dealt with while they are repairing the dam. The agreement from the County reads, "to not exceed \$147,263," and he would like the committee to also consider a motion that would also state that. The likelihood would be that the actual range would be around \$100,000 and \$130,000. He stated it has been a long and cooperative process with getting all the governmental units on the same page.

Ald. R. Stroik stated the situation is unfortunate but in the big picture it is something that we have to do. He is disappointed in Whiting for keeping some items secretive as that is not how intergovernmental cooperation should be.

Motion made by Ald. R. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Brooks to approve the McDill Agreement, not to exceed \$147,263.

Barb Jacobs, 1616 Depot Street, stated she does not understand why the City is not taking ownership of the dam, but rather just maintaining it while McDill Lake Association owns it. She thinks the City should be the owners, especially since the City is going to be paying to maintain it. She feels that since the City taxpayers are paying for it, the City should own it. She would also like it looked into as to who was responsible for the dam failure.

Mayor Halverson stated that ownership is the greatest responsibility and the Lake District has the largest and highest direct impact of its preservation so when negotiations were worked through between the Lake District and ourselves, it was made very clear that the obligation of owning a dam is not something this administration is interested in. It is not in our jurisdiction and since the ultimate responsibility lies with owning the dam, he feels the Lake District should be responsible for it. We could move in that direction, but he highly advises against it. Our interest is to make sure it is run and maintained appropriately. He stated that over 60% of all dams that exist in the

state are owned by the coordinating Lake Districts or Associations and they have maintenance agreements with other governmental entities to take care of them.

Ald. Suomi asked the Mayor to follow up with explaining the maintenance agreement. She has concerns over whether or not the City has the ability to have the people power that is needed to maintain this dam. If he feels we do have the power, she would like it clarified as to how we have this extra time to do something that we never had before. She questioned if we are going to add additional people, infuse the work hours, or how we are going to maintain this dam as far as power and cost.

Mayor Halverson replied this agenda item is for the purpose of paying for the repairs, the operation and maintenance agreement has already been approved and signed. In terms of the administration being able to handle it, our greatest contribution is having staff that can handle the permitting and monitor the dam and the water levels. By using current technology, we do not feel it is going to be a burden in terms of staff time at all. He also does not see a problem with the weed growth and lawn care in the area. He also stated he feels this is the greatest way that we can provide the professional observation that is necessary for a Public Works structure, the Lake District does not have that ability.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.

The claims were discussed.

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Suomi, to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$680,114.77.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Adjournment at 6:17 p.m.