

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
March 11, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman
 Councilor Donald Austin, Vice-Chair
 Councilor Martin Pepin

Administration/Staff present: Bob Belmore, City Manager
 Scott Smith, Finance Director
 Mike Bobinsky, Director of Public Works & Utilities
 Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk
 Shanna Saunders, Dir. of Planning and Community Dev
 George Kramlinger, Fire Chief

Other: Councilor Richard Michaud

The meeting called to order by Chairman Witham at 5:33 PM.

APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Austin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION LAND PURCHASE GRANT

Manager Belmore went over a memo from Director Saunders in regards to a NH DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Grant that the Conservation Commission applied for to be used for the purchase of land in the Lily Pond watershed. The Grant was approved by the State. Funding for this purchase will be through Grant funds and City Conservation Commission fund.

Director Saunders stated that the property owner is the on board with this and has been easy to work with.

Councilor Witham stated that this is the biggest track of Conservation land. This just makes even more sense with us doing the well research.

Director Smith stated that there is \$146,000 in the Conservation Commission fund now. There are sufficient funds to cover this purchase.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Austin made a motion that the Finance Committee sponsor a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign a Grant agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for a New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Grant for the City to Purchase Land in the Lily Pond Watershed. Motion passed 3-0.

Director Saunders was excused @ 5:44pm

EMPG COMMUNICATIONS STRUCTURE GENERATOR GRANT

Manager Belmore went over the EMPG Grant agreement paperwork that was received regarding a generator that will be installed at the Chinburg property at the former Hilltop School to keep a communications repeater for public safety telecommunications functional during times we may lose electricity. The Grant is for \$17,800, whereby the City is required to provide a 50/50 match, however communications equipment purchased by the City in Fiscal Year 20 is allowed as a match: \$52,545 spent on portable and mobile radios for the Fire Department which is being used as the City match. The total cost of the generator is estimated to be \$8,900.

Fire Chief Kramlinger asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Pepin stated that it was well worth the effort with Chinburg.

Councilor Witham asked about having an easement to the property for maintenance etc. Manager Belmore stated yes we do.

Councilor Austin, Seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion that the Finance Committee sponsor a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Safety to acquire a generator for emergency power for the public safety radio transmitter located at 17 Grand Street. Motion Passed 3-0.

Councilor Witham asked about a timeline of when we will receive it and be installed. Fire Chief Kramlinger stated that there should be no lag time once this is approved.

ORDINANCE 16-20, VETERANS MEMORIAL FUNDING

Manager Belmore passed out an updated spreadsheet of fundraising efforts totaling approximately \$43,000. He noted that at this point the bids for the project came in twice as much as originally estimated. Ironwood, the City's architect, has made a number of suggestions for the City to explore to try to save money on this project. It is our intent to schedule a meeting with the apparent low bidder to discuss Ironwood's suggestions.

Director Smith went over the handout for the project costs and revenue estimates. There will need to be an amendment to Ordinance 16-20 increasing the total amount to \$380,000.

There was a lengthy discussion on how and why the price changed.

Councilor Pepin asked if there was a way to get the electricity from the poles and not from the museum. The Committee agreed that would be a cost savings. City staff will look into that.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Austin made a motion that the Finance Committee sponsor a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to amend the contract with Ironwood Design Group of Newmarket, NH to provide construction administration services for the construction of a Veterans Memorial At Stein Park. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Austin made a motion that the Finance Committee sponsor a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to contract with Rye Beach Landscaping of Exeter, NH for the construction of a Veterans Memorial at Stein Park including improvements to the sidewalk abutting Stein Park on Main Street. Motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Hilliard entered @ 6:03

Mayor Hilliard thanked the Committee and City staff for this project and he has been passionate about this project. This will help revitalize that area of Main Street and will help merge the downtown.

SUPERFUND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE RESOLUTION

Manager Belmore explained to the Committee that this is in reference to the Superfund site. Historically, GE has provided the required financial security. This is required as part of the court issued consent decree.

No actual funding is needed at this time.

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion that the Finance Committee support a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, pursuant to paragraph 48.f. of the RD/RA consent decree for the Somersworth Sanitary Landfill Superfund site, a financial assurance "letter of authorization" in the amount of \$9 million dollars. Motion passed 3-0.

JULES BISSON PLAYGROUND GRANT MATCH

Manager Belmore explained that we are not ready to move forward with this project at this time. He enforced that we received two bids for playground equipment, no bids for the pavilion.

Councilor Witham suggested that we stick with the same suppliers for the equipment etc.

REPORTING

Director Smith stated that the General Fund budget has nothing new to report that we are in good shape as a whole on the budget.

Department of Public Works is in decent shape as far as snow removal, but the recycling is over budget as predicted.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion to adjourn at 6:19 pm. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk