

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MINUTES
OF FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Meeting called to order by Chairman Feirer at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall Plaza.

PRESENT: Mike Feirer, Ed Wagner, Dave LaFontaine, Josh Hansen and Don Krueger

EXCUSED: None

ALSO PRESENT: Alderman Noble; Alderman Spiros; Alderman Buttke; Alderman Hendler; Mayor Meyer; City Administrator Brehm; Director of Public Works Knoeck; City Engineer Turchi; Assistant City Engineer Cassidy; Parks & Recreation Director Englehart; Parks & Recreation Supervisor Steinbach; Building Services Supervisor Donath; Fire Chief Schmidt; Deputy Fire Chief's Erickson, Haight, DeGrand and Dolens; Terry Frankland, Arnie Peck, Tom Lenard – Fire & Police Commission; Sue Berger; Bill Penker; Gordon Earll; Bill Schallock; Kay Haight; multiple fire fighters and others.

Citizen Comments

- Bill Schallock, 806 E. Cleveland St. – the new fire station is a need, not a want. He realizes economy is not good. He believes that we will need a central and north side station. The referendum binds the City to only a central location. Recent meetings held by Fire Chief not very well attended. People have been saying that they were not aware of the issues. Seems that there was opportunity to get the information. The referendum requires a central station and it should be honored.

PW09-10 Motion by LaFontaine, second by Hansen to recommend approval of the request to extend Wildwood Park and Zoo Grass Mowing contract for the 2009 season.

Wagner and Krueger voted No, Feirer, Lafontaine, and Hansen voted Yes Motion Carried

PW09-11 Motion by LaFontaine, second by Krueger to recommend approval of the quotation submitted by McMillan Electric of Marshfield, WI for City Hall Plaza Lighting Energy Reduction Project at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 and authorize execution of a contract.

All 'Ayes' Motion Carried

Fire Chief Schmidt gave a presentation on the deficiencies in the current station including the apparatus bays, fire gear storage, general storage, kitchen, classroom space, utility room, fire gear washing area, day room, sleeping quarters, office areas and others.

- Mayor Meyers stated that he was glad to see many people here tonight. We need to identify outstanding issues of fire station layout so conclusion can be reached and project can move forward.
- Buttke referred to letter in the paper, asking why we cannot add onto existing station where it is today. Chief reviewed factors that eliminated remodeling of existing site as an option.
- Brehm reiterated what the Mayor said. The referendum may not be legally binding based on the City Attorney's position, but it is certainly politically binding. From a timing perspective, we need to be ready to start detailed design in February in order to be ready for favorable bids and/or stimulus package.

- LaFontaine asked what was cut from the original layout of 31,000 square feet to get to 26,000 square feet. The Chief responded with reduced room size, eliminated the basement, and eliminated some storage.
- Buttke questioned why is outside of building so “fancy”? The Chief responded that precast concrete panels with brick inset makes it very cost effective to achieve the appearance.
- Buttke said that a statement has been made that population has not increased enough to warrant a building like this. What services have changed over the years? The chief outline all of the services that the Department provides today as compared to what services were provided when the current station was built.
- Spiros asked if the west wall could be modified to just have on wall line on that side of the building. The chief responded that possibly it could but, that push the space out somewhere else. Spiros asked if the file room size could be reduced by imaging vs. hard copy records. Brehm responded that an imaging project was evaluated several years ago however the costs for the project exceeded available budgets. Spiros stated that we need a budget for furnishings and any other items yet to be determined so the total project cost is known in advance. The Chief responded that they now have an estimate of \$150,000 for F.F.& E.
- Wagner stated that there is no question of need. A new station will happen. But we also need a plan for fire services for next 5, 10, 20 years so we know where we are headed. The problem is that Council has only been given one choice – take it or leave it – and the Council doesn’t have the knowledge to determine what needs to be in the plan. He would like to see other options – what is bare minimum? What is a step or two up from that as compared to the current plan.
- Mayor responded that it is not presented as a take it or leave it, but it is a plan to start with. We need to know what we like and don’t like about the plan.
- Krueger agrees with Wagner, only given one plan, not sure how much of the plan are wants and how much are needs.
- LaFontaine questioned if there was enough room for additional staff in the future – up to 13 per shift? Why not building for 13 per shift? The Chief responded that a future satellite station would provide space for additional staff.
- Wagner asked how the would Board feel about asking SEH to come back with more cost effective plan that gives some options to consider. The Mayor pointed out that that may involve additional cost for SEH. The Mayor asked what funds we have and how much additional do we need to borrow. Brehm responded that currently we have \$1,480,000 and will need to borrow \$5,020,000 more for \$6.5 million budget.
- LaFontaine stated that the current design was done by a professional who has done 150 stations, based on need and professional experience; we are in no position to second guess.
- Hendler stated that he is encouraged by discussions, but agree that a few options should be presented for consideration. He feels we need a better handle on the total cost. The Chief responded that CIP project submitted includes a firm construction cost but property acquisition is not firm this point. Cost is based on worst case scenario, assuming no grants - may be able to secure some grants.

- Noble stated that the CIP has \$3.1 million which equates to about 18,000 square foot. Is the fitness room a want or need? The Chief responded that it pays to have physically fit work force. The fitness room would allow for mandatory fitness program and could be used by other protection services; therefore it is arguably a need. The space also allows for future expansion.
- LaFontaine stated that we can't lose site of the fact that this is a preliminary plan we won't have firm costs until you go to bid.
- Wagner asked the Chief if 26,000 square feet is the bare minimum. The Chief responded yes.
- Mayor stated that it boils down to priorities. We need to have space for future expansions, the layout allows room for fitness space now but priorities may change in the future.
- Buttke is not totally against another plan, but concerned that a less costly plan will not meet the needs.
- Mayor asked what the classroom will be used for. The Chief responded that there is a daily training schedule in house, 40+ people. The parking configuration is basis on duty staff, shift changes and spaces for visitors and other training room use.
- Wagner proposed to reaffirm intent to build a central station direct, the City Administrator to develop an RFP for development of plans and specs, with the successful consultant to be given direction on budget. Administration should also move forward with site. LaFontaine agreed but feels there needs to be more definition to provide to firms doing proposals. Need to give them square footage and a budget.
- Noble suggested that we may want different committee to work with this new consultant. Feirer responded that we need to decide how long we are going to second guess the needs that have been identified.
- Kay Haight – 1122 Fairview Drive pointed out that the process involved a reduction from 36,000 square feet to 26,000 square feet weeding out wants and needs.
- LaFontaine made a motion to recommend a central station and to go forward with plans and specs for bidding based on 26,000 square foot station and the SEH schematic drawings. As the meeting agenda was not properly noticed for this action, a formal vote was not taken, however there was consensus among the Board that this direction would be recommended to the Council for consideration at their meeting on February 10.

Motion by LaFontaine, second by Hansen that the meeting be adjourned at 7:27 PM.

All 'Ayes' Motion Carried

Daniel G. Knoeck, Secretary
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS