

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING March 18, 2019

The March 18, 2019 Ravenna City Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President Pro Tem Scott Rainone. The following Council members were present: Andrew Kluge, Bruce Ribelin, Paul Moskun, Robert Kairis, Amy Michael and Matt Harper. Also attending the meeting were: Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Fire Captain, Mark Chapple; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Tim Calfee of 910 Murray Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Clifford Soudil of 434 Woodland Street, Ravenna, Ohio.

President Pro Tem, Rainone said the first item on the agenda is the approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 19, 2019. There being no corrections, additions or changes to the minutes, a motion was made by Mr. Ribelin moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion as seconded by Mr. Moskun. **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

President Pro Tem Rainone said the second item on the agenda is a request to review the pricing of the purchase of the MARCs radios for the Fire Department.

Mr. Kluge explained that the last quote was \$3,500.00 per radio and this newest quote has come in at about \$2,500.00 per radio. These also come with a rebate if purchased before 3/31. They talked about using 18 of the radios donated by the Turnpike Commission, keeping some in reserve and putting some in the frontline vehicles.

Captain Chapple said the turnpike radios will not facilitate the needs of the department as a whole. With them being on two different channels in a fire scenario they assign a tack channel so they either have to maintain fire ground channel on one radio and tack channel on another so they can still monitor what's going on. What they currently do is have two radios on each apparatus, which can be used in conjunction with the radios that are assigned to each individual. With the radios from the turnpike being obsolete; there are no parts available for them. The parts were stopped being made over five years ago. That being said, if something happens to the radio, it's pretty much considered disposable. The other issue they have with the radios is that the batteries are good; however, are not considered intrinsically safe. With the firefighters going into an atmosphere where there are explosive gases, etc., there is an electronic signal sent through the radio, if there is enough static in the radio, the atmosphere can actually explode. That's why they would need radios to meet those capabilities.

Mr. Rainone said he thought the explanation he received via email explained it perfectly.

Mr. Kluge said he wanted to point out that, on the spreadsheet, the total was a lot less and even going down to the mobiles, those are a lot less, too. The total went down from \$100,000.00 to \$65,000.00.

Captain Chapple noted that regardless of the portable radios, they still need the mobiles in the apparatus. It's an entirely different radio; it's hard mounted that stays in the apparatus. This is a turnkey operation; all the programming, every part and accessory comes with the radio; charging systems and everything so they are ready to go at 100%.

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Mr. Moskun asked the approximate turnover rate for the radios; that being how many years for the replacement of them.

Captain Chapple said the radios will last at least ten to 15 years. Those radios from the turnpike will not last as long because their time is past. The radios they currently have running off the VHS system, are anywhere between three and 15 years old. However, those are also obsolete. They are no longer made. Regardless as to how they move forward, they are going to need to buy new radios.

Mr. Kairis asked if the \$69,000.00 includes the discount.

Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative stating the rebate for each radio is \$250.00. The discount basically covers the cost of outfitting the turnpike radios. They had a ballpark figure of about \$5,500.00 to \$6,000.00.

Captain Chapple said that turnpike radios are complete but the batteries are not. Each battery will cost about \$140-\$150.00 each. In his opinion, it's putting good money after bad because they are obsolete. It's just a matter of time before they will be replacing them anyway.

Mr. Cecora said when they discussed it, they thought that each year, in the capital improvement budget, phasing in a certain number of radios for each department to replace those turnpike radios although it might not be all at once. The idea is to introduce them and replace them a few per year. That's the long term goal.

Mr. Kairis said he thinks they should move as quickly as possible and \$6,500.00 is not an insignificant discount.

Mr. Cecora said the funds would come from the Safety Levy which is the same funding source used for the Police radios. It is built into the budget and therefore no legislation is needed. No appropriation is needed. This was solely informational and a request to go ahead and order the radios before the actual deadline date.

President Pro Tem Rainone said the next item on the agenda is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with NDS for the administration of the CHIP Program.

Mr. Ribelin said NDS applies for the CHIP Grant every two years on the City's behalf. This is simply into the administration agreement with NDS for the grant. The terms are the same as previously agreed to.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem Rainone said Item No. 4 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into a CHIP Partnership Agreement with Streetsboro and Portage County.

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Mr. Ribelin said this just a continuation of the previous request. This is to enter into the CHIP Agreement with Portage County and Streetsboro. It's a simple housekeeping issue.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem Rainone said Item No. 5 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract for the Asphalt Paving Program.

Mr. Harper said this will allow the mayor to enter into a contract with the best low bidder for the 2019 paving program.

Mr. Finney said the contract will be with Delta Asphalt. Board of Control considered it to be the best low bidder. The City has never used them in the past. They have done a lot of work in Kent and surrounding communities.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem Rainone said Item No. 6 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Tricon Roofing for the replacement of two roofs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Moskun said the price is \$49,413.00 for both roofs. The one roof is probably 40-50 years old. The other roof is a little bit newer. One will be replaced with a type of a steel that lasts much longer. The price will include, if needed, the plywood under the existing roof. They won't know until it's torn apart. These are extremely important for the operation of the department.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem Rainone said Item No. 7 is a request to amend the Codified Ordinances, Section 1062.11 to reflect an increase in the cost to the City for recycling services.

Mr. Moskun said he thinks this is because the rate will be going up very soon, a quarter a month per year. Then in 2020, another quarter through, he believes, 2021 for the recycling where you put the articles out by the road.

The clerk noted that the proposal is to for the years 2021 and thereafter, the costs will be commensurate with the fees paid by the City to the solid waste collector and administration fees required by the City to effectuate the collection of recyclable materials. This means, after 2021, the costs will be open ended in the codified ordinances and will not require legislation annually.

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Mr. Soudil said he wasn't sure he understood what the article in the newspaper was about regarding the recycling.

Ms. Dubinsky explained that the article was about the plan update which is required by the EPA. Mr. Steiner was present at the meeting and gave an explanation regarding that update.

President Pro Tem Rainone said he read an article last weekend that said in a few years recycling will be dead because nobody wants it so they'll just start burning it all.

Mayor Seman said he did ask Ms. Dubinsky to double check. They received responses from two haulers; Conrad's did say they would do it. The other is Kimble who is proposing dropping four roll-off containers, one in each ward and letting people take their stuff to those. The problem with that is they'd have to be manned 24/7 because people will throw stuff in them that should not be in them. The other thing, a lot of people don't have a way to transport some of the stuff they put out on the street. The Kimble thing didn't seem too useful.

Ms. Dubinsky said that Kimble would be using 40-50 yard roll offs in each ward. The cost would be a \$75.00 one-time delivery; \$5.95 per haul which includes six tons of disposal; \$50.00 per ton over six tons. There is no way to know how many tons it would be. Conrad's still charges by tonnage. Every year is different. This year, it could be a lot.

Mayor Seman said if they go by past years, in 2015, the cost was \$28,000.00; 2016 it was \$26,400.00 and in 2017 it was \$32,000.00. The unaccountable amount of money in the recycling budget right now is \$12,000.00. There isn't enough money in there to do it. If they wish to pursue it, they would have to find another source of funds. Then they'll have to start making a decision as to where they want to take the money away from. They could also add to it when the county raises the rate in July. They could add another 25 cents which raises about \$15,000.00. They'd almost have to add another 50 cents to cover it, that's on top of the 25 cents they have to raise it for the county's increase.

Mr. Rainone asked if there would be time to discuss this issue in the Streets & Sidewalks Committee next month.

Ms. Dubinsky said Conrad indicated that if they did it, they are only available in the months of April or May. They are cutting it short. She'd be curious as to what has changed because that was a big issue for them last year. They weren't able to get to the landfill by noon on Saturday.

Mayor Seman said that if they want to put it in committee, he thinks it will be okay and they may have to pass whatever they need to do at a Special. At that point in time, they'd be committed to the month of May.

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Mr. Kairis said that the biggest complaint he gets is that they pay more in income taxes but feel they are getting less in return. Cleanup is a big deal. He understands that nobody is bidding on it, but now they have someone who will bid, makes it a difficult argument.

Mayor Seman said in the budgeting process, the money is not there. They'll have to readjust the budget and find where they are going to take it from. If they bring it up in Committee, they're going to have to have pretty firm in mind what they want to do because they are going to have to resolve it that night. Then they will check with Conrad to see where they are at and why they changed their minds. They have to keep in mind that recycling also includes all the leaf bags, leaf pickup, limb pickup, etc. This particular fund is getting squeezed like the general fund was getting squeezed a awhile back.

After some discussion, it was decided by those present that the entire recycling issue would be held until the next Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting where the decisions as to the recycling rates, etc. would be made.

President Pro Tem Rainone said Item No. 8 is a request to accept the donation of ten tricycles from Mongoose Motorsports for use in the Safety Town Program.

Mr. Kairis said this is Mongoose has donated ten tricycles worth \$51.71 each for the Safety Town Program in the summer.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem Rainone said Item No. 9 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Community Action Council for the summer food service program.

Mr. Kairis said this is done every year where Community Action Council provides meals for needy people at the summer day camp. They've been doing this for a large number of years.

Mr. Ribelin said this is a big deal because this is the only good meal some kids are going to get all day.

Ms. Michael said that she wanted it to be known that her son does work for the Community Action Council in the summertime and delivering those meals is his job.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem said Item No. 10 is a request to approve the February, 2019 accounting transactions.

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Mr. Cecora said there was one advance to report, the return of an advanced grant back to the General Fund.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Pro Tem Rainone said he would like to say that he had a conversation with Mr. Cimino about the Finance Director position who said that comes under two parts, one is the Ravenna Charter, Article 9 which lays out the residency and educational requirements and also the qualifications of Finance Director is also in the Codified Ordinances which are different than the Charter. There is no residency in the Codified Ordinances and the qualifications are different than the Charter. The Charter supersedes everything. There are three options. One is to have a ballot issue to amend the Charter; to change whatever they believe needs changed and put that forward to the November election. That is what Mr. Cimino has suggested. The other option is to repeal and replace the Charter, which would take much longer and cause confusion. The other is to do nothing and the next Council could just deal with it and appoint the individual based on the Codified Ordinances. The problem with that is that if Council wanted to appoint someone and don't meet the Charter qualifications could do two years of good work and not be eligible to run. Mr. Cimino said he thought was that the new position passed recently they received over 100 applications.

Ms. Michael said she thinks they need to take it to the voters and make a change to the Charter if possible. It would open up the pool of people and someone might have governmental experience, since the current assistant finance director will be gone, could be eliminated, raise the salary for the finance director and still save the City some money.

The clerk said they have until August 7 to get it on the ballot.

Mr. Rainone noted then they will have time to have public hearings, etc. He would like to see it discussed at the next personnel committee meeting.

There being no further business before the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

ATTEST:

Council Clerk

Joseph Bica, Council President