

ROLLING MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
July 21, 2009

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Ken Nelson, Aldermen John Pitzferro, Barb Lusk, Larry Buske, Glenn Adams, John D'Astice, Jim Larsen

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Manager Sarah Phillips, Public Works Director Fred Vogt, Police Chief Steve Williams, Fire Chief Ron Stewart, City Attorney Jim Macholl, Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1) Vehicle Acquisition**

- A) Fire Department Ambulance**
- B) Fire Department BC Command Vehicle**
- C) Public Works Sweeper**
- D) Public Works Refuse Truck**

Chief Stewart came forward and presented a report on the benefits of acquiring the two vehicles listed above. He believes that the Command Vehicle can be replaced at a total cost not to exceed \$50,000.

Alderman D'Astice asked who would purchase the old vehicle.

Chief Stewart stated that it would be up for auction.

Alderman D'Astice asked typically, who would be someone who would purchase it.

Mr. Hartnett noted that there are a range of bidders at the auction. The BC vehicle is pretty generic after the lights and sirens are removed.

Alderman Larsen asked if there are any of the existing accessories being used on the new vehicle.

Chief Stewart stated that anything that we can use from the old vehicle, we will use.

Alderman Larsen questioned the maintenance records. Between electrical, chassis and tires (the big ones), what kind of chassis work does it need?

Chief Stewart assumes it would be front end alignments, suspension work, etc.

Alderman Adams asked if we can get an idea on the electrical end of it. What kind of problems have we had?

Chief Stewart stated that he can get a detailed breakdown.

Alderman Larsen commented on the electrical aspect. Can we realistically anticipate any reliability and reduced maintenance costs on the new vehicle?

Chief Stewart stated that he is sure we would see some improvement.

Alderman Larsen does not see any reason not to approve this purchase at this time, but would like a realistic view of things.

Alderman Buske questioned the lighting for the vehicle. He is shocked at the cost of \$12,000+. What other lights are being put on?

Chief Stewart noted that these are the most accurate numbers based on the last bid.

Alderman Buske asked what the preventative maintenance costs cover.

Chief Stewart noted that these cost would be for annual maintenance.

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Alderman Buske has a problem with purchasing these at this time. He sees no reason to move swiftly on this. He feels that we should be able to get more miles out of the vehicle.

Ms. Phillip clarified that \$1 million was moved out of the Vehicle Replacement Fund after last month's Committee of the Whole meeting. Part of the reason for that move was because we have been delaying purchases over the last couple of years. These vehicles are ones that Staff feels need to get addressed because the cost of these vehicles could significantly increase if we do not purchase them now before the 2010 emissions regulations.

Alderman Larsen is not certain where the 50,000 mile marker comes from in terms of duty life of the vehicle.

Alderman Buske asked if we are looking at 2009 vehicles.

Chief Stewart stated that they would be 2010 vehicles, but not diesel.

Alderman Buske asked why not diesel. Diesel has more power.

Chief Stewart stated that it was possibly the cost factor.

Chief Stewart answered Alderman Larsen's previous question. We try to find a balance between the depreciation, the maintenance costs and lifespan of the vehicle. He reminded Council that this vehicle is 14 years old.

Alderman D'Astice asked if Aldermen Larsen and Buske have reviewed these vehicles. They are asking very good questions. If not, maybe they should and come back to Council.

Alderman Pitzafarro asked how many miles were put on the '95 vehicle this year.

Chief Stewart stated not many. It is currently the BC backup vehicle. He will get the numbers.

Alderman Larsen agrees that he and Alderman Buske should review the vehicles and come back to Council.

Chief Stewart commented on the emissions issues. It could add \$10,000 - \$15,000 to the cost of the chassis for the ambulance.

Mayor Nelson noted that sometimes we have kept the box. Would this be a full purchase?

Chief Stewart stated that it is a full purchase.

Alderman Buske asked if there is money for both vehicles in the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

Chief Stewart stated yes.

Mr. Vogt came forward and noted that the two Public Works vehicles were scheduled for swap out in 2009. He does not believe that vehicles that are outright used would be the way to go, although it is always an option.

Mr. Hartnett presented the status of the vehicles. If the vehicles are purchased in the next couple of months they could be put in service in 2010. He believes that vendors will have much better pricing than what is in the report.

Mayor Nelson asked if both vehicles will be traded in.

Mr. Hartnett stated yes.

Alderman D'Astice asked how many refuse trucks we currently own.

Mr. Hartnett stated four.

Alderman D'Astice asked how many we currently use.

Mr. Hartnett stated all 4 are used.

Alderman Buske believed that we were running two with one in reserve.

Mr. Vogt clarified that on any given week all four trucks will be used...not necessarily all at the same time. The vehicles are rotated based on routes and maintenance.

Alderman Buske asked what the normal route uses.

Mr. Vogt stated two for refuse and one for yard waste.

Alderman Buske asked how old the trucks are that we have.

Mr. Hartnett stated that '02, '05, '06, & '08 vehicles. The '02 is due to be replaced this year.

Alderman Buske asked which bid Staff is looking at.

Mr. Hartnett noted that Staff is leaning towards the Crane Carrier/McNelius or the Autocar/Heil.

Mr. Hartnett presented the sweeper information.

Alderman Buske asked what the figures were to farm out during the leaf season.

Mr. Hartnett noted that we budget \$15,000 for sweeping services for about 6 weeks.

Alderman Buske asked what we could get for a trade-in on the old sweeper.

Mr. Hartnett stated about \$22,000.

Alderman Buske suggested keeping the old sweeper as a backup for use during the leaf season.

Mr. Hartnett noted that staffing would be an issue to man that sweeper, but it could be looked into.

Alderman Buske would prefer to keep the old sweeper and use it as a reserve.

Mayor Nelson stated that it is worth looking into.

Mr. Vogt commented that we have the option to lease or rent equipment if our sweeper is down. He would not suggest keeping the old sweeper, but agrees to look into it.

Alderman Lusk noted that Ms. Phillips had mentioned that we would not be replacing any vehicles next year.

Ms. Phillips clarified that we would only be replacing squad cars next year.

## **2) Crossing Guards**

Ms. Phillips recapped the situation. We have funding for the crossing guards from August – December. A vacant officer position is not being filled so there will be additional funding. They will also be discussed during the 2010 budget. A study showed that our crossing guards are higher paid than other surrounding communities. It could be looked into for the new 09-10 school year or the 2010 budget.

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Alderman D'Astice believes this is an excellent start, but does not feel that we should discuss this as a separate department. The salaries should be discussed as a whole, across the board.

Alderman Lusk asked if they are seasonal, that we rehire each year.

Ms. Phillips stated that is correct.

Alderman Lusk feels that this would be the perfect time to reduce the salary.

Alderman Larsen agreed with Alderman Lusk. He understands Alderman D'Astice's point on overall salaries.

Alderman Pitzafarro also agreed with Alderman Lusk. Only 3 municipalities pay more than we do, which include Skokie and Deerfield.

Alderman Buske asked what the crossing guards are considered.

Ms. Phillips clarified that they are seasonal.

Alderman Buske asked if when they sign up, they sign up for the whole school year.

Mr. Krumstok stated that is correct. They sign up from August – June.

Mayor Nelson asked for a consensus:

Keep at current rate – 0

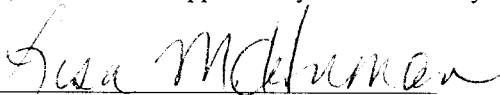
Average rate (\$13.70) - 0

Less than average rate (\$13.00) - 6

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Hinman, City Clerk

July 21, 2009 Minutes approved by Council on July 28, 2009



Lisa M. Hinman, City Clerk