

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – April 25, 2022

Members Present: Phil Wedekind, Tom Kolb and Johnson Ellington. **Others Present:** Police Chief Mark Schauf, Capt. Rob Sinden, Fire Chief Kevin Stieve, Wade Peterson, Tony Gilman, Jim O’Neill, Lena Nissley, and Bridget (Media).

Call to Order - Committee Tom Kolb called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at Baraboo City Service Center. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Ellington to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Kolb to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting. Motion carried, Ellington abstained.

Public Invited To Speak (Any citizen has the right to speak on any item of business that is on the agenda for this meeting if recognized by the presiding officer.) – Jim O’Neill and Lena Nissley spoke in favor of the proposed No-Mow May resolution.

Action Items

- a. Review STH 136 Median Mowing Proposals and recommend award of contract – Peterson said that two proposals were received, Top 2 Bottom, and Sunrise Property Care. It was staff recommendation to award the contract to the low bidder. It was moved by Ellington, seconded by Wedekind to award the contract to Top 2 Bottom. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Review Noxious Weeds & Rank Growth Proposals and recommend award of contract – Peterson said that only one proposal was received for Noxious Weeds and Rank Growth. It was staff recommendation that the award of the contract be Sunrise Property care. It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Ellington to award the contract to Sunrise Property Care. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Consider creating a special charge on the City’s Official Fee Schedule for water that is used for firefighting purposes outside of the City of Baraboo and for fire training events in the City that are hosted by other agencies or organizations – Peterson presented the background to the Committee. He said that staff has periodically discussed and there is a consensus that the Water Utility should be compensated for water used for firefighting purposes outside of the City limits. He said that MATC has hosted a couple of driver operator training closes in the City over the past ear and the participants practice pumping water from the City’s hydrants. It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Ellington to approve. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Consider a Resolution officially recognizing “No-Mow May” for the City of Baraboo – Kolb said that this is primarily for homeowners. He said that the Parks Department are doing their job. He said that they would not be able to alter mowing schedules for ball fields, playgrounds, etc. It was moved by Ellington, seconded by Wedekind to forward to Council with a positive recommendation. Schauf said that police department would not be issuing citations for the length of grass if approved; however, as far as rank growth and invasive species, the department would continue to force removal. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Review and approval of monthly Billing Adjustments/Credits for Sewer and Water Customers for March 2022 – Peterson presented the background to the Committee. It was moved by Ellington, seconded by Wedekind to approve the monthly Billing Adjustments/Credits as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Information Items

Reports

- a. Utility Superintendent’s Report
 - i. Staffing Updates – No report.
 - ii. Old Business Update – Nothing has happened with West Baraboo agreement in the last month.
 - iii. Reports - Peterson said that the City Administrator has inquired above moving all the Public Fire Protection fees to the Utility bills. He said that presently the City pays \$289,000 of the fee and \$312,000 is paid for by the utility customers. Peterson gave a very detailed presentation regarding a memo that was submitted to the Finance Committee. He stated that theoretically the fire protection would double for residents. He said that at this time, the Administrator is trying to move forward to move that off the City and on to the utility bills. Peterson estimated increases, a residential could range anywhere from \$32 to \$80, for non-residential increases could range from \$79 to \$3944. He said all the City accounts would go up approximately \$13,500. He said that the Utility is the fourth highest taxed entity within the City. Peterson is praying that we do not do this. He said that it has been less than one year that water rates increased. He said that originally he was to understand that the \$289,000 was going to help offset the 2023 Operating for the City, at the last Finance Committee meeting the Administrator said that it would not do that, that they would collect the \$289,000 and use it for capital projects in the future. Peterson said that he is very passionate about this and really hopes the Committee reconsiders and do not pass this on to the utility customers. Peterson said that if this goes through it would be moving the amount from the tax bill to the utility bill, which no one would get credit for. Kolb requested that this be placed on the agenda for the May 23 PSC meeting.
 - iv. Project Updates –Peterson said that the Utility received a Private Lead Service Grant for \$182,500. Peterson said that the auditor was here, Jan and Kelly did a great job putting the data together, and all data looked good so far. Peterson said that rehabilitation of Hwy A water tower scheduling is not coming together very well. He said that U.S. Cellular is not able to get equipment off until mid-June. Televising sanitary sewer lines will be starting in mid-May. Peterson said that the R/R bridge (trussell at 1055 Lake Street). He said that there is a 12” sewer line under the bridge (attached to the structure) and temporarily during the reconstruction, it has to be

removed, and they are adamant that we will never be able to put it back up again. Therefore, Peterson said that he has to find a way to get 60,000 of sewage from one side of the bridge to the other. He said if he goes by their wishes, this would happen in the next 60 days. Peterson said that they have been working with Wisconsin Rural Water Association on creating a plan to protect the areas around our five wells.

b. Street Superintendent's Report

- i. Staffing Updates – Gilman said that as of 3/14, all DPW staff has been operating on a 7:00-3:00 Monday thru Friday schedule. He said that certain tasks upcoming will be moved to a 6:00-4:00 Monday thru Thursday in order to have the opportunity to utilize the machinery on Friday.
- ii. Activity Report – Gilman said that he intends to be done with snow removal for the season; therefore, equipment will be broken down for summer use. Stump removals have been completed, the crew is now grinding, cleaning out, and top soiling the 350+ stumps. He said leaf collection has started. He said that the leaf vac that ordered has been delayed until 4/29. He said that the DPW has been helping the Utilities with the replacement of concrete related to water breaks from the past winter.
- iii. Project Updates – Gilman said that he had nothing new to report regarding the equipment tracking capabilities.
- iv. Informational – Gilman said that in an effort to further reduce costs without a loss of services, we have been discussing methods to improve efficiency. He said that things being looked at is brush collection methods, refuse/recycling collection, and snow plowing/removal. Gilman said that he would be checking costs, etc. to see if it would be advantageous to have the brush site open certain hours. He said that he would be putting together an RFP for refuse and recycle collection and see what prices come back so that a comparison can be made. He said that plow routes would also be evaluated to determine the most efficient means of accomplishing the routes to provide the level of safety needed, in the most effective manner. Gilman then discussed the 600 block of Ash Street parking across from the Fire Department. He said the north half of the block has a 4-hour parking and the south half is no parking anytime due to Fire Department needing space for the vehicle exit and entry of their facility. He said that several times vehicles are parked beyond the 4-hour limit and there is a 24-hour parking lot across the street; therefore, he is recommending that Ash Street parking be prohibited from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Kolb asked this item to be placed on the May agenda.

c. Police Chief's Report

- i. Staffing Updates – No report.
- ii. Case/Response Update – All reports included in the packet. Schauf said that the department is busy. He said that they are seeing a significant increase in iCAC, which is Internet Crimes Against Children. He said that every tip is investigated, which takes a lot of time, but also having luck getting some prosecutions. He said the department is up from last year in traffic enforcement areas. Schauf said that the department is still seeing an influx of mental health cases and is working with Social Services to find some different resolutions, doing that within the best interests of not only the police department, but also the people and the taxpayer's dollars. Schauf said that the department is actively dealing with several absent landlords issues. The special permit application for Memorial Day was then discussed.
- iii. PFC Meeting – Schauf said that at the PFC meeting Rob Sinden was appointed as that acting chief, effective May 7.

d. Fire Chief's Report

- i. Monthly Incident Report – Report was included in Council packet. He said that calls are up about 16% from last year.
- ii. Fire & EMS Facility Design Update – Stieve said that the Consolidation Committee has met once and will be meeting again next week. He said that they are working on the intergovernmental agreements. He said that they met with the projected chosen firm for the Fire/EMS building last Thursday.
- iii. Staffing updates – No update.

AJOURNMENT – It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Ellington to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Kolb, Chairman