Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Cris Balamaci called the meeting of the Board of Apportionment & Taxation Special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Cris Balamaci-Present  
John Belden- Excused  
Joseph Knapik- Present  
Louis Dagostine- Present  
Karen Battistelli- Present  
Adam Heller- Excused

New Business

a) Request from Parks & Recreation to Transfer $18,000 from Regular Payroll to Outside Services and Transfer $75,000 from Regular Payroll to Part-Time Payroll

Karen Battistelli MOVED to approve the request from Parks & Recreation to Transfer $18,000 from Regular Payroll (001-1000-622.10-01) to Outside Services (001-1000-622.30-01), SECONDED by Lou Dagostine. 3 were in favor (Cris Balamaci, Lou Dagostine, Karen Battistelli), 1 abstained (Joseph Knapik), MOTION CARRIED.

Ron Herrick – Director of Parks and Recreation

Discussion:

Ron Herrick: Just, as a department head, I am coming a little bit early for one of mine [transfers], but I figure I would do it now before you get into your budget time, because I know that I am going to be short.

Karen Battistelli: Our budgets are in the Spring, so that will be a very busy time for us.

Ron Herrick: Yes, so why wait.
Chairperson Balamaci: So, the item on the agenda tonight is from Parks and Recreation about some payroll transfers, so would you like to explain yourself?

Ron Herrick: Ok, they are both from Regular Payroll, and the first one is Outside Services for $18,000. That account covers a broad amount of areas, but the reason this year more is expended is because there was resurfacing done in many areas, which needed to be done, and I volunteered to pay for it. It is the Community Center parking lot, the Sunnyside Basketball court, so rather than wait for Public Works, I did that, and it was an expense of $7,700. And, the other reason why, this year, and it is tied in with the second item, we went to outside vendors in areas of grass cutting and trimming of 3 sites in town because we just couldn’t keep up. So, that is Outside Services, and it is more than we have done in the past.

Cris Balamaci: And that was a bid, right?

Ron Herrick: Those were quotes with 3 different vendors with 3 different quotes. It worked out well, because at each different site, each different vendor was lower than the other, so it was pretty simple. It was the Police Station Perry Hill School, EMS, and the High School Baseball Field, so really from June to a few weeks ago, they have been cutting these areas.

Joseph Knapik: So, the $18,000 that you request applies to the 3 places that are mentioned?

Ron Herrick: That’s a couple of reasons that I am above and beyond. Obviously, we are only a couple of months into the year, so I know I am going to need irrigation work. We will be shutting everything off in a couple of weeks, and in comes Spring time again, the outside vendors.

Joseph Knapik: So there are other things that you are going to do that are not listed in the official request?

Ron Herrick: No, we are going to continue to do what we always do, and do how we have to do it, and to do that I’ve had to use more Outside Services than I have had in the past.

Joseph Knapik: When you say repair asphalt at the Community Center parking lot, Sunnyside and Riverview Basketball courts....

Ron Herrick: That was a one-time expenditure that we have never done before. It was unexpected, and I said go ahead, let’s get it done and I will do it. It got done.

Joseph Knapik: Those are 3 places, and as I read for $18,000, but you are talking about more.
Ron Herrick: No, that is just showing you where some of the money has went. Outside Services, you can look at my budget, there are many things covered in this, such as tree work, irrigation work, but I am showing you why it went quicker than it normally does.

Cris Balamaci: So, basically, the rationale is the quotes you got were higher than anticipated when we did the budget?

Ron Herrick: They were not even anticipated at all. And, again, how many trees came down during the storm at Riverview Park? We need to take care of it.

Joseph Knapik: But, you mentioned unanticipated expenses, and in this case, I think that is a key word, but I am disappointed in that all of the $18,000 requested isn’t accounted for, only the examples given.

Ron Herrick: It is accounted for in my budget.

Joseph Knapik: We don’t know this.

Ron Herrick: Well, you can go through my budget. I am just showing you why I need the money because made unanticipated expenditures. Vendors, asphalt work. That is why I am going to be $18,000 short.

Cris Balamaci: I think he has made it clear, Joe.

Ron Herrick: I don’t know what you don’t understand.

Joseph Knapik: When you come and request money, you need to say what the money is for. You cite 3 examples, but there are more.

Ron Herrick: There are several.

Joseph Knapik: What are they?

Ron Herrick: Grass cutting, tree work, irrigation, lighting; it could be anything. It’s outside services.

Joseph Knapik: Why doesn’t it say that on the request?

Ron Herrick: I don’t know what is going to happen. I don’t want to give you something that may not occur.

Cris Balamaci: These are things that already occurred.

Ron Herrick: And that is why there is going to be a short-fall.

Joseph Knapik: And that is for the $18,000. Things that already have occurred.
Ron Herrick: I have used my budget. It is totally gone. So, this $18,000 should get me through. And the reason that it is gone, I gave you 2 exact examples right there.

Cris Balamaci: Ok, thanks, Ron. Does somebody want to recite the numbers for the motion.

Joseph Knapik: I will abstain from the vote due to the incompleteness of the request.

Karen Battistelli MOVED to approve the request from Parks & Recreation to Transfer $75,000 from Regular Payroll (001-1000-622.10-01) to Part-Time Payroll (001-1000-622.10-02), SECONDED by Lou Dagostine. 3 were in favor (Cris Balamaci, Lou Dagostine, Karen Battistelli), 1 abstained (Joseph Knapik), MOTION CARRIED.

Ron Herrick – Director of Parks and Recreation

Discussion:

Ron Herrick: The second one is Regular Payroll to Part-Time Payroll. I have 5 open full-time positions, so I have had to use part-time people to do the work. And, that is the reason.

Cris Balamaci: 6 part-timers, right.

Ron Herrick: Yes, I have 6 part-timers who, for the most part, work 29 hours per week, some what limited.

Lou Dagostine: Any plans to hire full-time?

Ron Herrick: We have a meeting November 10 [2016] to discuss that. We are hopeful. I have 1 that had a stroke, and it would be a year in November, so I don’t know what is going to happen with that. I have 1 transfer, and 2 retire, and 1 position wasn’t filled.

Cris Balamaci: So, are you going to ask for 5 FTE’s?

Ron Herrick: Well, we are going to give the test so we can get a certified list. The test hasn’t been given yet, so that is the first step, so we will hope to get the list. And, hopefully some of the people we have part-time will take the test. Some have been with us for 2-3 years part-time, so hopefully they will take it and get elevated.

Joseph Knapik: Wouldn’t it have been possible for you to anticipate this situation?

Ron Herrick: That is why I am coming now, rather than the end of the year. I am anticipated it will happen with all of those part-timers.

Joseph Knapik: But, I would think, rather than make the request, you would have, before making the request, anticipated that there would be a problem. Now, there’s a problem, and you are coming before the Board of A&T asking us to provide money...
Ron Herrick: Can I ask how you anticipate that? I don’t think you understand the issue, or I am not following you. How do you anticipate that, when I make a budget with full-time employees that is approved, but then they are not hired, and I have to hire part-time. I have to keep the accounts separate, I can’t pay the part-timers out of the full.

Cris Balamaci: Right, so essentially it is the same dollars, it is just that they’re in different buckets, but really it is being moved around. I just have one question before we recite the transfer, so the expenditures were $91,222 on the Regular Payroll. But, you are asking for $93,000?

Ron Herrick: I am asking for $75,000.

Cris Balamaci: That’s right, I’m sorry. The other one is for Outside Services. Never mind. Perfect.

Joseph Knapik: But, couldn’t you anticipate the need for part-time employees when you did your budget, rather than at a later date?

Ron Herrick: My Commission did the budget, and they filled the full-time. We always put the full-time in because we are hopeful they get hired. You can’t take them out. It is union positions. So, that’s the way we need to do it. So, rather than inflate my budget by putting in those positions, as well as 6 part-time, that doesn’t make sense.

Karen Battistelli: I agree. That wouldn’t fly.

Joseph Knapik: So, this –

Ron Herrick: So, that is how I anticipate it. I come very early to you, because I know this is going to happen.

Joseph Knapik: I really think this should have been done before hand.

Ron Herrick: I really can’t.

Joseph Knapik: To make a comment here, when you go from full-time to part-time, does this result and benefit denials –

Ron Herrick: Part-timers do not get benefits.

Joseph Knapik: I know, but if you did not create a part-time employee, would the people who did jobs full-time accrue benefits, which now, benefits won’t be accrued, because they are going to part-time. So, I would just observe that there is a denial of benefits here.

Ron Herrick: Right, it is a large savings to the City [of Shelton].
Cris Balamaci: Let’s hope November 10 [2016] is a good meeting, present well and do your business justification, and see what happens with the Mayor and such. Would you like to read the motion, Karen?

Karen Battistelli: Sure.

Cris Balamaci: Any more debate?

Joseph Knapik: No debate, I would just have thought that any situation that has occurred would have been foreseen when the budget was originally planned, so again on this vote I will abstain.

Lou Dagostine: Thank you for coming before the Board of [A&T] Ron.

Lou Dagostine: Just for the record, Mr. Herrick came here, his accounts had a negative balance, and looking through the run-offs, which we have not been provided in months, there are multiple departments with negative balances. That is my concern, Ron [Herrick] came, but if we are supposed to see what was going on, it concerns me that we are 4 months in and we have negative balances. So, transfers need to be made, and should be enforced.

Adjournment

Karen Battistelli MOVED to adjourn the Special Board of Apportionment and Taxation meeting, SECONDED by Joseph Knapik at 8:15. All in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas Twigg

Nicholas Twigg

Clerk

1 tape on file in City Clerk’s office