



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT
FINANCE COMMITTEE – APRIL 29, 2008

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Alderman Stanley Kudej, Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call - Finance Committee

Alderman Stanley Kudej, Chairman, present
Aldermanic President John F. Anglace, Jr. - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – present

1. Approval of Minutes

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of February 27, 2008; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

2. Adoption of Tax Collector's Suspense List

Debbie Onderko, Tax Collector, was present.

Alderman Kudej asked Ms. Onderko to explain the problem with the tax refunds that Bridgeport is requiring. He asked, we collected the taxes and Bridgeport is making us return them?

Ms. Onderko explained, Bridgeport has hired a tax fraud company that goes into the streets of Bridgeport photographing cars parked in front of houses and apartments. With access to DMV's computers, they are finding that these people live in Bridgeport with vehicles registered in Shelton. They are adding the vehicles to Bridgeport's list and making them pay Bridgeport, then Shelton has to refund what they've paid us for the past four years. It's about \$1,000 per person, and there have been about 10 people.

The people are claiming that they lived in Shelton, but they can't prove it, because they might have been living with a family member, so none of the bills are in their names. We don't pay Bridgeport – they have to pay Bridgeport. The resident has to pay all the tax and all the interest to Bridgeport, and then they bring their records from Bridgeport to the Assessor's Office and say, "I paid Bridgeport," and the Assessor has to write them off. We are giving the money directly back to the taxpayer; we have to. You are supposed to pay where the vehicle is garaged – but that is a debate going back and forth with DMV. Bridgeport is claiming that they live in Bridgeport and have the vehicles registered in Shelton. These people are claiming to us that they live here. They can't prove that they live here because they have no utility bill to prove residency.

Alderman Simonetti stated, just like the school kids, we want them to show that they live here.

Alderman Anglace stated, the car is registered here. They paid their taxes here. Bridgeport claims they have to pay Bridgeport, so the people get scared, come in and tell the Assessor, and the Assessor gives a form to take them off of our tax records and say that it should be Bridgeport. Then we have to refund everything they paid us.

Alderman Anglace stated, I'm thinking there is more to this. I'm thinking that if somebody registered their car in Shelton and they lived in Bridgeport, there must be a reason for doing it. They probably have their kids going to our schools. I would like to bring Counsel in to look at this, because if they have kids that were in our schools at that time, then we should go back and bill Bridgeport for the cost of educating Bridgeport's children in Shelton's schools.

Alderman Anglace asked that the Clerk send a copy of these minutes to Corporation Counsel Welch to review this situation.

Ms. Onderko stated that we are hearing the opposite, we are hearing that they actually live here and are visiting in Bridgeport.

No action.

3. May Statutory Refunds

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to recommend to the full Board that the report of the Tax Collector relative to the refund of taxes for a total amount of \$3,304.18 be approved and that the Finance Director be directed to make payments in accordance with the certified list received from the Tax Collector with funds to come from the Statutory Refunds Account 001-0000-311.13-00; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

4. Appropriation of Funds for Tractor Loader Mower with Mid-Mount Mower

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to recommend to the Full Board to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$28,144.20 for the purchase of a tractor loader mower with mid-mount mower with funding to be provided by bonding, pursuant to Section 7.1.6 of the City Charter subject to the award of the bid by Apportionment and Taxation; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace.

Dean Cawthra explained that it is a 74-inch Massey Ferguson mower, with a 30-60 day delivery period, and is compatible with all of our attachments except for one, and all of our other things go on this machine as well.

Alderman Anglace stated, this went out to bid and Apportionment and Taxation found that Preston's Garage was the qualified bidder.

Martinka & Sons was lowest, but not lowest qualified, as they did not meet the specifications, although they made some interesting comments. Martinka indicated in his comments that he felt that a lesser product would be suitable. It is clear that Martinka did not meet City specs.

G & H Equipment's bid was higher than Preston's.

Alderman Kudej stated, I don't think the Board of Apportionment and Taxation awarded the bid to Preston as yet.

Purchasing Agent Gene Sullivan confirmed that Apportionment and Taxation had opened the bids, but had not yet received a recommendation from the department head to award the bid. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation is waiting for a recommendation from the department head in order to award the bid. Someone has to sign it, and a funding source has to be determined.

Both Apportionment and Taxation and the Board of Aldermen will meet on May 8th.

Alderman Anglace noted that it will be funded through bonding.

Alderman Anglace MOVED TO AMEND the motion to include: "Subject to the award of the bid by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation"; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the AMENDMENT PASSED 3-0.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED, 3-0.

4. Request by Shelton Volunteer Fire Company #4 Pine Rock Park to Use Land to Construct a 26 x 28-foot Building at 722 Long Hill Avenue

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to recommend to the Full Board to authorize the use of land for a 26 x 28 foot building to be constructed behind the Shelton Volunteer Fire Company #4 Pine Rock Park at 722 Long Hill Avenue for the purpose of housing an antique fire engine and to provide additional storage of firefighting equipment; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace.

Justin Sabatino of Pine Rock Park Fire Company answered Alderman Simonetti's questions as follows. The property is behind the fire house. It will not interfere with the trucks going in and out of the firehouse. 722 Long Hill Avenue is the address of the firehouse and is city property. The building is 28 x 26 and big enough to hold a good-sized fire truck. The truck that will be stored there is a 1937. It is a steel building that was purchased by the firehouse. It will have a cement floor. A contractor will donate the foundation, site work and electrical. We are working on getting the building up. For heat solutions we would like to have something green – some kind of grant

for it – maybe a waste oil burner or something like that. The building only has to be kept at 40 degrees. The firemen will put it together.

Alderman Simonetti asked to be called when the building is going up so that he can help.

Alderman Anglace stated, the building will be donated to the City so that the City can insure it. The department will have life use of it. Planning and Zoning has approved it.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

6. Over Expenditure by the Management Information Systems Department

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to recommend to the Full Board to approve the over expenditure of Account #001-5200-412.65-16 by the Management Information Systems Department; SECONDED by Alderman Anglace.

Finance Director Lou Marusic and Assistant Finance Director Sharon Scanlon are present.

Mr. Marusic explained that it is Management Information Services – Computer Hardware/Software account #001-5200-412.65-16.

Ms. Scanlon provided a list of the costs incurred to date for computer enhancements in the various departments that have used the MIS services. These are labor costs for one company, two employees. They have space in City hall, and bill us only when somebody calls for their service.

Alderman Simonetti asked why the Fire Department was the largest account.

Ms. Scanlon explained that it's all the firehouses, and the Commissioners – about six offices with a lot of different users on the computers.

The Police Department is the least amount because they have a full time dedicated IT person on staff for their police computer software and hardware.

Mr. Marusic noted that ADP is offsite, KBS is offsite. The critical departments are covered.

Ms. Scanlon stated, the \$8,000 was for the initiation of some new ADP services – Enterprise E-Time. She explained the details and the fact that a new server was not factored into the cost by the previous acting purchasing agent, resulting in another unanticipated cost.

Mr. Marusic stated, the expenditure to date is \$65,419 and we're looking for an approval for over expenditure.

Mayor Lauretti stated, we've got two months left in the year, and you've got to be able to reasonably hone in on a number – it can't be open ended.

Ms. Scanlon estimated \$20,000 at the most for whatever IT services are needed. They are here every day, but they only bill for when they are actually on call and working. I spend roughly \$3,000 every two weeks.

Mayor Lauretti stated that he would like to see the invoices for the last eight or nine months.

Alderman Simonetti noted that his IT person charges \$65 an hour, but he's there 4-5 hours a month, and he only has five computers, all hooked up to one server. There is a lot of upkeep and maintenance.

Mr. Marusic noted that there have been a lot of network problems with KBS this year, and wide area network problems.

Mayor Lauretti stated, I would like you to take no action on this tonight and I will make a recommendation at the next board meeting.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:10 p.m. Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn;
SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the
MOTION PASSED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder
Clerk, Board of Aldermen