

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL/INSURANCE

April 9, 1996

5:15 PM

Chairman Reiniger called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Ald. Reiniger, Domainque, Cashin, Hirschmann

ABSENT: Ald. Robert

MESSRS.: R. Girard, H. Ntapalis

Chairman Reiniger addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Request of Mayor Wieczorek for comparison of Health Trust's quotation versus current employee benefit proposals.

Chairman Reiniger inquired if those members present were ready to vote on the issue before them.

Ald. Cashin moved that they stay as is and to let it die if there was no second.

Ald. Hirschmann commented that it was a big decision.

A brief discussion ensued relative to the Committee meeting prior to next Tuesday's Board meeting with Clerk Bernier indicating a meeting could be held April 15th.

Clerk Bernier indicated that Ald. Robert had a difficult time in attending meetings prior to 6:30 PM.

Ald. Cashin stated even if Ald. Robert were to attend another meeting noted Ald. Robert had not had the opportunity to listen to all the testimony presented this evening and he would be asked to vote on something he was not present at and what would he base his decision on and wouldn't Ald. Robert be placed in a very difficult decision.

Chairman Reiniger stated the Clerk had advised the Committee could meet on April 15th.

Clerk Bernier noted the committee would then be able to present a report of the Committee to the Board, if available.

Ald. Domaingue asked if she could ask one more question which could probably help move the process along for everyone. Ald. Domaingue in addressing Mr. Girard stated the Mayor in his presentation talked about his reason for wanting to see this proposal be considered and one of the reasons had to do with the cost increase and what the Committee had heard tonight was that, in fact, the present plan, the present arrangement was not a cost increase but was a slight decrease from the New Hampshire Municipal Association; that given that information asked if the Mayor would be more inclined to advise the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to stay with a lower cost than he would with a higher cost.

Mr. Girard replied with all due respect, Ald. Domaingue, if that were the Mayor's inclination he would have advised the Board of such and not ask the Committee to consider this he thought the Mayor's feeling were that \$8,600 in a \$10.1 million line item was a statistical dead heat and he wanted the Committee to take a further look at it, to look at future avenues that he didn't have the opportunity to investigate and report back; that if the Mayor had had a recommendation noted the Mayor would have gotten it.

Ald. Domaingue stated what she was hearing then was that the Committee was asked to consider adopting an increase of \$8,600 with a potential that down the road they could better the City's position and actually see a larger cost decrease but, in fact, they could do it anyway and still take the lower plan and asked is that not true.

Mr. Girard replied what you say is possible but, again, because of the time frame the Mayor had in preparing the budget he was not asking them to consider a plan that was \$8,600 higher or lower than anything else, but the Mayor just wanted the Committee to know that he did not have the opportunity to explore as the Committee members did here this evening; that all of the future possibilities and possible ramifications of staying where the City was or moving in a different direction; that the Mayor was not asking the Committee to consider something that was \$8,600 more expensive, but the Mayor was saying there were a lot of questions which needed to be answered and he did not have the time nor the sense of the Board to see what direction they wanted to go in.

Ald. Domaingue duly seconded the motion made by Ald. Cashin, if he would allow a friendly amendment; that amendment being that the Committee continue to consider a total reduction in the health insurance costs.

Ald. Cashin replied he had no problem with that.

Ald. Hirschmann stated he was thinking along the lines that because it was such an important issue and a big issue noted the entire Finance Committee would meet on April 15th and asked why the Committee couldn't table this item at this time so that the Finance Committee and all the Aldermen could hear this as the Committee consisted of only a few Aldermen who would be choosing the path for the whole City; that last night there had been a Finance Committee meeting scheduled and had called a Special Board meeting to address the CenterPlex issue and asked if the Committee wanted to take the recommendation and refer it to the full Board with the recommendation.

Ald. Cashin stated the only thing the Committee could do was to make a recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Girard interjected as a parliamentary matter, Ald. Hirschmann, his recommendation would have to go to the Board, it could not go to the Committee on Finance, but if the Board chose, it could be referred to the Committee on Finance but his vote here was not definitive; that the Committee did not decided where the City stayed or went forward from where it was; that the Committee merely noted it had taken a look at the issue, give their opinion as to what they feel the Board ought to do and would then become an item for discussion at the Board at that time.

Ald. Hirschmann stated to be fair, let their motion to forward, but to be fair to the full Board felt it was his duty to put together a minority report stating that the other company had the potential to unfragment the City's risk pool and give the City an alternative so that the full Board had something else to consider.

Chairman Reiniger called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Ald. Hirschmann recorded in opposition wishing to submit a minority report.

There being no further business to come before the Committee on Personnel/Insurance, on motion of Ald. Cashin, duly seconded by Ald. Domainque, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Leo R. Beemer
Clerk of Committee

