

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

January 18, 2000

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Messrs.: Kevin Clougherty, Chief Driscoll, Robert MacKenzie, Howard Tawney

Mayor Baines addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from the Human Resources Director requesting funds for an additional 20 hours for Pinkerton Security Guard on behalf of the Library Director.

Alderman Shea moved to approve funding as requested. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Wihby asked is it coming out of Contingency.

Mr. Clougherty replied that is where it would come from if the Board votes for it; that there is an approximate \$300,000 balance there, so there's sufficient funds to cover it.

Alderman Levasseur stated this should go through Committee first.

Mayor Baines asked for clarification from the Clerk.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the motion could be withdrawn or he could amend the motion, but it would be difficult to approve and send it to a committee at the same time and would like to clarify that that approval is constituting a transfer of \$6,652.80 because that is what's being requested.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I'm not afraid about this year, but next year the budget get ratcheted up \$272.00 a week, so if you're going to start working on the Library's budget you're going to be increasing their budget for this item; that this is a contract manpower, more of an administrative service we're ordering, I don't know if it's Personnel or the Administration Committees that should be taking up these issues of hiring Pinkerton Guards.

Alderman Lopez stated our major concern was that we take a good look at it and if the Administrative Committee could look at it, fine, but if this is an emergency or safety issue, I can see it. I don't think it's been a process that any committee has looked at this, is this an overreaction to something. We have a local fine Police Department and I'm sure if there's an incident they'll be there in two seconds. So, I would like to know some of the situations and circumstances and maybe the plastic caught fire itself, but I think we're overreacting by hiring Pinkerton men all over the place.

Alderman Wihby asked does the Chief have anything to say about this in reference to what Alderman Lopez had to say.

Chief Driscoll stated I spoke today with John Brisbin relative to the on-going problems at the Library. The Library did make a significant step some time ago when they got a security guard that works specifically for them - full-time responsibilities - but, continue to be on-going problems. I would certainly support this action.

Alderman Pinard stated being the Chairman of the Fire Prevention Committee this was an arson job at the Library. I'm very concerned also being a member of CrimeLine and we do have to pay the tips on this stuff. You're talking about a building that is worth an awful lot of money and if it's an arsonist that did it and the Police Department is there, I think we should go to the request of the Director of the Library.

Alderman Cashin stated I really feel that this is an emergency. John Brisbin was here earlier and told you that he had windows shot out with BB guns on the east side of the building today, I guess. You've got millions of dollars in manuscripts in the building itself which are irreplaceable. For \$6,000 I would recommend that we find the money out of Contingency, we fund this position, at least now and we can look into it later if you want to.

Alderman Pariseau asked how much is the balance in the Salary Adjustment account rather than Contingency.

Mr. Clougherty replied my last talk with Howard is that there's not a lot in there, it's mainly been applied as a result of the last contract, is that right, Howard.

Mr. Tawney replied yes, we still have one contract outstanding and to spend that down...I would hope that we would not spend it until we know where the total costs are.

Mr. Clougherty stated I would rather see Contingency rather than that account, I think that's more appropriate.

Alderman Thibault asked will John Brisbin put this in his budget for next year.

Mayor Baines replied I'm sure he will and this will give us an opportunity to review that.

Alderman Wihby in reference to the motion asked is it to come out of Contingency.

Mayor Baines replied we could have Alderman Shea make that a part of his motion.

Alderman Shea so moved to approve the request and that the funds come out of Contingency. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Baines addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. CIP Budget Authorizations:

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| 1999 | 610899 | Webster House Renovations - Revision #1 |
| 2000 | 710300 | LED Replacement Program - Revision #2 |
| 2000 | 760500 | CSO Abatement Projects - Revision #1 |

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted that the CIP budget authorizations be approved, subject to final adoption of related resolutions.

Mayor Baines addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Resolutions:

"Amending the 1999 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) for the 1999 CIP# 610899 Webster House Renovations Program."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for the 2000 CIP Project 710300 LED Replacement Program."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) in line item 0903 (Contingency) be transferred to the Alternative School Committee."

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Wihby, it was voted that the Resolutions be read by titles only, and it was so done.

Alderman Hirschmann asked could someone tell us what the Alternative School Committee is, is it another School Committee.

Mr. Clougherty stated as a result of the deficit discussions we had with School a couple of years ago there was a discussion about perhaps developing an Alternative School concept and there was a Committee that was set up for that that's made up of, I believe, staff primarily to be able to engage people to go out and look at that and it's made up of both the School representatives as well as the City's side. I can't tell you the exact membership, but I know that's what the purpose was for and what they're trying to achieve now is get better information as that alternative plan is starting to surface again and get it moved forward.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that should have been funded out of their hundred million dollars that they were given to operate this year, your Honor.

Mr. Clougherty replied it's a CIP item, it enjoys both City as well as School commitment. I'd be happy to take a look at an alternative to funding it other than Contingency, but right now that is what's available.

Alderman Shea stated I attended a ceremony at the YMCA recently and I believe that they have that program at the Hillside Jr. High School. There was a young lady that spoke about that and I certainly think we should try to help all segments both those that are alternative schools as well as talented and gifted children.

Alderman Sysyn moved that the Resolutions ought to pass and be enrolled. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just question the Webster House Renovation Program. This was already voted on last year and asked is that a State project or a City project.

Alderman Thibault stated I forget the exact amount of money last year. It's a one time donation.

Mr. MacKenzie stated in that case the Board did authorize a private non-profit corporation to assist with a public service. This is coming back now because ultimately we were planning on using federal funds but they had moved ahead with bid procedures that were not consistent with the federal guidelines. So, ultimately they came back and looked for alternative sources. We did ultimately find one that could be used for housing, so that would be used as a direct grant to the Webster House.

Alderman Levasseur asked the federal government is going to reimburse us for this.

Mr. MacKenzie replied no. This is actually monies that came out of what was called a HODAG project being repaid to the City from the Eastgate Apartments. Those are the funds that we had identified that could be used toward this. They're not property tax monies, if that was the question.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Levasseur, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee