



**CITY OF WAUWATOSA**  
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## **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Committee Room #2

**PRESENT:** Aids. Ewerdt, Jay, Organ, Wilke, Berdan, Krol, Walsh - 7

**EXCUSED:** Ald. Donegan

**ALSO PRESENT:** J. Archambo, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Attorney, R. Braier, Finance Dir.;  
W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; B. Wehrley, City Engineer,  
J. Bembenek, Purchasing Manager

Ald. Ewerdt as Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

### **Communication from the Purchasing Manager and the Information Systems Manager regarding wireless phase II implementation**

The committee reviewed a memo from the Purchasing Manager and the Information Systems Manager regarding phase II implementation of the wireless network.

Mr. Bembenek reviewed with the committee the process used for Phase I implementation using Baycom, Inc. as the vendor. Numerous funding sources were used including a Homeland Security Grant. With the Phase I project installed, the city now has high speed wireless links for video surveillance of four water utility facilities. Additional wireless points are installed at the Police Department, City Hall and the Public Works building.

Mr. Bembenek reported that since the wireless project was initiated two years ago there has been a \$30,000 reduction in costs from the elimination of a courier service which was used to transfer tapes from city hall and the police department. A disaster recovery contract with a software vendor was also able to be eliminated. Over \$93,000 has been gained in revenue by renting the tower at City Hall to Cricket Communications. The Phase I project effectively paid for itself in less than three years and the city will continue to receive rental income from Cricket Communications.

Mr. Bembenek said the next phase will include wireless access points between city buildings and pumping stations. T-1 lines will be eliminated and by this elimination an additional \$19,000 will be saved annually. Mr. Bembenek reported that with the annual savings of the T-1 lines, Phase II will pay for itself in less than five years.

Ald. Walsh asked when the support contract for the T-1 lines will end. Mr. Archambo responded that it goes through April 2011 although the Information Technology department wants to keep it for redundancy to ensure it works efficiently. Disaster recovery and business continuity will be included.

When asked by the committee Mr. Bembenek reported that for continuity reasons they are recommending waiving the normal bidding procedure and award the Phase II project to Baycom, Inc. who have been very reliable.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Walsh to

recommend approval to waive the normal bidding procedure and award the bid to Baycom, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$92,067.20 – Ayes: 7

### **Update on sanitary sewer study areas and beginning discussion of service levels**

The committee reviewed a memo from the City Engineer regarding an update on the sanitary sewer study areas. Mr. Wehrley updated the committee on the preliminary results of some of the sewer study areas that have been completed. These areas include two spots where flows exceeded the limits by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District (MMSD) and areas where there were large amounts of basement backups. Mr. Wehrley suggested the committee begin discussion as to the level of service the city wishes to provide our residents for sanitary sewer service and how do we get there.

The map included in the committee packet shows the areas studied and an estimated amount to do the work. A level of service needs to be determined as providing a higher level of service generally corresponds with more expensive projects. Mr. Wehrley reminded the committee that these areas only cover a portion of the city.

Mr. Wehrley said as the condition reports are coming in, the condition of the sewer is generally not the problem. The fact is that there is more water coming in than the pipe can convey away from the homes. He said there are options for the committee to review and begin discussions.

1. Proceed with design and construction of improvements as shown on the attached map.
2. Design a lesser system at a reduced level of service to our residents.
3. Look for alternative means to reduce the amount of clear water entering the sewers which will likely include doing work on private property.
4. A combination of numbers 1 and 3.
5. Do nothing.

Mr. Wehrley discussed the rain events of June 2008 and June 2009 which were considered a one- hundred year rain event. He said it could be simply stated that the rain events were greater than the level of service we provide to our customers. It would be up to the residents to protect their homes in this instance.

The City Engineer said another approach would be to do something with the basement backups. This could include going into homes and installing back water valves to prevent city sewage from backing up into homes. Putting in bigger pipes to convey water away from homes was discussed. Mr. Wehrley made it very clear that with all of these solutions there is no guarantee that there will not be backups.

Mr. Wehrley reported that if the city were to fund the cost of back water valves in affected areas it could cost from one to two million dollars. He said if the city were to install larger pipes in the street, the costs could be from five to seven million dollars and reminded the committee that this would only address the graphic areas shown on the map.

Ald. Ewerdt inquired about the map area WA3007 (around Ruby Avenue) which was heavily hit in 2008 and 2009. He asked Mr. Wehrley to discuss the pump that was put in that area and wondered if that has helped. Mr. Wehrley said the bypass pump station was put in but could only be used on manual mode. There is a violation if this is by-passed and it is illegal. Mr. Wehrley said that following the June 2009 event they appealed to DNR for some relief in this area and the city was allowed to raise the floats up and the bypass is on automatic operation. The pumps are not sufficient to alleviate the problem, though it has helped.

Ald. Walsh reminded the committee about a meeting that was held in June 2008 with the residents affected in the Ruby area. The residents reported that the June 2008 and June 2009 flooding didn't do as much damage compared to 1997, but the rain events were less. In the recent rains some residents reported water coming in through their windows because the pumps couldn't keep up and they could see a wall of water coming from the cemetery. Ald. Walsh asked if this work is going to provide that area some relief. Mr. Wehrley said the first phase design in that area will be bid out with the sanitary sewer plans. He said a very large storm sewer is being put down Ruby Avenue to attempt to reduce some yard flooding. Mr. Wehrley said the design work is almost complete. The construction work is scheduled for this year.

Whatever action this committee and the city council decide on regarding what level of service they want to provide, could determine what is currently being planned for the Ruby Avenue design underway.

Ald. Organ discussed the third option. She asked how much has been done to try and disconnect sump pumps or roof drains that are illegally connected to the system. Mr. Wehrley said that we are just in the discussion stage. He reported that there are a lot of homes with foundation drains. If these foundation drains were disconnected and sump pumps were installed enough clear water could be removed from the system to make a difference. Mr. Wehrley said that maybe spending money on private property would reduce the need for larger sewer pipes. He said there are no clear easy answers.

The committee discussed the back water flow valve preventer and asked if it is frowned upon. Mr. Kappel reported that some states require it. Wisconsin has not adopted that code. Mr. Kappel said in some sewer districts it is required to have a sump pump if a back water valve is installed. MMSD has earmarked some funds for private properties. The City of Wauwatosa's share is \$64,000 for infiltration and inflow. The full details are not yet known.

Ald. Wilke wondered if the residents can be updated in the Ruby Avenue area. Mr. Wehrley said yes once it is determined what level the city wants to provide. Mr. Wehrley said the preferred route is that the council makes a decision before the work on Ruby Avenue gets started.

In answer to a question Mr. Kappel responded that for homes with drains to convert to sump pumps and back flow valves could cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each.

Ald. Ewerdt thought it would be a little overzealous to increase pipe sizes in the studied areas because of the cost. He didn't know if spending that much money on pipes alone would be the cure all. The committee discussed the possibility of doing a combination of both larger sewer pipes and the installation of sump pumps.

The committee decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting on March 9th. They questioned how much the clear water reduction costs would be. Mr. Kappel said the city does not know how many properties have sump pumps, so it would have to be in general terms. Ald. Walsh asked that a recommendation be made by staff with cost estimates and note where the funding would come from. Committee members felt that a public hearing or a Committee of the Whole meeting may be necessary to hear from the public. Ald. Jay asked if some language could be drafted for an ordinance mandating disconnection of foundation drains when a property is sold.

### **Annual renewal of construction inspection services**

The committee reviewed the memo from the City Engineer regarding a contract extension for inspection services with Graef-USA.

Mr. Wehrley advised that the city gets a price break from the standard bill out rates which were enclosed in the weekly packet. He responded to a question that the city is satisfied with the services provided. He said that

Graef's inspection management has been consistent for the last several years and they know what the city expects from them.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Walsh  
to convene into closed session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e):  
Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties,  
the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified  
public business, whenever competitive bargaining reasons  
require a closed session, and may reconvene into open session - 7

The committee reconvened into open session at 9:40 p.m.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Organ to  
recommend approval of the 2010 rates as proposed and  
to continue the existing working relationship with  
Graef-USA for inspection services and to extend the  
contract for an additional year at a zero percent increase  
over 2009 rates - 7

**Vouchers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Reason and location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Jack Morrison	Police	Death Notification Seminar - Waunakee	2/12/10	44.00
Curtis Hill	Engineering	Surveyor's Conference - WI Dells	02/03 - 02/05/10	660.55
David Cefalu	Police	Search Warrants and Probable Cause - Oak Creek	02/08 - 02/09/10	71.70
Paula Roberson	Police	Search Warrants and Probable Cause - Oak Creek	02/08 - 02/09/10	68.79
Chad Geiszler	Police	Milwaukee	1/4/10	44.40

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Jay  
that the vouchers be allowed and paid – Ayes: 7

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
City of Wauwatosa

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