



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

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CITIZENS ADVISORY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 21, 2004 – 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Albert, K. Barry, R. Deuel, F. DeFrain, C. Graupner, J. Kasdorf, M. Moylan Ald. Bruderle-Baran (ex officio, chair)

EXCUSED: R. Brotherhood, T. Brown, J. Engelhardt, N. Krebs

ABSENT: W. Seemann

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Director of Public Works; W. Wehrley, City Engineer; M. Mulroy, Library Director

Ald. Bruderle-Baran as Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. -7

Municipal Complex (Library) – Schedule G, page 17

Ms. Mulroy reported on the request for a radio frequency ID (RFID) system in 2006 (or possibly 2007) at an estimated cost of \$250,000. An RFID would be placed in every single item owned and loaned by the library. There are two suppliers of this technology right now, 3M and Checkpoint. The library currently uses 3M security strips, and 3M is the first to incorporate the RFID chip into the security strip. There is a potential for huge savings in staff time, and there also is a security element. This technology is widely used and will become even more widespread in the business world with Wal-Mart's requirement for use by all of their suppliers by 2008

Ms. Mulroy said that every item returned to the library is now handled no less than four times. For example, books returned via the night deposit slot pile up inside to the extent that staff members are paid to come in twice on Sundays to empty the area so that overflow doesn't inhibit use of the slot. Each item is removed from the floor and put on carts; then, as time permits, each one is opened and its bar code scanned. The backlog is enormous, but items are backdated so patrons are not charged overdue fees. The books are rough-sorted in the workroom, and then shelvees put them in absolute order for return to the shelves.

The RFID system is in place in the new Shorewood and Cudahy libraries, both opened within the last 15 months, and has yielded huge savings. Staff would no longer have to handle and open each book to check it in or out. Books would automatically be checked in when slid through a return slot on the counter or through the night deposit slot. On the checkout side, as many as three books at a time could be passed over a panel and checked out, also without opening and scanning every item. This would prevent repetitive motion injuries, allow for faster movement of incoming and outgoing materials, and should reduce the need for replacing staff. Self-checkout is also a possibility. Costs include temporary help to do initial tagging, redesign/replacement of the circulation desk, and a new night depository.

There are some civil liberties and personal security issues involved since RFID tags can be read from a distance of two feet by a portable scanner. Some libraries have used chips that decode everything but the bibliographic record so there is no chance of gaining any patron information without access to the computer system link.

Ms. Mulroy could not estimate yearly savings at this time but agreed that RFID costs might decrease as competition heats up and use becomes more widespread. Although books from other libraries would still have to be scanned, she felt that other libraries would eventually use RFID also. There would be some annual costs related to the number of new items acquired each year.

Additional Data on Paving Projects

Mr. Wehrley provided a table showing the average age of street segments paved in the last 10 years, which ranged from 27 to 32 years. Average ratings of streets that were paved dropped $\frac{3}{4}$ of point over that period. Another handout listed when work was last done on streets in the 2005 program. The time between first construction and resurfacing is about 41 years, and the average time before reconstruction is almost 79 years. The target has been 36 years and 72 years.

Public Works Projects – Schedule C (Cont'd.)

Drive Approaches and Sidewalk Repairs in connection with Street Reconstruction, page 10: Yearly variations in the cost of drive approach and sidewalk repairs are primarily due to more street resurfacing being done in a particular year.

Sanitary Sewers – MMSD & WPDES Permit Compliance, page 10: WPDES (Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System) compliance amounts relate to requirements imposed because the city bypassed sewage into storm sewers. We are one of four communities with separate permits that include a mandate to seek out and correct leaks, upgrade undersized pipes, and do whatever necessary to avoid bypassing again. The city plans to appeal some of the aggressive timetables in the permit. Also, MMSD may decide it is more cost effective for them to help communities fund these projects than to increase the size of the deep tunnel or treatment plant. Some money may be freed at the state level to help communities make repairs if the legislature determines that to be worthwhile. Mr. Wehrley reported that he serves on an MMSD committee that has had heated debate on this topic. Some communities that have spent millions on sealing up their systems are reluctant to fund repairs elsewhere. MMSD is meeting individually with all communities during July and August and will present rating scorecard information requested by the DNR, which is an arm of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Because the work is state mandated, it is eligible for funding outside of the \$3.5 million bonding cap and thereby does not effect annual funding for streets and other projects. Compliance is centered on locations where the bypassing occurred. Staff is looking at the least costly, most effective solutions to meet the mandates.

Sanitary Sewers, page 11: Costs shown here are primarily associated with the paving program. The 2005 costs are rough estimates after initial review; others are averages based on street footage and will be further refined.

Public Works Projects – Schedule D

Spot Improvements, Sealcoating, page 12: Spot improvements are minor repairs that are too large for our public works forces. Sealcoating funding has increased over the last several years as streets on which asphalt was placed over concrete have come due for sealcoating. Areas of the city addressed each year are shown on a supplemental map.

Sidewalks, Bridges, Street Lighting page 13: A walking survey of every sidewalk square is done on a 10-year rotation, which the courts have recognized as due diligence. Most sidewalk costs are assessed to property owners. Bridge repairs are scheduled as identified in a biennial inspection.

State Street ornamental lighting from 60th Street to 74th Street in 2006 would be funded by Tax Incremental Finance District #3, which includes the Reserve at Hawthorne Glen and River Parkway and is intended to revitalize the village area. Other street lighting amounts represent annual maintenance costs and cable replacement for areas that experience significant outages.

Traffic Signals, Miscellaneous Projects and Outside Designs, page 14: There is a staged program to replace old traffic controllers with solid-state equipment. Loop detectors would be installed beginning in 2009. Most of the outside designs are DOT-funded projects, for which consultants are able to prepare plans and specs more efficiently. In 2006, TIF funds in the amount of \$710,000 are designated for streetscaping along the State Street corridor from 60th to 74th.

Public Works Building, City Yard, Land Fill Site – Schedule E, page 15:

Construction of a salt storage facility is scheduled for 2005, something the DNR requires in connection with receiving a stormwater permit. It will provide better storage and allow purchases to be timed more economically. Gravel chips and topsoil for use by the water utility would be co-located within the facility. Also in 2005, a card key entry system is proposed to provide better security and a higher level of accountability. The water utility may be required to implement a security system based on Homeland Security issues. A better-secured facility could serve well as a garage for police squads. Since this item is funded by the General Fund, it will be discussed at executive review.

Parks – Schedule F, page 16

A card key entry system is also proposed here in 2005. Most other 2005 items are maintenance in nature.

Funding for Hart Park expansion in the amount of \$1,000,000 in 2005 is "to be determined" since the Finance Director is seeking additional information and some decisions are yet to be made. MMSD has been revising plans for their portion of work in this area, with final plans anticipated in September, award of bids thereafter, and start of construction in winter. They estimate 18-24 months of construction, which includes lowering, grading, removing soil, trees and some roads, restoring the parking lot, and creating the berms. Other infrastructure and amenities (with the exception of the bandshell) are all city costs, although some may be done under MMSD contracts. The city will probably not choose to spend anything in 2005. If the project goes to referendum, it would be for a total amount to be used over several years. If funded within the Capital Improvement Program, a non-lapsing account of some kind would likely be considered so that unspent funds from one year carry forward to the next. Estimated costs for amenities are rough numbers developed in 2000.

Mr. Albert said that two years ago this committee recommended increasing the annual bonding limit to \$5.25 million and also increasing the project limit by 50%, but only the project limitation was ultimately changed. He said he believes the city under-funds capital expenditures that he considers an investment for the future to protect property values and quality of life. He commented that increasing the limit doesn't mandate spending.

Moved by Mr. Albert, seconded by Ms. Barry to recommend increasing the annual bonding limit by 50% to \$5.25 million and to include \$1 million funding annually beginning no later than 2006 for Hart Park expansion –

The Chair explained that when that recommendation came to the Budget Committee two years ago, the city was under very strict budget constraints and some big projects such as the public works roof were being considered. She agreed with the need to invest in infrastructure but said that needs have to be balanced. She felt there should

be further community discussion about what residents want to see at Hart Park, and then the will of the people in terms of financing should be determined.

Mr. Kappel said that the Parks Board has discussed this issue and feels the community is not aware of just what is transpiring. They are uncertain if the conceptual plan should be final plan and would probably be involved in getting information out to the public. Ms. Barry recalled prior efforts by MMSD to elicit community comment on design, and Mr. Wehrley said those results were compiled as rough information.

Discussion on the impact of raising the bonding limit ensued. Unused borrowing capacity, as shown in Debit Service and General Obligation Debt 1997-2003, page 23, was referenced. It was noted that the city exercises fiscal constraint and has borrowed only 12% of what could be borrowed and retires as much debt as it takes on annually. The \$3.5 million cap is an internally imposed limit. Mr. Wehrley noted that with \$1,000,000 projected for Hart Park expansion this year, we are \$654,000 over the bonding limit. We would have to eliminate that amount of spending to balance the budget, which could be achieved by reducing Hart Park expansion funding. Mr. Albert advocated raising the bonding limit to provide the Council with tools to spend as they find prudent.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5; Noes: 2 (DeFrain, Deuel)

The Chair reported that it is necessary to re-vote the motion made at last week's meeting since there was no quorum, given her ex-officio status.

Moved by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Moylan to recommend to the Common Council that the capital expenditure necessary for the Burleigh Street water booster station is funded no later than 2006. Ayes: 7

(Mr. Kasdorf excused, 7:30 p.m. -6)

Municipal Complex – Schedule G, page 17

Replacement of the fire alarm system has been in the budget for the past 5-6 years but has been stricken due to budget constraints. Strobe lights would be provided to meet ADA requirements for hearing impaired individuals.

Replacement of voting equipment is scheduled in 2006 to address ADA requirements for accessibility. Our existing equipment, purchased in 1991, is among the oldest in use in Milwaukee County and could be subject to failure or loss of technical support through obsolescence. By 2007, handicapped voters must be able to cast a ballot without assistance. Providing a minimum of one touch-screen system at each of 14 voting sites along with counters would cost about \$85,400. Replacing all equipment is estimated to cost in excess of \$450,000. The City Clerk will be available to discuss this request in greater detail as plans proceed.

Replacement of police department hardware and software in 2008 for \$500,000 cannot be bonded because it has a life of less than 10 years. Alternative funding options with a five-year payback would be used.

Fire Department – Schedule I, page 20

Replacements in 2005 follow the department's regular replacement program and are all from the General Fund. A 2006 pumper truck is a capital project. Replacement of fire station #1, the city's oldest station, is listed in 2009. A referendum would be required to fund the project, estimated at \$5 million. Bonding would coincide with retirement of the library bonds.

Police Department – Schedule J, page 21

Design and construction of a police garage is listed at \$1,981,491 in 2006. Its intended site would be at the surface lot east of the station. Surface parking would remain with the garage below at the station's basement level. Mr. Kappel commented that it has been his position that the public works garage could accommodate the squad cars.

Moved by Mr. Graupner, seconded by Mr. DeFrain to encourage the police department to investigate other options for the police garage –
(Motion to be voted on at next meeting due to lack of quorum at this time.)

Major Projects beyond Year 2008 – Schedule K, page 22

This \$5,000,000 stormwater quality item serves as an alert to future costs in connection with DNR requirements tied to the stormwater permit. The City may be responsible for removing 20% of pollutant loadings by 2007-08 and 40% by 2012-14, which potentially would be addressed through an efficient street sweeping program and catch basins with sumps.

Approval of Five-Year Plan

Moved by Mr. Graupner, seconded by Mr. Albert to recommend approval of the 5-Year Capital Improvement Program 2005-2009 and inform the Common Council of the following perceived shortcomings in funding:

- Based on replacing .66% of existing water mains per year and a replacement standard of 1% per year, water main replacement seems to be under-funded in future years;
- Based on information on aging of streets and the annual repaving schedule, paving seems to be under-funded in future years

(Motion to be voted on at next meeting due to lack of quorum at this time)

The committee agreed to schedule an additional meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 2, to vote on the two outstanding motions. Pending advice of the City Attorney, the meeting will be either in-person or by telephone conference.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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