



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

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Committee Room #2

**PRESENT:** Alds. Berdan, Ewerdt, Jay, Krol, Organ, Walsh, Wilke – 7

**EXCUSED:** Ald. Donegan

**ALSO PRESENT:** J. Archambo, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Attorney; R. Braier, Finance Dir.

Ald. Ewerdt as Chair called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

### **2010 Village Business Improvement District Operating Plan**

Kathy Ehley, Exec. Dir. Village Business Improvement District, 1414 Underwood Avenue, presented the Business Improvement District's (BID) Operating Plan and Assessments. She reported that the BID Board had worked very hard to keep a zero based budget. She added that there are a lot of great things happening in the Village area. A focus of high priority is to continue marketing the Village area. This is important because of increased construction and road repair. They would like to support the business base. They have achieved a lot of accomplishments with their projects. Ms. Ehley continued that the benches in Root Common Park are there by donation. They have installed new waste receptacles and just ordered new banners which should be installed by Thanksgiving. They have had a significant increase in communication internally and externally. They plan to stay on course with their plan for next year.

Russ Drover, 7530 W. State Street, identified himself as a member of the BID wishing to share the following grievances: 1) members at large are given no opportunity to speak or view the budget before the budget meeting; 2) he received the budget information very close to this meeting by email and they should have received this information before this according to Wisconsin Open Meetings and Records Law; 3) since a majority of the revenue is from tax assessments on properties the owners should be able to see the budget beforehand; and 4) the total cost of the waste receptacles was not made public. Mr. Drover felt that members should know how much something is going to cost before the items are purchased. Money could have been saved. He objected to the method of spending money on items for the Village and was concerned about the way money was spent by the BID. The decision to purchase items should be given to all members. He also feels there is too much emphasis on the Harmoniee bridge and that most of the money was taken from reserves for projects which will cause their assessment to increase. Salaries have also gone up. The board members need to be accountable.

Rich Lochrie, 7746 Menomonee River Parkway, BID member, has felt that the BID has shown total disregard for the Lochrie Team and Fire Station #1. He read from a letter he sent to the BID on November 19, 2008 in which he asked to be taken out of the BID. He believes that the BID was making plans to close the Harmoniee Bridge according to a new Aesthetics Committee letter from a BID Board regular meeting. He further believes that the BID has intended to expand its boundaries without bringing the matter up for a vote. He presented letters from Eckert Door saying that they did not want the BID boundary extended to include their business. Mr. Lochrie felt that the BID was planning to display their banners outside BID boundaries. He felt there was a discrepancy between what the BID was saying and doing.

Chris Leffler, Chair of the BID, Leff's Lucky Town, 7208 W. State Street, acknowledged that the board had discussed the possibility of someday expanding the BID boundaries, but it has never been a priority

and was never proposed to the city. Any maps were part of a brainstorming session, and just a discussion. They talked briefly about the potential of running the banners and Christmas decorations down State Street, but they don't have the money for these things so it has just been in the discussion stage. He thought there was a lot of misinterpretation on the part of Mr. Lochrie regarding these issues.

Ms. Ehley remarked that it is hard to do some thoughtful planning if people keep taking ideas out of context as if the goal was already decided on. She stressed that the BID Board meetings are posted and open to the public.

Bobby Pantuso, 2414 N. 67<sup>th</sup> Street, commented that he has been involved with the BID for some time. He has missed three Aesthetics Committee meetings, but not one BID Board meeting. He didn't think Mr. Lochrie and Mr. Drover were getting their information first hand and they are hearing a lot of miscommunication. He noted that at the August meeting there was no quorum so they just had a discussion about the banners. Mr. Drover was at that meeting.

Ald. Walsh commented that with all the information they get from the BID, he has no reason to feel there is anything being withheld.

Ald. Krol pointed out that the item before the committee is to approve the BID 2010 Operating Plan and Budget. He didn't know if this committee could rule on a business being part of the BID or not. He stressed that the meetings are open to the public. The budget being presented is consistent with the previous years and based on the accounting firm that audits the budget. He noted that BIDs are entities that are created to advance business in a particular area. Just as a BID is created it can also be dissolved by a majority of the businesses and the loss of 50% of the assessments. Anyone wanting to leave can be approved by the BID. He added that when there are a lot of entities involved there will be people that are dissatisfied. BID activity is taking place all over the Village area and he doesn't see anyone wanting to dissolve the BID.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Wilke to recommend approval  
Of the Village Business Improvement District 2010 Operating Plan – 7

**Vouchers**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>FOR</u></b>
T. Brenzel	\$1,456.30	Police – 9/20-9/25/09 – Schaumburg, IL NATIA Video IP Certification Course
R. Baker	\$142.90	Court Judge – 9/17-9/18/09 – Sheboygan Mandatory Judicial Education
G. Witkowski	\$165.15	Police – 9/28-10/1/09 – Wisconsin Dells National Field Training Off. Assoc. Conf.
T. Karnick	\$328.72	Police – 9/29-10/1/09 – Wisconsin Dells National Assoc. of Field Training Off. Conf.
J. DeValk	\$502.13	Police – 9/15-9/18/09 – Wisconsin Dells WI Crime Prevention Prac. Assoc. Conf.
J. Wojcehowicz	\$442.24	Water – 9/22-9/25/09 – Wisconsin Dells WI Water Assoc.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
S. Presnal	\$302.04	Building & Safety – 9/23-9/25/09 – Oshkosh Plumbing Inspectors Institute
D. Redman	\$339.00	Fire -9/23-9/25 p.m. Manitowoc WI Fire Chiefs Educ. Ed

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

### Claims

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Organ to recommend that the committee may convene into closed session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g): Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, and may reconvene into open session – 7

The committee convened into closed session at 8:47 p.m.

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Krol to reconvene into open session – 7

The committee reconvened into open session at 9:18 p.m.

Moved by Ald. Jay, seconded by Ald. Krol to recommend denial of the claims of Jodi Hart and Tom Scardina, 8433 Ravenswood Circle, Wauwatosa; John Griffin, 4409 N. 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee; and Joe and Denise Karius, 10911 W. Potter Rd., Wauwatosa – 7

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Krol to refer the claim of Michael Buer, 565 N. 64<sup>th</sup> Street, Wauwatosa back to the City Attorney to negotiate on the city's behalf. Vote on the motion was Ayes: 5, Noes: 2 (Jay, Organ)

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
City of Wauwatosa

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