

## CITY OF WAUWATOSA

MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER  
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### BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 10, 2002  
Committee Room #2

PRESENT: Ald. Bruderle-Baran, Casey, Grimm, Matthews, Stepaniak, Subotich – 6

EXCUSED: Ald. Jenkins, McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: T. Wontorek, City Admin; A. Kesner, City Atty.; P. Coffaro, Asst. to Admin.; R. Braier, Finance Dir.; W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; M. Brown, Personnel Dir.; Chief D. Redman, Fire; Asst. Chief J. Hevey, Fire; Deputy Chief M. Carberry, Fire; T. Roberts, Fire Marshall; Deputy Chief W. Rice, Fire; N. Kreuser, Health Officer; L. Nielsen, Public Health Nurse; J. Bembenek, Purchasing Mgr.

Ald. Stepaniak as Chair called the meeting to order 8:10 p.m.

#### **Creation of grant positions specific to the Milwaukee/Waukesha Consortium for Public Health Preparedness**

Dr. Kreuser told the committee that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant to the Milwaukee/Waukesha Consortium for Public Health Preparedness was in the amount of \$482,285. Wauwatosa is designated as the fiscal agent by the 14 health officers serving 20 municipalities and counties in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. She said the funds would be used to hire two new positions that would serve as emergency preparedness consortium personnel for the two counties. They need a coordinator to develop a regional structure with an emergency preparedness and response plan, improved risk communication and educational and training sessions among other duties. They also need a clerical support person for the coordinator. She said that out of the total amount of the grant, the health department would retain 10% for administrative and tracking purposes. The coordinator would be required to attend multiple meetings throughout the region. She said that these positions would be funded for at least three years. She added that the clerical position would have to be high functioning. The salary range for the coordinator would be from approximately \$41,000 to \$50,000 with benefits at 50%. In response to questions regarding the nation-wide salary average for this type of position, Dr. Kreuser said the approximate starting salary is \$50,000. The coordinator would supervise the assistant. She said the salary for the clerical assistant or municipal clerk III would be in the range of approximately \$30,000 with benefits. The two positions would be considered consortium positions located in Wauwatosa. Ald. Stepaniak added that while these positions would be considered City of Wauwatosa employees and getting city benefits, the positions are still grant funded.

Ald. Matthews expressed her concern that it be clearly stated that these are grant funded positions. She asked about the funding for supplies and equipment. Dr. Kreuser responded that equipment and supplies would be included in the funding for both positions. In response to Ald. Matthews questions regarding the process of granting fiscal agent status, Dr. Kreuser said that the choice was between Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and Cudahy. The 14 health officers in the consortium decided that they trusted Wauwatosa to handle the funding appropriately.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Bruderle-Baran to recommend approval of the creation of two grant funded positions for the Consortium for Public Health Preparedness --

Ald. Grimm asked about the situation of the employees when the funding ends. Dr. Kreuser said the employees would be laid off. She indicated that there was a possibility of unemployment funding being set aside for that

eventuality. She added that the people involved would have the understanding that they are in temporary employment positions.

Ald. Casey indicated that this funding is projected to be a minimum three year commitment with the possibility of the grant program running as long as five years. He said this is a huge urban public policy issue on the national scene. The only fiscal risk to the consortium is the possibility of some type of unemployment. He gave credit to Dr. Kreuser for Wauwatosa being chosen as fiscal agent for this project due to her fiscal management.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 6

### **Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Bioterrorism Consortium Grant**

Dr. Kreuser said that this was the execution of the grant for the project that was just discussed. She reiterated that the city had been given fiscal agent status and that 10% of the grant would go to the health department for administration costs.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend acceptance of the CDC Bioterrorism Consortium Grant funding in the amount of \$482,285 – 6

### **Environmental Health mini-grant funding in the amount of \$5,000**

Dr. Kreuser told the committee that this grant was just started last year. They accepted the funding and received \$5,000. She said that this year they are going for another round of funding. She indicated that they would remove some of the city funding for the sanitarian and replace it with approximately \$4,000 of the grant funds. The balance of \$1,000 would be used for environmental health supplies, training and travel.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Grimm to recommend authorization to apply for an Environmental Health mini-grant in the amount of \$5,000 – 6

### **Citizen survey and approval of the survey budget**

Mr. Coffaro said there has been much discussion during the 2003 Budget Committee meetings about conducting a citizen survey, the goals and how to proceed. He said there were three main questions that need to be addressed: 1) What would the city be using the results for apart from setting budget priorities for 2004, 2) should the survey be distributed to all residents, and 3) should the survey be put on the web site and/or in the newsletter. He said there are some drawbacks to making the survey questionnaire available on the web site. One drawback is that an issue could be over-represented if some people submit multiple surveys. Another drawback is that people from other municipalities could end up participating. He added that because a computer is needed for a web site survey it may over-represent higher income residents as well. Three different researchers discouraged using the web site if a hard copy is being mailed to all the households. They explained the benefits of doing a random survey. It would eliminate the problems associated with the web site; however, a drawback is that a lot of residents could feel left out. He said that a random sample for a city the size of Wauwatosa would require approximately 500 to 600 households to participate. Estimating a 30 to 40% response rate would require mailing out 1,500 letters. This size sample would have a margin of error of 4%. He said that random samples are the preferred method of the researchers he interviewed and they are usually less expensive.

He said there are seven steps in a survey project: 1) establish the goals of the project, 2) determine your sample, 3) choose survey methodology, 4) create the questionnaire, 5) pre-test the questionnaire, 6) conduct the survey and tabulate the data, and 7) analyze the data and produce the reports. He included a project timeline based on putting the survey in the March newsletter. He stressed that the draft questionnaire needs to be ready by the beginning of February. He hoped to get approval for the survey budget and feedback on whether or not they are

on the right track. His recommendation was to approve the funding for the city-wide citizen survey in the amount of \$15,000.

In response to questions regarding the budget amount, Mr. Coffaro said that if the survey was mailed with the newsletter there would be no extra postage cost. If they did a random sample survey, it would cost approximately \$1,000 for the publisher including a post card that would let residents know that the survey is coming.

Ald. Matthews said she thought the web site was not a good way to go; however, she suggested that a notice be posted on the web site alerting residents that the survey will be included in the newsletter. With regards to a doing a random sample survey, she expressed her concern that the random sample method would not include all income levels and different pockets in the city. She stated that she would like to see all residents have a chance to fill it out.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran said she thought it would be worthwhile to put it on the website. She didn't have a problem with a few people doing multiple surveys. She asked if someone would be hired to write the survey and tabulate the results. Mr. Coffaro said that was the preferred way to go. He noted that the bulk of the cost was in the tabulation. He added that Wauwatosa has shown a very strong track record of getting people to respond. The tobacco survey had 1,900 people respond even without postage included.

Ald. Casey said he thought it made sense to go out to the entire community in the newsletter. He would like to see all residents have a voice. He expressed his concern regarding putting the survey on the web site because of the chance of multiple returns. He thought it was critical to have outside expertise to make sure there are no biased questions. He said there is a lot of ground to cover with all the departments and services to consider. He cautioned that it would not be an easy task.

Ald. Stepaniak complimented Mr. Coffaro saying that the research on the project was very good. He said that with a diversity of departments they would want to do some kind of internal request from departments on those things they think should be included in the survey.

Moved by Ald. Matthews, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend approval of the funding for the survey with the understanding that the survey would be submitted to all city residents in the spring newsletter and the information on the survey would be posted on the web site – 6

**Carry-over of operating funds to be added to the seal coating program in 2003 and for a city-wide citizen survey**

Mr. Kappel said that he originally requested to carryover \$100,000 in operating funds. Of that amount, \$85,000 would go to the seal coating program and \$15,000 would go to fund the city-wide citizen survey. He said those numbers changed somewhat after he had submitted his memo to the committee. He was informed that out of this account they had already agreed to use \$107,000 for Department of Transportation (DOT) paving projects that will be done over 4 years. He added that they haven't gotten any billings yet. He recommended that \$107,000 be used for the DOT paving projects and \$15,000 for the city-wide survey. Any unspent funds in the Sundry Contractual Services account should be carried-over for seal coating. He indicated that the remaining unspent balance would be between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend approval of the carry-over of operating funds; \$15,000 for a city-wide citizen survey and the carry-over of any remaining unspent funds to the seal coating program – 6

### **Partial funding for an Identix Fingerprint Live-Scan maintenance agreement in the amount of \$3,100**

Capt. Bozicevich told the committee that two years ago they bought a Live-Scan computer on a grant for about \$72,000. For the first couple of years they didn't get a maintenance agreement because they had no problems; however, now the unit needs to be upgraded because the state is changing their protocol as to how electronic submissions are transmitted. He said the Identix Company will upgrade the software on an hourly basis, and that the cost would be approximately \$9,000-\$10,000. If a maintenance agreement is entered into, the cost would be \$8,120. He added that they could do this upgrade on an hourly basis, but it would cost more than hiring the company to do it. They have looked for funds that they could release from current accounts and they have come up with \$4,000 from the police department printing and duplication account, \$1,000 from the police department postage account, and \$3,100 from the reserve for contingencies account. He said the department should budget for this kind of maintenance agreement every year because according to the state this could happen yearly.

Ald. Stepaniak asked if these were software changes. Capt. Bozicevich said they are changes in the software that captures electronic fingerprints and sends them to other police departments. He said that eventually the system will be set up to review previous files.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Grimm to recommend approval of the transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,100 from the Reserve for Contingencies for an Identix Fingerprint Live-Scan maintenance agreement – 6

### **Purchase of Quint fire apparatus**

Chief Redman told the committee that they have three qualified bids for the Quint apparatus. They looked at the two low bids in depth and the deciding factor in favor of the lowest bidder was the equipment storage space. He added that the Comptroller advised that they should take advantage of some prepayment options to lower the price.

Ald. Casey asked about the door height issues in the two fire stations. Chief Redman responded that the Quint will not fit in fire stations #1 and #2, but it will fit in fire station #3. He said they made that decision going into the purchase. They are working with the engineering department to find a solution for the future.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran asked how long it would take to have delivery. Chief Redman said it would take approximately 300 days for delivery and with time for training it could be end up being one year before the Quint was fully operating.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend approval of the purchase of the Quint fire apparatus – 6

### **Replacement copiers for the water and fire departments**

Mr. Bembenek said that both of the leases for the two copiers are up at almost the same time. He said that both departments would use the same type of unit from Konica and both would be networked within their departments so they can be used with the computers. The cost to the fire department would remain the same and the cost to the water department would decrease. He said the price should remain firm throughout the 60 month contract. He recommended approval of the 60 month rental/lease agreement with Konica Corporation and United Leasing at a cost of \$159.34 per month for both departments. He added that he didn't expect the market to change significantly in five years.

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Bruderle-Baran to recommend approval of the 60 month rental/lease agreement with Konica Corporation and United Leasing for two copiers for the fire and water departments – 6

### **SBC Ameritech invoicing**

Mr. Bembenek told the committee that this situation goes back to July, 1998. There was a major changeover in City Hall to digital telephone technology. He said that the members of this committee and the council in general were unhappy with Ameritech because of the many problems with the phone lines. There were constant "all circuits are busy" messages and dropped calls. The situation was complicated even further with the Centrex agreement. He said that in 1998 the City Attorney wrote a letter to Ameritech informing them that the city was going to short pay the bill until something was done to rectify the problems. In 1999 the Comptroller was told not to pay the bills at all since the problems were still not being addressed. He said the service was finally rectified in 2001. Ameritech claimed the city had a balance of over \$110,000. They have agreed to issue a credit to the city in the amount of \$84,613.02, leaving an approximate balance now due of \$26,000. He said this is an excellent settlement and recommended that the city settle this account and transfer \$35,170 from the Reserve for Contingencies to satisfy all outstanding invoices including the \$26,000 balance.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend authorization for a transfer of \$35,170 from the Reserve for Contingencies for settlement of SBC Ameritech invoicing --

Mr. Wontorek said he concurred with the recommendation saying that they had a high level SBC Ameritech board review their appeal. Mr. Bembenek said they are still working on restoring about 18 departments that were eliminated from the phone directory listing.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 6

### **Carryover of revaluation appropriation to include scanned building sketches and digital photos in the city's property files**

Ms. Isleb said that as part of the city-wide revaluation, they were given supplemental funding for staff overtime. She said a long-time temporary employee on their staff has been invaluable to their office. This employee is part time and receives no benefits. They would like this employee to complete the project of scanning 14,000 sketches into the SIGMA system and loading 16,000 digital photos into the property files. She said they have just begun the scanning project and they would be taking the digital photos in early spring before the trees fill out. Without the extra person to help with the project, she estimated that it would take 2 to 2 ½ years to complete these two projects. Current staff would only be able to work on these two projects sporadically. She said the carry-over of funds will allow the work to be completed without requiring an additional appropriation. Her recommendation was to carry over \$24,000 to the 2003 budget for the completion of these projects. She indicated that \$32,000 will go back to the general fund even with the spending on this project.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran complimented Ms Isleb and her department for doing an excellent job of explaining the revaluation process to the public.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend approval of the carryover of funds in the amount of \$24,000 for the scanning of sketches and digital photos into the property files --

Ald. Casey asked how they will use the sketches and photographs. Ms. Isleb said the sketches and pictures would be used to verify information from realtors. She added that the photographs are very important when setting an evaluation city-wide.

Ald. Stepaniak said that investment in these kinds of technology is a precursor to the GIS system. He indicated that the city was going to be forced by the state to implement these types of technology upgrades in the future.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 6

## **Carry-over of \$50,000 from the County Grounds account into the 2003 Common Council budget**

Mr. Wontorek said the carryover of funds was related to the Council's earlier vote to start a dialog with the county. He said the \$50,000 would fund any work or studies that might be needed in association with the city's role on the county grounds. He recommended approval of the carryover.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend approval of the carryover of \$50,000 from the County Grounds account into the 2003 Common Council budget – 6

## **Proposed 2003 budget reduction plan for the fire department**

Chief Redman noted that the proposals contained in his memo are consistent with the proposals he made to the 2001 Budget committee. He said there is just no feasible way to come close to the 2% budget reduction without targeting personnel costs in some way and some of these issues are time sensitive. He outlined the basic proposal which would entail closing one ladder company for the entire year and reduce daily company staffing from 27 to 25 firefighters. Savings come from a combination of firefighter overtime and a reduction in premium pay positions. He spoke of Alternative 1 which would increase revenue by approximately \$120,000 by increasing the resident ambulance fee from \$175 to \$350. With this alternative rather than closing the ladder company for the full year, it would be closed only on days when regular duty staffing falls below 26 firefighters. The last option he described was Alternative 2 which would be dependent upon Firefighters Local 1923 agreeing to two significant issues: 1) to accept additional non-emergency fire inspection duties. In conjunction with that, the Chief would not fill a vacant Code Specialist position and 2) agree to a temporary change in working conditions to operate a pilot program for Emergency Medical Service between January and March of 2003. In conjunction with that, the Chief strongly recommended increasing the ambulance transport fee as described in Alternative 1. This action will meet the budget reduction target while improving the emergency medical service delivery. He said there are two things to note: 1) the basic proposal calls for a reduction in premium pay positions. He noted that when authorizing vacancies in the captain's positions, there are contractual obligations involved and a long standing history of filling those positions, and 2) there is an additional bullet point under Alternative 1; that is to not reduce the number of authorized lieutenant and motor pump positions and to approve filling those positions if and when vacancies occur. He noted that under the paragraph entitled Council action to implement the basic proposal, there would be a reduction in three lieutenant positions and three motor pump operators. They would be placed back in firefighter positions. He cautioned that any aspect of this proposal is a reduction in services to the community. He said that both alternatives would propose closing down a ladder company for some period of time. He said that Alternative 2 which was offered to the firefighters union and would have provided for maintaining the ladder truck and service for most of the year. There would also be additional non-emergency fire inspection duties added. He had asked if the union would conduct about 1,000 hours of inspections per year which would have increased overtime for the firefighters. In conjunction with that agreement he would not fill a vacant code-specialist position. This was rejected by the union. In light of that, he said the only viable proposals are the basic proposal and Alternative 1.

With regard to the ambulance resident transport fees, his one concern is that he expects the 2004 Milwaukee County paramedic system to have some significant changes and reduction in revenue to Wauwatosa. He would like to be able to postpone the fee increase until that actually happens. With regard to closing down a fire company; he said that if the committee left that to his discretion, he would close Station #2 on N. Mayfair Road. He said that Station #2 has a lower number of calls. He would change the minimum staffing from 27 firefighters per day to 25 or 26. He said the regular salaries would be reduced through a number of salary savings by moving the upper firefighter positions to lower positions. He said that translates into \$61,000 in savings. He said that because the firefighters did not agree to conduct the inspections, he did not have anyone to perform that function. He requested that the code specialist position be filled. Mr. Roberts said the permit and inspection fees are a significant source of revenue. He added that if they don't get the inspections done and the state does an audit, the state can pull over \$100,000 in funding from the department. He said they can't rely on light duty people to do the inspections. Chief Redman said once a determination is made that the city can live without a

ladder truck for a certain length of time, there is no way of knowing when an emergency incident might happen. He said it might be better to operate the same way all year rather than the alternative 1 proposal of off-and-on use.

Scott Frederick, W194 S8169 Highland Park Drive, Muskego, said he has been with the fire department for approximately 11 years and he has been on the union executive board for six. He said the chief has approached the union to take on non-emergency staffing. The union rejected this because Chief Redman was unclear on the amount of inspections needed. They voted down a reduction in staffing because of safety issues. He gave as an example the paramedic staffing. If staffing is cut, there might be days when a Paramedic First Responder (PFR) is not available so an emergency patient would have to wait. He said the Chief has asked the union to increase workloads without compensation. They are not asking that firefighters be hired, but that the current number of firefighters not be reduced. He said Chief Redman has asked that a ladder company be closed. He pointed out that for a Quint to respond from Station #3 it would take about 11 minutes and the ladder would take approximately 12 minutes. He asked that the cuts to the fire department budget be restored because the safety of the citizens and the firefighters is at stake. He suggested increasing the ambulance fee and charging increased fines for inspections and false alarms.

Dan McCann, Union Local 1923, president, said he agreed with Mr. Frederick. He said he would like to go on the record in opposition to staff reductions and closing Ladder Station #2. He gave the tragic fire at Alioto's restaurant as an example. He also pointed out the number of high rise buildings on Mayfair Road and companies like Briggs & Stratton, Target, and Luther Manor in Station #2's area. He noted the number of hazardous materials incidents as well. He said that with the advent of the nationwide Homeland Security department, the city will need people to do the job. He said the department can either raise fees and work in the right direction or it can regress to a situation like the Alioto's fire. He added that the situation is serious; not only for the firefighters, but for the citizens. The budget deficit places them in a very compromised position. He said the union has had much better communication in the past year with fire department staff and they need to continue to communicate. He pointed out that they were not in agreement with Chief Redman on the Quint; however, it is saving money and the union is working with it and doing the best they can.

David Welbes, 4145 N. Colgate Circle, Milwaukee, Union Local 1923 vice president, said they want good police and fire protection for their families and they are concerned about the budget. They cannot reduce the budget in a way that is not safe. He said that one of the concerns with Chief Redman's inspection proposal is that there will not be as many people on call as it seems. They would not be able to fulfill those additional duties.

Hank Wendt, 9502 W Goodrich Court, Milwaukee, Secretary Treas., Local 1923, said they recognize the position the budget is in; however the paramedic contract is coming up in 2004 and they do not want a reduction in service. He went on to describe the constraints the paramedics would be under and the decrease in response times and service that would be involved. He stressed that in order to maintain the current levels of service they need to work with the services that are in place now. He said the members of the fire department and its executive unit realize that they need to work with the union and management. He added that to take a chance and hope for the best flies in the face of their experience. He said they could not sign onto the reduction plan.

John Sabljak, S30 W29494 Williams Way, Waukesha, said he has been in the department for 22 years and has been a captain for 2 ½ years. He said a captain would be hamstrung if there is no ladder truck going with them. They fight fires in a step-by-step fashion. They ventilate and suppress and without the ladder truck to do the ventilation, the captain would be unable to do his job. He said his commitment has been for the safety of the personnel. He didn't want to see anyone's life put at risk. He said there needs to be another alternative other than staff reduction.

Ald. Matthews said she has been very vocal about anything that happens in Station #2 and can understand the hesitancy to make any changes. She said the fire department as with others has to make some cuts and that will probably be in personnel. She noted that there is a definite disagreement on Alternative #2, but that is what has to be done. The city is going to be surveying residents in order to get a handle on what the residents want in

services. The aldermen are going to be getting calls from residents who are upset about the tax levy. She said she hated bringing up Alioto's, it was a horrible event, but we need to move on. The Quint is coming and many of the members of the committee saw this purchase as a way to reduce staff. She said it sounds like Chief Redman made an attempt to bring forth some staff reductions. She agreed with the Chief's comment on the waffling of the staff as far as trucks and equipment being available in case of a fire emergency. She asked if our current ambulance fee is comparable to other communities. Chief Redman responded that the city's fee is the lowest in the area. The typical fee is \$300 on average. He thought the traffic would bear an increase in the non-resident fee as well. These fees are usually offset by Medicare and are not as high as they seem. Ald. Matthews said that part of the budget problems they are having is with the rising cost of health insurance. She noted that the city is not being adequately reimbursed for the Medicare fees. She said that city employees will have to start picking up more of their share of insurance. All of these things have an effect on the budget.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran agreed with Ald. Matthews. She was hesitant to go the route of increasing fees. Her district has a significant amount of elderly people and they would be affected by an increase in the ambulance fees. She did not want to go the way of Milwaukee with constantly raising fees for services. She said she was really hoping that Alternative 2 would work. She thought that maybe with some encouragement the union and the management could go through it one more time. She said maybe the message from the committee hasn't been clear enough. Either equipment or personnel has to be reduced. If the reductions don't happen now they will have to happen during the budget review.

Ald. Subotich thanked the firefighters for coming in a speaking. He said it takes firefighters to fight fires. He stressed that if the Alioto's tragedy has to be brought up, it should be. The firefighters risk their lives everyday. If they are not there to do their job the whole community is at risk. He gave an example of a family he knows who had a house fire. Their house was saved due to the quick response of the fire department. He couldn't see trimming the fire department even by two personnel.

Ald. Grimm asked what Briggs & Stratton and the Mayfair Mall would say if they were attending the committee meeting. He said that he made amendments during the budget meetings in an attempt to keep personnel. He expressed his concern that the budget cuts and additions don't make sense.

Ald. Casey said he concurred with the comments of Ald. Matthews and Bruderle-Baran. He agreed that Alioto's restaurant fire was a tragedy with the loss of comrades in the line of duty; however, that was 21 years ago. There have been many changes since then in fires codes and in technology. He pointed out the code on sprinklers and asked when it was adopted. Mr. Roberts replied that the sprinkler code was adopted in 1978 in Wauwatosa and there is no retroactive requirement. Ald. Casey went on to say that a lot of things have changed. One of the things the city will be struggling with in every department is how much personnel can be reduced and what services have to be cut. He said the city hasn't grown and all the industrial and public places are sprinklered and alarmed. Cities of 50,000 have been providing adequate service to their residents with fewer personnel. He said the Chief has shown that we have a high number of firefighters per capita. The city is not growing geographically or in population and there is a need to pare back. He said they are going to be spending a lot of time at meetings with residents on how to cut services. He urged the union and the management to go back to the bargaining table.

Ald. Stepaniak said there were multiple meetings on the budget and the process has not been pleasant. He said they were just talking about the 2003 budget and looking at the 2004 budget there are going to be major cuts in many services at the state level. He said it is probable that the support that the city gets from the state will be reduced. He noted that the committee is looking at the state cuts and county cuts and seeing that the expenditure side in the last city budget was driven by health insurance increases. He stressed that there is no free lunch. He went on to say that this is a very difficult time. The city cannot continue with the current level of services. He stressed that the committee is not talking about a budget cut; they are talking about a reduction of a budget increase. He said it is sobering that the increase is so large and citizens are looking to us in how to deal with it. He added that the committee was looking to the firefighters to help them. There are simply not enough resources and the status quo cannot continue. He said he heard some promising things during the discussion. He urged the union and fire department staff to find an opportunity to meet and come up with some creative answers that will

forestall the problems that are coming up next year. If they don't address the situation it will only get more serious. He urged both parties to return to the bargaining table.

Moved by Ald. Matthews, seconded by Ald. Bruderle-Baran to hold the item until January 14<sup>th</sup> in order to give the union and the fire department staff the opportunity to get together and see if they can come up with an alternative to the basic proposal – 6

**Amendment to charter ordinance Section 20.13 limitations on bonds and notes (for adoption)**

Mr. Kesner said that this amendment doesn't eliminate the annual \$3.5 million annual limit; it only eliminates the cap on the individual project limit. He said the other proposal to amend the charter ordinance that limits the city's borrowing amount annually will be discussed at a later date. Mr. Braier added that the Board of Public Debt Commissioners has recommended the elimination of the individual project borrowing cap as well.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend adoption of the ordinance amendment to Section 20.13 --

Ald. Matthews said the city needs to eliminate the individual project cap so projects can be completed in one year and actually save money as in the two-part project to repair the Public Works building roof. She added that the infrastructure needs to be addressed as well as the annual borrowing limit.

Ald. Grimm expressed his concern that eliminating the caps would affect the city's financial rating in the future. He said the city's bond rating will not be favorable if this action is taken. He said that a person on the Citizen's Advisory Capital Improvement Committee said that he was opposed to raising either limit. He said that City Hall was built in two sections. He stressed that the charter ordinance was created for a reason and there have always been ways to pay these projects off. He said he would definitely vote against this amendment. Mr. Braier told the committee that the individual project limitation has never been a consideration in the city's bond rating; however, an increase in the \$3.5 million annual cap does factor in.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 4, Noes: 2 (Grimm, Subotich)

**Vouchers**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
R. Torrez	\$139.00	Police – 10/15-10/17/02 – Wisconsin Dells Wisconsin Vehicle Crimes Seminar
C. Caffery	\$1,692.29	Health – 11/18-11/22/02 – San Francisco, CA 2002 National Conference on Tobacco Health
E. Miller Carter	\$258.00	Attorney – 12/5-12/10/02 – Wauwatosa CLE Seminar via telephone

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Bruderle-Baran that the vouchers be allowed and paid – 6

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
City of Wauwatosa

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