

FINANCE COMMITTEE LEWISTON, MAINE

**Minutes of
April 22, 2013**

PRESENT: Michael Marcotte, Robert Reed, Stavros Mendros, Councilor Mark Cayer and Councilor Doreen Christ.

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Director David Jones, Electrical Operations Manager Denis Caron and Director of Budget/ Purchasing Norman Beauparlant.

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chairman Mendros.

On motion of Mr. Marcotte, seconded by Councilor Cayer it was

VOTED:

(022-2013) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting dated March 18, 2013 and to accept and place them on file as presented by the Clerk.

VOTE: 5-0

At this time, the Purchasing Director presented an overview of Bid 2013-009 for Public Works Uniform Rentals tabled at the March 18, 2013 meeting.

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Councilor Cayer, seconded by Councilor Christ it was

VOTED:

(023-2013) To award of Bid 2013-009 for Public Works Uniform Rentals to Unifirst Corporation, Portland, Maine, for a three (3) year term at their fixed pricing for all items listed.

VOTE: 5-0

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Mr. Reed, seconded by Councilor Cayer it was

VOTED:

(024-2013) To award Bid 2013-013 for three (3) MTE Harmonic Filters to be installed at the Main Street Pump Station to Stultz Electric, Portland, Maine, sole bidder at their bid price of \$32,964, with installation to be done by City Electrical Division.

VOTE: 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**April 22, 2013**

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Mr. Reed, seconded by Councilor Cayer it was

VOTED:

(025-2013) To award Bid 2013-008 for Custodial Services at various municipal buildings with locations as follows:

Facility	Contractor	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Violations Bureau	Pegasus Cleaning	\$9,620.00	\$9,620.00	\$9,620.00
Police Facility	Pegasus Cleaning	19,500.00	19,500.00	19,500.00
City Hall*	Capital Contractors	23,086.56	23,086.56	23,213.52
Library	Pathways	29,982.00	30,826.00	31,751.00
Public Works/Water/Sewer	Capital Contractors	16,201.28	16,211.28	16,441.28
Solid Waster	Capital Contractors	3,224.00	3,224.00	3,224.00

Contract term is 7/1/2013 – 7/1/2015 with an option to extend for an additional year at fixed prices stated.

VOTE: 5-0

At this time, the Purchasing Director presented an overview of Bid 2013-003 on the Oak Street Sewer Separation Phase IV Project.

Mr. Marcotte made a motion to award the bid to Gendron & Gendron, Lewiston, third low bidder on the basis that he felt Gendron & Gendron best understood the work needed. Motion failed for lack of a second.

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Councilor Cayer, seconded by Mr. Reed it was

VOTED:

(026-2013) To award of Bid 2013-003 on the Oak Street Sewer Separation Phase IV Project to St. Laurent & Son, Lewiston, low bidder at their base bid price of \$1,279,259 based on estimated quantities. It is further understood that if funding is provided by the City Council, the alternate work would be added by Change Order in the amount of \$218,642.

VOTE: 5-0

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Mr. Marcotte, seconded by Councilor Christ it was

VOTED:

(027-2013) To authorize Task Order with Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers Inc. for construction inspection services on the Oak Street Phase IV project at an estimated cost of \$87,590.

VOTE: 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 22, 2013

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Councilor Cayer, seconded by Mr. Reed it was

VOTED:

(028-2013) To award of Bid 2013-016 for Bituminous Pavement picked up at vendor's plant on an item by item basis as follows:

Item 1	Type 19 mm	White Brothers	\$65.70
Item 2	Type 12.5 mm	White Brothers	68.70
Item 3	Type 9.5 mm	Auburn Asphalt	68.00
Item 4	Curb Mix	Auburn Asphalt	90.00

VOTE: 5-0

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Mr. Reed, seconded by Councilor Christ it was

VOTED:

(029-2013) To award Bid LA 2013-001 for Utility Trench Restoration to T W Paving, low bidder overall taking into consideration all methods at it unit prices as follows:

Method A	\$28.00/SY
Method B	30.00/SY
Method C	35.00/SY
Method D	36.00/SY

VOTE: 5-0

On recommendation of the Purchasing Director and on motion of Councilor Cayer, seconded by Mr. Reed it was

VOTED: (030-2013) To award of Bid 2013-010 on the Mill Street Storm Drain and Sidewalk Project to Longchamps & Sons, Lisbon, Maine, low bidder for the Base Bid only in the amount of \$74,111.50.

VOTE: 4-0-1

Mr. Marcotte opposed

At this time, the Purchasing Director advised the Committee of the purchase of benches and waste receptacles that had been purchased from two (2) separate vendors on April 1, 2013 on the basis of sole source for benches because the benches were ordered to match benches already in place along Lincoln Street and that the waste receptacles were bid last year and selected to be the same for the two projects.

Committee members were concerned that the Purchasing Director had not brought a request for Waiver to them prior to ordering the units however, the Committee understood that no action was needed by the Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 22, 2013

At this time, the Purchasing Director opened discussion with the Finance Committee about making a recommendation to the City Council with regard to the FY 2014 Budget. In providing background, Mr. Marcotte had requested that the prior two years Finance Committee recommendations to City Council be provided to the Committee as part of the Agenda package issued on Friday, April 19, 2013. Mr. Marcotte and Mr. Reed each brought suggestions for Committee members to consider.

After discussion by the Committee and on motion of Councilor Cayer, seconded by Councilor Christ it was

VOTED:

(031-2013) After careful review of the Lewiston City Administrator FY2014 proposed budget, the Finance Committee feels it most important to first remind our City officials that federal spending followed by sequestration added to the State's inability to control its spending habits is now more than ever resulting in towns and cities feeling a heavier burden than one should expect. Given the largest share of those local revenues are now based on property taxes, our homeowners are faced with higher State and Federal income taxes as well as increased property taxes locally.

Lewiston suffers from an aging housing stock, abandoned businesses and recently even more single family residences foreclosed on - unpaid debts typically include unpaid escrow for property taxes and insurance. While City officials may have a vision to create a more livable City, that vision will not be possible until we control our spending habits and unsustainable continued level of debt service. Each year the Finance Committee provides this warning to the Mayor, City Council and Administrator, only to have the document forgotten once the start of the new fiscal year begins.

An aging housing stock coupled with increasing taxes due to increased debt service and continued spending will not be positive signs to attract the new permanent residents we might wish to attract in order to make the vision a reality. While an argument might be made that "if you build it they will come", you also run the significant risk of losing those current residents who can no longer afford the vision or cannot carry the load in hopes of others joining later.

Lastly, we offer two recommendations to the elected officials of this City. First you must have the foresight to reduce that tax burden and look at all options for doing business including outsourcing, shared services with other communities and combined departments and divisions. It may even be time to consider a merger of services with other communities. Secondly, you must hold elected and appointed officials at all levels of government to the same standard. Gone are the days when economic development was a sure thing. We must account for every dollar spent and every dollar collected at all levels of government. We have a spending problem at all levels of government and until our elected leaders can recognize and take steps to change that habit, the cost will fall more than ever upon the homeowners of this City.

VOTE: 5-0

VOTED:

To adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

Norman Beuparlant
Clerk
Finance Committee