

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
LEWISTON, MAINE**

**Minutes of
December 7, 2009**

PRESENT: Ronald Paradis, Michael Marcotte, Councilor Denis Theriault and Councilor Robert Reed.

ABSENT: Stavros Mendros

Meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by the Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Theriault, seconded by Mr. Paradis it was

VOTED:
(154-2009) To elect Robert Reed Chairman Pro-Tem for this meeting.

**VOTE: 3-0-1
Councilor Reed abstained**

On motion of Mr. Theriault, seconded by Mr. Paradis it was

VOTED:
(155-2009) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting dated November 23, 2009 and to accept and place them on file as presented by the Clerk.

**VOTE: 3-0-1
Mr. Marcotte abstained**

The Committee considered award of Bid 2009-053 on the demolition of Bates Mill #5. The City Council at their meeting of December 1, 2009 had appropriated the funds necessary to award the contract.

On recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and on motion of Mr. Theriault, seconded by Mr. Paradis it was

VOTED:
(156-2009) To award Bid 2009-053 on the Demolition of Bates Mill #5 to NASDI Inc., Waltham, MA, low bidder at their total bid price of \$782,500.

**VOTE: 3-1
Mr. Marcotte opposed**

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The Police Department requested consideration for award of the contract on mobile radios through the State of Maine contract with Motorola. Motorola is offering a temporary additional 25% discount on purchases which are made before December 18, 2009. Deputy Chief Jim Minkowsky explained that the department would utilize 2009 ARRA Byrne Grant funds to purchase 46 radios and associated software and accessories at a cost of \$63,952 and six (6) additional radios at a cost of \$7,844 will be purchased with 2009 Homeland Security Grant funds for the HAZMAT team.

On recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and on motion of Mr. Theriault, seconded by Mr. Paradis it was

VOTED:

(157-2009) To authorize the purchase of 52 mobile radios through the State of Maine contract with Motorola at a total cost of \$71,796.

VOTE: 4-0

Stavros Mendros arrived at 5:16 p.m.

Mike Paradis, Public Works Building Superintendent, reviewed the recommendation on Light Replacement at the Public Works facility based on an assessment performed by Bartlett Design on methods of increasing conservation of lighting usage at the Public Works facility. Of the various options offered by Bartlett Design he was recommending that the City proceed with Project Options 1, 2 & 3 for the replacement of various ballasts and lamps throughout the facility at a total initial cost of \$53,189. After discussions on the project and future potential uses of the facility, the following action was taken.

On recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and on motion of Mr. Theriault, seconded by Mr. Paradis it was

VOTED:

(158-2009) To authorize the Public Works Department to proceed with Options 1, 2 & 3 on the replacement of various ballasts and light fixtures at the facility with a total cost of \$53,189.

VOTE: 5-0

Under other business, Councilor Theriault requested the review of the award of the bid for outside contractors on snow plowing and removal services. Although R C & Sons Paving had submitted low quotes for pick up truck and dump truck rentals, they were not assigned any of the areas to be plowed during the winter.

Michael & Claude Cloutier of R C & Sons explained to the Committee the process which they were informed they would not receive any portion of the contract for rental of snow plowing and removal equipment. They were notified of the award by another contractor and requested an explanation from the department on why they were not awarded any of the

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work. A meeting was held with Public Works representatives whereby they were informed that on occasions during the past year when services were provided they were late for their assignments and some damaged had occurred to buildings adjacent to the plowing area. They indicated that they were not made aware of any problems or that they would not receive award of any contracts in the future.

Highway Superintendent Paul Boudreau indicated that a timely response by the contractor is important to ensure that facilities are cleared prior to scheduled openings. Mr. Boudreau indicated that he has not had serious problems with R C & Sons and the services provided in the past.

Committee members questioned how this issue might be resolved and the Finance Director indicated that contracts had already been awarded and signed by the other contractors and it would be difficult to remove that work from them for the upcoming season. The Finance Director indicated that at best, poor communications between the department and the contractor created this confusion on the award of the contract. The Finance Director indicated that in the future, award of the contracts would include how the department intended to assign the various routes for snow removal services. This would clearly put forward the department's intentions prior to the actual award of the contract and entering into agreements with various contractors.

As a solution to resolving the issue for the coming year, it was suggested that R C & Sons would be considered the priority contractor for use of a Tri-Axle dump trucks for the removal of snow as required during the course of the snow removal season.

Committee members were satisfied with the proposed resolution and how contract awards would be handled in the future.

Councilor Theriault wished to apologize to R C & Sons for the lack of communication and on how the contract award was handled.

VOTED:

To adjourn at 5:52 p.m.

Richard T. Metivier
Clerk
Finance Committee