

FINANCE COMMITTEE

LEWISTON, MAINE

Minutes of

February 26, 2007

PRESENT: Chairman Roger Provencher, Councilor Mark Paradis, Councilor Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien and Robert Reed.

Meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m. by the Chairman Roger Provencher.

On motion of Ms. O'Brien , seconded by Mr. Reed it was

VOTED:

(12-2007) To dispense with reading of the minutes of the previous meeting dated February 5, 2007 and to accept and place them on file as submitted by the Clerk.

VOTE: 4-0

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

VOTED:

(13-2007) To award Bid 2007-005 on Turnout Gear for the Fire Department to the low bidder meeting specifications on an item by item basis as follows:

Vendor	Item	Amount
Bergeron Protective Clothing Barnstead NH	1: Bunker Coats	\$6,821.76
	2: Bunker Pants	4,427.04
	3: Bunker Boots	3,825.00
	4: Gloves	1,296.00
	7: Nomex Hoods	264.00
	8: Suspenders	<u>270.00</u>
		\$16,903.80
	Industrial Protection Services Topsham ME	5: Cairns 664 Helmets
6: Cairns 1044 Helmets		<u>1,022.00</u>
		\$1,925.00

VOTE: 4-0

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On recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and on motion of Mr. Mark Paradis , seconded by Ms. O'Brien it was

VOTED:

(14-2007) To award Bid 2007-006 on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department to K & T Environmental, Island Falls, Maine, low bidder meeting specifications at their total bid price of \$10,785.

VOTE: 4-0

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

VOTED:

(15-2007) To award Bid 2007-004 on Fire Uniforms to the low bidder meeting specifications on an item by item basis as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Allen Uniforms So. Portland ME	1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	\$4,849.65
Coastal T-Shirts Auburn ME	5	\$750.00

VOTE: 4-0

The Purchasing Agent requested ratification of the award of bid on demolition of 29 Lincoln Street (the former Vincent Fruit property). Five (5) proposals were submitted and the bid was awarded to Chabot's Construction, Greene, Maine, at a price of \$14,700.

On recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and on motion of Mr. Mark Paradis , seconded by Ms. O'Brien it was

VOTED:

(16-2007) To ratify the award of Bid 2007-008 on the Demolition of 29 Lincoln Street to Chabot's Construction, Greene, Maine, low bidder at their bid price of \$14,700.

VOTE: 4-0

The W S Libbey Mill site was award a Federal EPA grant as part of the Brownfields Program to address facilities with environmental issues. The City's consulting firm, Edwards & Kelcey, developed a scope of work to remediate environmental issues at the site. Three (3) proposals were received to remove and dispose of environmental issues and it is recommended that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, BioSafe of Westbrook, Maine.

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On recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and on motion of Mr. Mark Paradis , seconded by Ms. O'Brien it was

VOTED:

(17-2007) To award Bid 2007-009 on the W S Libbey Mill Remediation Program to BioSafe Environmental Services, Westbrook, Maine, low bidder at their total bid price of \$88,200.

VOTE: 4-0

The Committee was advised that a dangerous situation existed at the W S Libbey Mill site where a seventy-five (75') foot high smoke stack was cracking and presented eminent danger to an adjacent FPL Energy warehouse. Because of the emergency and public safety issue associated with this situation, the City Council authorized award of the contract to Chabot's Construction to demolish and dismantle the smoke stack. It was recommended that the contract be ratified at this time.

On motion of Ms. O'Brien , seconded by Mr. Reed it was

VOTED:

(18-2007) To ratify award of the contract for removal of the smoke stack at the W S Libbey Mill site to Chabot's Construction, Greene, Maine, at their total price of \$12,000.

VOTE: 4-0

At this time, the Finance Director reviewed the fiscal impact of the Fiscal Year 2008 Lewiston Capital Improvement Program with the Committee. The focus of the presentation was the impact of proposed bonded indebtedness for projects which were being recommended for financing through the issuance of bonds over the Five Year Plan. The current amount of bonded indebtedness as of June 30, 2007 amounts to \$128,240,928. The breakdown of the Debt Service impact to each of the various financing sources such as City Property Taxes, School Property Taxes and Water, Sewer, Storm Water Utility User Fees. A comparison of the City's current assessed value and bonded debt with projections over the next five years was also shared with the Committee. A chart comparing the City's assessed valuation, tax levies and tax rate of the past five years indicated that the assessed valuation had increased by 18.2%; the property tax levy had increased by 6.9% and the tax rate had decreased by 6.65%.

Chairman Provencher reviewed with the Committee a recommendation which he had prepared to be forwarded to the City Council cautioning them on future increases in bonded indebtedness and that they should only be commensurate with projected increases in the City's tax base. After discussions amongst Committee members, a consensus was agreed upon to make this recommendation to the City Council.

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On motion of Mr. Reed , seconded by Mr. Mark Paradis it was

VOTED:

(19-2007) After review of the fiscal year 2008 Capital Improvement Program and the impact on the City's Bonded Indebtedness, the Finance Committee wishes to caution the City Council that bonded indebtedness increases should only be made commensurate with projected increases in the City's Tax Base. Bonded Debt increases over the past four years have averaged over 13% per year. Annual increases at this level going forward are not sustainable over the long term to the taxpayers of this community.

VOTE: 4-0

VOTED:

To adjourn at 5:57 p.m.

Richard T. Metivier
Clerk
Finance Committee