

# FINANCE COMMITTEE

## LEWISTON, MAINE

April 25, 2005

**PRESENT:**

Ronald Paradis, Roger Provencher, Robert Reed and Councilor Mark Paradis. Councilor Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien arrived at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by the Chairman Roger Provencher.

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

**VOTED:**

**(37-2005)** To dispense with reading of the minutes of the previous meeting dated April 11, 2005 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. Ron Paradis it was

**VOTED:**

**(38-2005)** To authorize Task Order #11 to the contract with Wright-Pierce for design services associated with the construction of a Chloramination Facility at the Main Street Pumping Station in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

**VOTE: 4-0**

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

**VOTED:**

**(39-2005)** To award Bid LA 2005-001 on Water Treatment Chemicals to the low bidder meeting specifications on an item by item basis as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
JCI Jones Chemical (Merrimack NH)	1	Gaseous Chlorine	\$45,500.00
Monson Chemicals (So. Portland ME)	2	Fluorosilicic Acid	9,671.40
	3	Caustic Soda	37,752.43
	6	Sodium Hypochloride	8,175.00
Harcross Chemicals (Westbrook ME)	5	Aqueous Ammonia	5,658.12
<b>TOTAL AWARD FOR LEWISTON</b>			<b>\$106,756.95</b>

**VOTE: 4-0**

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

**VOTED:**

**(40-2005)** To award Bid LA 2005-002 on Utility Trench Restoration for Water Division projects to T W Paving, Lewiston, Maine, low bidder overall at their total bid price of \$21,950.

**VOTE: 4-0**

The Committee considered the award of the bid on the Main Street Pumping Station Chloramination Project. Although the initial estimated cost of the project was \$350,000, the low bidder, T-Buck Construction, price of \$549,549 was competitive with the two other proposals received. Part of the reason for the additional cost were changes in the scope of the project required by the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, as well as a bidder's market for construction projects due to the significant amount of ongoing construction. Additional funds required for this project are available from other bond issue projects and will be transferred to cover the additional cost.

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

**VOTED:**

**(41-2005)** To award Bid 2005-015 on Main Street Pumping Station Chloramination Project to T-Buck Construction, Auburn, Maine, low bidder at their total bid price of \$549,549.

**VOTE: 4-0**

The Committee considered award of Bid 2005-004 on the Pond Road Rehabilitation Project. This project would involve road reconstruction from Sheffield Avenue to Webster Street. The low bidder C H Stevenson Inc., has not previously done work for the City however, the City Engineering Division has verified references from the State and other communities and is satisfied with their ability to perform this project. As is the case in all construction projects, Performance and Payment Bonds will be obtained from the contractor.

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

**VOTED:**

**(42-2005)** To award Bid 2005-004 on the Pond Road Rehabilitation Project to C H Stevenson Inc., Wayne, Maine, low bidder at their total estimated bid price of \$307,777.

**VOTE: 4-0**

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

**VOTED:**

**(43-2005)** To award Bid 2005-019 on the season’s requirement of Gravel, Loam and Crushed Stone to the low bidder on an item by item basis as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount (/CY)</u>	
• Aggregate Base	Houle Trucking (Poland Spring)	O/C	6.50
		Job Site	6.75
• Aggregate Sub-Base	Houle Trucking (Poland Spring)	O/C	6.25
		Job Site	6.50
• Crushed Stone	Gendron & Gendron (Lewiston)	O/C	12.60
		Job Site	15.10
		Plant	12.50
• Loam	Beaulieu Industries (Sabattus)	O/C	12.00
		Job Site	12.00
		Plant	12.00
• Winter Sand	Dube Gravel (Lewiston)	O/C	6.45

**VOTE: 4-0**

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

**VOTED:**

**(44-2005)** To award Bid 2005-020 on Work Zone Traffic Control (Flaggers) to Suburban Security, Windham, Maine, low bidder at their bid price of \$15.50 per hour.

**VOTE: 4-0**

The Committee considered award of the bid on the season’s requirement of Bituminous Pavement. This Bituminous Pavement bid is to be picked up at the bidder’s plant by the City and to be applied for street and sidewalk patching purposes. Although the low bidder, R C & Son, has open their facility on Hotel Road approximately one year ago, concern relative to the plant’s ability to produce products that would meet all of the MDOT specification has now been alleviated as a result of certification provided by the contractor. Although the plant location on Hotel Road in Auburn (just beyond the A-L Airport) is further than Pike Industries’ plant in Lewiston, the price differential of \$4.25 per ton is significant enough that it warrants obtaining the materials from the Auburn site.

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

**VOTED:**

**(45-2005)** To award Bid 2005-022 on the season's requirement of Bituminous Pavement to R C & Son, Lewiston, Maine, at their bid price of \$30 per ton for items 1-5 and \$45 per ton for curbing mix.

**VOTE: 4-0**

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

**VOTED:**

**(46-2005)** To award Bid 2005-023 on the season's requirement of Precast Structures to Gagne Precast, Auburn, Maine, overall low bidder taking into consideration the most commonly used items.

**VOTE: 4-0**

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

**VOTED:**

**(47-2005)** To award Bid 2005-024 on a three (3) year contract for Uniform Rental for the Public Works and Public Services Departments to Unifirst Corporation, Portland, Maine, low bidder overall with the prices fixed for the term of the contract.

**VOTE: 4-0**

Due to a prior commitment, Councilor Mark Paradis left the meeting at this time. Councilor Lillian O'Brien arrived the meeting during discussions of the fiscal year 2006 Budget recommendation.

The Finance Director provided an overview of the fiscal year 2006 Budget recommended by the City Administrator and School Committee to the City Council. Committee members had received copies of the document prior to the last meeting.

The total City and School recommended budget amounts to \$79,257,221 representing an increase of \$3,872,205 or 5.1% above the current appropriation. Based upon the estimate of revenues from the State and other sources of \$37,798,848 as well as utilization of \$1,943,508 of prior year's surplus, the budget as recommended would require no property tax increase from the current mil rate of \$27.70.

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The recommended City budget of \$40,281,944 is a \$1.3 million increase or 3.5% while the \$38,975,277 School budget is a \$2.17 million increase or 5.9%. Although the School Department is receiving an additional \$3.3 million of funding from the State to help offset the cost of education, State requirements relative to Essential Programs and Services as well as expected influx of new refugees to the community, is increasing the cost of education in order to meet the State as well as Federal mandates.

Robert Reed indicated that he would strongly recommend that the Council adopt a budget that would result in a mil rate below the \$27.70 mil rate of last year. He indicated that as the result of discussions that went on last year relative to tax cap initiatives that property tax payers are expecting some kind of property tax relief. Mr. Reed further indicated that the City should apply portions of any new revenue resources that are received toward property tax relief.

Councilor Lillian O'Brien indicated that Lewiston is one of the larger beneficiaries of State Aid in this upcoming budget. She indicated that it is important that the City continue with its economic growth and investment in the community while holding the line on taxes.

Committee members discussed the contents of any recommendation to the City Council and concluded that important considerations would be for the Council to continue on its current path of budget deliberations which would reduce the property tax rate from its current \$27.70. After further discussion and exchange of ideas its was the consensus that the following recommendation be forwarded to the City Council.

On motion of Roger Provencher, seconded by Mr. Robert Reed it was

### **VOTED:**

**(48-2005)** After careful review of the City Administrator and School Committee recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2006, it is recommended to the Mayor and City Council to continue budget deliberations on your current path of reducing the current property tax mil rate of \$27.70 in order to provide property tax relief to the taxpayers of this community, while not reducing the critical services needed by the community and to also carefully scrutinize the authorization of additional debt so as not to negatively impact the budgets of future years.

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **VOTED:**

To adjourn at 6:18 p.m.

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Richard T. Metivier  
Clerk  
Finance Committee