

FINANCE COMMITTEE

LEWISTON, MAINE

April 24, 2006

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Ronald Paradis

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

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting indicated adjournment at 6:41 p.m. when the time was actually 5:41 p.m.

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

VOTED:

(33-2006) To amend the minutes dated April 10, 2006 to reflect an adjournment of 5:41 p.m. and to accept and place on file the minutes as amended.

VOTE: 3-0-1
Chairman Provencher abstained

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

VOTED:

(34-2006) To award Bid LA 2006-002 on Water Treatment Chemicals to the low bidder on an item by item basis as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Item # & Description</u>	<u>Unit \$</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
JCI Jones Chemicals Merrimack NH	(1) Chlorine (1 ton cylinders)	1,750 ea.	\$45,500.00
Monson Companies So. Portland ME	(2) Fluorosilicic Acid	1.0746/gallon	9,671.40
	(5) Aqueous Ammonia	2.01/gallon	10,452.00
	(6) Sodium Hypochlorite	1.1800/gallon	8,850.00
Univar USA Providence RI	(3) Caustic Soda	.7320/gallon	<u>28,548.00</u>
	Total Value of Award (Lewiston)		\$103,021.40

VOTE: 4-0

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The Committee considered award of Bid LA 2006-003 on Utility Trench Restoration for both Lewiston and Auburn. Councilor Paradis raised the issue of local preference because the second low bidder was only \$31 higher in cost than the low bidder which is a company from Kennebunk, Maine.

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

VOTED:

(35-2006) To award Bid LA 2006-003 on Utility Trench Restoration to Pavement Treatment Inc., Kennebunk, Maine, low bidder at their total bid price of \$13,002.70.

VOTE: 3-1
Councilor Paradis opposed

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

VOTED:

(36-2006) To ratify the award Bid 2006-004 on a Tri-Axle Truck Chassis & Cab for the Public Works Department to the low bidder, O'Connor Motors, Augusta, Maine, low bidder meeting specifications at their bid price of \$113,087 less a trade in allowance of \$15,000 for a net bid price of \$98,087.

VOTE: 4-0

The Finance Director briefly reviewed the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget submitted by the City Administrator which is presently being reviewed by the City Council. The overall budget, including School Department, amounts to \$83,835,240, an increase of \$4,811,061 or 6.09%. The City Administrator had also originally recommended that the City enter into an agreement for the contracting of the Solid Waste Landfill Operations which would have resulted in a net savings to the City of \$1.1 million when considering the reduction in expenses as well as additional revenue that the contract would provide. The \$700,000 reduction in expenses would actually bring the overall budget increase to 5.2%. If the \$1.1 million reduction in the City's tax levy were to be applied and when considering a \$50 million increase in new taxable valuation the budget impact on property taxes would actually would be a no increase. It was pointed out that the \$1.1 million reduction in tax levy, as a result of contracting Solid Waste Operations, was no longer possible because of the State Legislature's enactment of legislation that would prohibit the contractual arrangement proposed with Cassella Waste Systems.

Discussion also ensued on the establishment of a Storm Water Utility that would remove \$1.5 to \$1.6 million of cost which are in the current City budget and would establish a utility, similar to Water and Sewer, where fees would be based on various properties contribution to the cost of dealing with storm water issues. The proposal would be to establish a flat fee of \$30 for each residential unit and

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that the fees assessed to commercial, industrial and non-profit agencies would be based on the amount of impervious area of their property. Due to the fact that this fee would now be assessed to all properties within the City including tax exempts, the cost of these services would be spread over a wider base.

A review of the various proposals that were included in the budget being recommended by the City Administrator such as turning over operations of the Multi-Purpose Center to the School Department, were also discussed with the Committee.

Committee members indicated that it was difficult to put together a recommendation to the City Council on many of these issues without having the opportunity of additional time and information to consider the proposals being recommended. The Chairman suggested that an actual recommendation to the City Council be tabled to the next meeting and that he would propose a draft recommendation to the City Council that could be circulated amongst Committee members and considered for action at the next regular meeting.

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

VOTED:

(37-2006) To table action on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget until the next regular meeting.

VOTE: 4-0

VOTED:

To adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

Richard Metivier
Clerk
Finance Committee