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Finance Committee
City of Tomahawk, City Council Chambers
23 N 2nd St, Tomahawk, WI 54487
February 1, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Call to Order: Mickey Loka called to the Finance Committee to order at 5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Members present were Mikey Loka, Pat Haskin, Jeff Kahle, Dale Ernst, and Steve “Ding” Bartz.

Staff members present were Clerk/Treasurer Amanda L. Bartz and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Miranda Freeman.

Public in attendance was Will Garske, Roxanne Consolver, Zach Gardner, Jalen Maki, Marie Daigle, Steve Daigle, Andy Tomaszewski, Terry Wiese, and Gary Jeacks.

Public comments: There were no public comments.

Minutes: HASKIN MOVED to approve the December 28, 2022 minutes and ERNST seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.

Approval of Checks: BARTZ MOVED to approve General Fund checks 113560 – 113699, 12 automatic withdrawal payments in the amount of \$2,204,996.53, payroll checks 52784 – 52802 and direct deposit checks V11937 - V12029 in the amount of \$115,394.98 and Solid Waste Fund Checks 1894 – 1898 in the amount of \$44,474.66 KAHLE seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.

Reports:

1. **General Fund Financial Report:** The Committee reviewed the report. ERNST MOVED to approve, and HASKIN seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.
2. **Board of Public Works Financial Report (Water and Sewer):** The Committee reviewed the report from the Board of Public Works.

Other Business:

1. **2023 Fire Contracts:** Andy Tomaszewski, Town of King, stated that all the townships were all hit with an increase to the fire contracts this year. He stated that he would not mind paying the increase if they had known prior to the budget being finalized. He stated that they will have to eliminate road work to come up with the shortfall. He reiterated that they do not mind paying the amount and requested that it be stretched out to 2024 when they can raise the funds.

HASKIN asked how many years the townships had been asked to set up a meeting with the Chief. Clerk BARTZ stated that it has been asked the last four years. Tomaszewski stated that this year was the first time he has seen it.

Terry Wiese, Town of King, stated that his biggest concern now is that the 2023 budgets are set. Tomaszewski asked again if the increase could be held off until 2024.

1
2 Clerk BARTZ stated that if you pay the second half in December you would be collecting the 2024
3 taxes and could be included in your 2024 budget. Tomaszewski questioned that the City wants us to
4 pre-spend the taxes?
5

6 Tomaszewski stated that he is asking for this to be pushed off until 2024. MICKEY LOKA stated that
7 he does not think we can do that but stated again we can make half due by June and the second half
8 due by December. Tomaszewski asked what they are supposed to tell their residents, we can't do
9 your roads now because of the City of Tomahawk?
10

11 HASKIN stated that we have to be accountable to our taxpayers also. Tomaszewski stated that this
12 did not come up overnight and stated that it should have been communicated to the townships.
13

14 MICKEY LOKA stated that we got the contracts out to you as soon as we had our budget complete.
15 Tomaszewski stated that we only have \$109,000 for our town budget.
16

17 ERNST stated that this was indicated 3 years ago we sent this letter. Tomaszewski stated that when
18 you had no responses you should have wondered why, for three years no one cared to question why
19 no one responded. ERNST stated that was what we assumed, no one cared. HASKIN agreed, that is
20 what we thought when no one responded.
21

22 Tomaszewski stated that he is concerned with a short fall, and we have to come up with \$16,000.
23

24 BARTZ stated that in the letters that went out there was never monetary number we just stated that
25 there would be an increase. He stated that he can see the townships point, they knew it was
26 coming but did not know the impact.
27

28 Tomaszewski stated that they did not see the letter. He stated that if the Clerk sent the letter out
29 and got zero responses maybe the initiative should have been taken to reach out to the townships
30 another way. He stated that it was the last sentence in the letter.
31

32 MICKEY LOKA stated that we cannot be responsible for who reads and does not read the
33 correspondence, we are responsible for sending the letter.
34

35 Gary Jeacks, Town of Tomahawk, stated he understands having to pay for the fire service. He stated
36 that as the Chairperson, he received the letter too late. He stated that in the past he never seen the
37 letter. He asked if the Fire Department would continue to send the incident reports and if they
38 could get them as soon as the incident happens so they can recoup the costs from the resident's
39 insurance.
40

41 Clerk BARTZ stated that Fire Chief Winter did send a draft incident report that include equipment
42 rates from FEMA that the townships can use to bill the responsible parties.
43

44 MICKEY LOKA reiterated that the Fire Department is working on that process. HASKIN asked if the
45 actual costs were higher or lower then the previously billed calls. Clerk BARTZ stated that the actual
46 costs are much higher than what was previously billed.
47
48

1 Jaecks stated that he can understand where the Fire Department needs more funds with the rising
2 costs of everything. He stated unfortunately the clerks did not catch the request in the letters.

3
4 Tomaszewski stated that if we knew it was going to be such a change it should not have been the
5 last sentence in the whole letter. HASKIN stated that if she had received that letter she would have
6 called.

7
8 Tomaszewski stated that we will have a shortage in 2023 taxes to pay for this which will cause us to
9 push off our road budget. ERNST stated he understands where they are coming from and
10 apologized for any miscommunications. MICKEY LOKA stated that the City is in the same situation,
11 and we have had years that we have not done any road work, it is very unfortunate.

12
13 Tomaszewski stated that we have 33 miles of roads to maintain with an operating budget of
14 \$100,000. He asked the City to be more vigorous on the communications.

15
16 BARTZ stated that going forward, we do our budgets in November and this will always be an
17 evolving number. We will get the information to the townships as soon as we know so that they can
18 do their budgets.

19
20 2. 114 W Washington Av – Consideration of Tax Deed and Sale to Prior Owner:

21
22 BARTZ stated she received a call from the County Clerk, Chris Marlow in regard to the property at
23 114 W Washington Av. She stated that the County has taken this property on a tax deed and the
24 County has been working with the property owner and Marie Daigle for resale of the property back
25 to the owner.

26
27 MICKEY LOKA asked if they are willing to pay the amount of back taxes and specials in full. Clerk
28 BARTZ stated that they were and that she was working with the County on the exact payoff
29 amounts. She stated that they did not have the money to pay the taxes and specials until January
30 when they received an inheritance from the passing of his parents.

31
32 BARTZ MOVED to approve the sale of the property back to Stefanich upon payment of taxes,
33 specials, past utilities and any penalties and interest and ERNST seconded.

34
35 BARTZ stated that this is a tough situation with a family, he questioned how we address the
36 responsibility to pay the taxes every year.

37
38 Marie Daigle thanked the Committee for their time and consideration, she has talked to the
39 property owner, and they understand the eviction and says they had it coming. Daigle does not
40 want to see them homeless. Mrs. Stefanich has assured her that she will be setting up an escrow
41 account to pay the taxes, she has a sustainable plan. Daigle stated that if they had received the
42 inheritance in December, they would have paid the taxes.

43
44 The VOTE was unanimous.

45
46 3. Write-Off Delinquent Utilities and Special Assessment on Properties Taken on Tax Deed:

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48 BARTZ stated that the parcel number ending in 0107 should be taken off the list to be written off.

1
2 ERNST MOVED to write off the specials from the properties taken by tax deed excluding the parcel
3 ending in 0107 and KAHLE seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.

4
5 4. Update(s) on Transportation/Infrastructure Funding – Premier Resort Area Tax (PRAT)/Sales Tax

6
7 There were no updates.

8
9 5. City Owned Property

10
11 404 S Tomahawk Av Clerk BARTZ stated that there is a tentative meeting scheduled for February 15th
12 at 5:00 p.m.

13
14 Bill Sparr stated that he has been working with Gene Winter on his dream for a Boat Museum. He
15 stated that they are asking to put up a building on Deer Park Road next to the existing building. He
16 stated that there has been some concern about snow storage in the winter. He stated that this
17 would be open only in the summer and should not take up too much space.

18
19 MICKEY LOKA stated that we cannot lose our field for parking but if we can gain some parking on the
20 south side of Deer Park Road it should not be a problem. Discussion followed regarding the
21 property and usable space. This item will go to the Council on February 7, 2023.

22
23 **Next meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for March 1, 2023 at
24 City Hall, Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.

25
26 **Adjourn:** KAHLE MOVED to adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee and ERNST seconded. The
27 VOTE was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

28
29 Approved: March 1, 2023

30 _____
31 Amanda L. Bartz, CMC,