

Finance Committee

Mon, Feb 20, 2023 5:30PM • 15:20

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:00

Good evening. We'll call this meeting of the Finance Committee to order on Monday, February 20 2023 at 5:30pm. Roll call of membership. All members of the Finance Committee are present.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:11

We'll move on to approval of the minutes from the previous meeting 23-0169 Finance Committee minutes. Finance Committee minutes.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 00:22

Move for approval.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 00:23

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:24

Motion and a second. Any comments or questions? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor, aye. All right. Five, zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:35

No public hearings or appearances tonight so we'll move on to action items. And we're going to go a little bit out of order here. And we're going to start with 23-0174 request to approve the Bulkley Dunton publishing group's request to refund of 2022 personal property taxes located at 3120 North Marshall Road Appleton, Wisconsin. All right so motion.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 01:02

I'll so move.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:03

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:04

All right we have a motion a second. Any comment on this one at all? **[somebody said something off mic.]** All right. Any questions from any other? All right. Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:26

So, we will go back to the top here and go through the order the rest of the way. So that'll take us to 23-0156 request to approve acceptance of Federal Transit Administration fiscal year 2021 American rescue act plan act grants of \$3,370,750 and \$32,147 and Coronavirus response in relief supplemental appropriate Appropriations Act grant of \$32,146. This is an item that also appeared on the Fox Cities Transit Commission agenda as an action item.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 02:04

Move for approval.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:06

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:07

Motion and a second. Any comment or question on this? Anyone care to hear from General Manager McDonald. I'll turn your mic. What number? Sorry. Director three. All right.

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 02:21

Thank you, chair. Should have been a memo included. I don't want to bore you and read through the entire memo. But basically, these are grants that were awarded to Valley Transit. And now we're just asking for authorization to accept them and put them into the budget. Our intent is to use a majority of these funds in our Whitman Avenue renovation project, which we're going to complete Phase One with 100% federal dollars. This will go into that.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:50

All right, excellent. Alder Hartzheim. Thirteen, correct? All right.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 02:57

Thank you Chair. I would just like to make sure we know when these funds need to be used by and that General Manager McDonald is going to assure us that there'll be used by the time that they need to be.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 03:09

Alright.

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 03:10

Yeah, that's a good question. Thank you for bringing that up. The ARPA funds actually have a date on them. They have to be obligated, I think by 2024 and spent eight, ten years down the road. But those will be the first funds we use. The rest of them don't have a deadline on them. But they're going to get a deadline at some point. We'll use the first funds necessary moving forward.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 03:36

Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 03:37

All right. Thank you both. Anyone else? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 03:50

Brings us to 23-0158 request to approve submittal of applications for—

[It sounded like Alderson Siebers asked what item they were one.]

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3)

Second item on the list, so, yeah, 23-0158 requests approve submittal of applications for fiscal year 2023 Federal 5339 B funds for \$12 million for the Whitman facility remodel phase two and \$25,254,700 for the downtown Appleton joint development project. This also appeared as an item on the Fox Cities Transit Commission agenda.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 04:26

Move for approval.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:27

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:27

All right. We have a motion and second. Director McDonald if you want to go.

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 04:31

Thank you, chair. So, two different projects we're going to submit in this grant. The first one as noted is phase two of the Whitman facility. So, we have enough funding to do Phase One, which we hope to bring to Council on Wednesday night. Phase Two we want apply for this grant. That's where the 12 million comes from. And so, we're seeking authorization to apply for that.

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 04:53

The second project is part of the downtown Appleton multimodal joint development project. And I think you probably saw the meeting or two ago where we asked for authorization to apply for a RAISE grant for the same project. They're both highly competitive grants. So, we're applying for both opportunities, and hopefully we're successful, at least one of them, to get the project done. So that's what these are, and we're putting these through. These opened up since we went through with the RAISE grants and these will—notice of awards will be the end of June.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:29

Sounds good? Any questions? Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 05:34

Thank you, Chair. I just have a question. I know that the Transit Commission voted on the contract for seven five. **[note: she was referencing the \$7.04 million the Transit Commission authorized to be spent on Phase One of the Whitman Avenue Facility remodeling project.]** Would that be considered phase one of the Whitman remodel?

General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 05:47

Yes. So yeah, the first one is—it was actually about 6.7, and we had a 5% contingency so like \$7,040,000. That's for Phase One. And that's going to be for the administrative facilities and employee locker rooms and things like that. Phase Two will be the remainder of the maintenance department and the bus storage area.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 06:09

Okay, thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:11

All right. Anyone else? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor. Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:23

23-0170 Request to approve finance committee report 1-P—1-P-23 For concrete pavement, sidewalk construction and driveway aprons.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 06:34

Move for approval.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 06:36

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:36

All right, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on this? Seeing none, all those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five to zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:50

23-0172 Request to approve finance committee report 2-P-23 for sanitary laterals, storm laterals and storm main.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 07:02

Move for approval.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:03

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:04

All right. We have a motion and a second. Any comments or questions on this? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:19

23-0173 Request to award unit Y-23 lead/galvanized water service replacement to Scott Lamers construction LLC, and an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 07:32

Move for approval.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:33

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:34

Alright, we have a motion and a second. Any comments or questions on this? Alder Fenton?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:39

Thank you Chair. I'd just like to ask (and I actually asked the chair offline earlier) so, if I can refer this to Director Block? Where does that put us on the total replacement of all the lead and galvanized service lines in the city?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:56

Which microphone number do you have back there please?

Deputy Director Ross Buetow (Public Works) 08:04

Basically, the target is still a moving target. So basically, we have a pretty good idea as far as where we sit in terms of both public side and private side lead water services. This particular project is targeting the private side led services. So right now, we are in the middle of conducting ongoing home inspections. We're soliciting letters

out to property owners asking to get access into their properties to verify the lead or non-lead status of their services. We're relying on older historic city records, which in many cases are our best guess. So, there are some areas that we're obviously continuing to investigate.

Deputy Director Ross Buetow (Public Works) 08:41

So, the goal of this project this year. And maybe I'll just take a moment to explain the amount of the award. So that—if you'll notice, we did receive a lot of bids for this. We had really competitive interest on this. So, our goal was to estimate the approximate number of services that would utilize—our goal was to spend \$500,000, this year, which is basically half of half of our ARPA allocation. So, our goal is to spend half of that ARPA funds in 2023, and the other half in 2024, because we have to have that expended by the end of next year. So, we basically are targeting to get \$500,000 work done this year. Majority of those are lead. But we are also basically at the end of our known lead inventory on private side. So based on the EPA's requirements, galvanized are also eligible and they're preferred to get those replaced as well. So right now, we're doing—majority of this year's program is lead services but there are also galvanized. So, as we continue to get into people's homes, we're going to continue to add those lead services on as a priority.

Deputy Director Ross Buetow (Public Works) 09:46

So right now, I think we have targeting 150 services this year, and of those I believe just under 100 are lead and the other ones are galvanized. But if we do identify lead, those will take priority over the galvanized obviously. So.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:02

Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 10:06

Alder Van Zeeland?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:07

Thank you chair. Is there any concern about being able to spend this money before the deadline, if so many municipalities are looking to do this? I guess I'd be concerned that if everyone's trying to do it by a certain time and with the lack of contractors and employ—who say they have employees available—are we concerned about that at all?

Deputy Director Ross Buetow (Public Works) 10:31

Based on our current list, and the way that the numbers on the list are increasing each year, we're confident that we will certainly be able to spend the two year's allocation that we have right now. I would anticipate that this is not just going to be a two-more year project. this is going to extend out into the future, because we are obligated by EPA guidelines to continue to investigate and identify these. So we're confident that, based on the properties that we've been able to add to the list and the frequency that we're continuing to add, that we're confident we'll be able to spend this money.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:02

Okay. Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:05

Anyone else? Sorry, what microphone number?

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 11:12

I just also want to add that the timeline—we need to obligate by December 31, 2024 and expend by December 31, 2026. So, we do have a little bit of extra room if we can't get all the work done in those first two years.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:26

All right, that sounds good. One more check. Anyone else? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor, aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five zero.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:40

Brings us to our last action item 23-0066 request to award the 2023 Voster's Park redevelopment project contract to Triple P Incorporated DBA Peters Concrete Company in the amount of \$97,000 with a 15% contingency of \$14,550 for a project total not to exceed \$111,550.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 12:04

Move for approval.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:08

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 12:09

Okay, motion and second. Director Gazza what mic number do you have please? Three? Director three.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:18

We—thank you, Chair. We had our second meeting, public meeting, and it went very well from I think everybody's perspective. We had a pretty good turnout. We had four different news agencies there. And we presented a plan that basically looked to naturalize the area, reforest the area, similar to what it was before. And we have WE Energies as a partner to help us donate some trees in which will help reforest that in conjunction with our own forestry department. So, without going into great detail, if you have any questions about the specific plan, but other than that, I think the bigger story is that the neighborhood's happy and the parks department is satisfied with the plan also, to move forward and get this done. We talked to our contractor, and though there's minor changes, it won't be enough to have to rebid the project so we still can get the work done in a timely fashion.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:19

It's good to hear. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 13:24

Thank you, chair. Just quickly, thank you guys for holding this item as long as we needed to in order to get the neighborhood impact assessed and the neighborhood satisfied. And I would like to thank the Parks and Rec Department staff very much for all the hard work they put into this. Thanks.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:39

Thank you. All right. Anyone else? Seeing none. We'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five zero.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:54

We have one information item on the agenda tonight. I don't know if anyone has any comment or a question on this one. I guess I do just for clarification, even though this is an information item, it just it was kind of worded in

a way it almost looked like it meant to be an action item. So, I just wanted to make sure, because that last sentence "request to issue the final payment of \$44,957." I wouldn't think that this is something—I'm guessing this doesn't need to be an action item, it just the wording made me wonder because some—we have had that happen in the pass where an action item somehow gets filed as an information item.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:31

It is an informational item just to make the final payment. So, because it was a bid item and we're making final payment, but we're, you know, within contingency within budget. So just basically informational information and I'm happy to announce that the lighting was installed. So, we were able to kind of wrap this up. We were waiting for the ground to freeze, but it wasn't cooperative.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 14:55

It's looking good over there. Been able to walk down that way a couple of times when the weather's be nice, so. It's good to see. Just—but yeah, I just wanted to make sure it wasn't one of those where it meant to be an action item but somehow got filed as an information.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:08

Appreciate that. Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 15:09

All right with that, last...

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 15:11

Move for adjournment.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 15:12

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 15:13

All right motion and a second. All those in favor? Aye. All right, we are adjourned. Have a good night, everyone. Thanks