

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2019 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CAUCUS ROOM**

Present: Chairman Vice Mayor Dave Grendel
Councilperson Dale Veverka
Councilperson Patricia Wisnieski

Also Present: Mayor Anthony Togliatti
Councilperson Carl Asseff
Councilperson Jim Trakas
Finance Director John Veres
Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek
Fire Chief Steve Rega
Technical Service Director Dave Snyderburn

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said Doc, thanks for coming too. We have a very important meeting. We are going to be reviewing and discussing the 2019 Appropriations. John, I will turn the floor over to you to explain. We will follow along with the Memorandum dated February 15th that John had provided for us.

Councilperson Wisnieski said before the Chairman starts, did you want me to make a motion to approve the Minutes?

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said yes, I apologize.

Moved by Wisnieski, seconded by Veverka, to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2018. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Patti.

Finance Director Veres said I can't use the laser because it doesn't show up on the screen.

So, the first change noted is a change from estimated to actual remaining balances in the funds. Then the property tax change is based upon what we received from the County. The total beginning balance went up about \$300,000 overall from what we had anticipated.

So then on the estimated resources, estimated revenue and the municipal income tax; so that's our collections. I just adjusted it once we finalized 2% of the 2018 final total.

Councilperson Asseff asked John was that increased revenue taxes?

Finance Director Veres said it was taxes and with the General Fund we typically appropriate a little bit more in each line item so that's unspent money in the General Fund as well. You don't want to be in December and not be able to pay payroll because your appropriations are too tight.

So the next one is in the non-TIF Debt Fund, and I'm increasing it by \$3,500,000. So, that will allow us basically to use that excess money that we brought in to pay off the Shared Facility debt three years early. So, that is why that's being increased and the corresponding payment out of the non-TIF Debt Fund.

I just added \$35,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund for the Rec Department NatureWorks grant that they received. So, that's the Capital Improvement Fund 410. The Street Improvement Fund, I added \$600,000 to transfer in here due to a lower beginning balance. We encumbered a lot of funds at the end of the year, and that ate into the beginning balance. So, it really wasn't spent money, it was more P.O.'s created for projects that lowered the beginning balance.

The Drain Water Fund, I reduced the transfer by \$175,000 because the beginning balance was higher. We didn't spend as much in the Drain Water Fund as we had anticipated last year.

Councilperson Trakas asked John is that where we use the money for the creek maintenance as well?

Finance Director Veres said yes, creek maintenance comes out of there Councilperson Trakas.

Councilperson Trakas said thank you.

Finance Director Veres said so the next page shows the Northeast Quadrant, and I added \$24,800 to estimated revenue because Kent State is going to be paying their share of the sanitary sewer improvements. We couldn't assess them because they don't pay taxes, but they agreed to an annual payment over time equal to their fair share of the assessment.

Councilperson Asseff asked how many years will they have to pay that?

Finance Director Veres said 25, the same as the assessment.

I also added to the short term borrowing \$3,250,000 we are going to borrow for the Rockside Woods North/21 intersection. So, that's basically the intersection portion of the extension and the improvements north and south of the intersection on Route 21. So, we are paying down \$3,500,000, and we are borrowing \$3,250,000. So, we are lowering our debt a little bit overall.

Then I am adding \$350,000 to Transfer In because I don't know who remembers when Rockside Road was a five lane road; and over the weekend somebody came in, the City hired somebody and put an overlay on it because the City was tired of waiting for Rockside to be widened or improved. So, I asked Don Ramm about it, and he called Specialized to look at Rockside Woods

North extension; and we can do an overlay for about \$350,000 over a six day period that Specialized thinks will last ten years. So, it will give us a little time.

Mayor Togliatti said and that's for the existing portion of Rockside Woods North.

Finance Director Veres said the current portion that goes all the way up to Embassy. So, it would match the new pavement which is asphalt.

Councilperson Trakas asked that's only for that part?

Finance Director Veres said from Rockside to Embassy, both sides. They would shut one side down and do one-way traffic. So, that's in there in case Council wants to. You know the Mayor thought it would be good to discuss it with you guys, put it in there.

Councilperson Trakas asked after they are done with that.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked there's no sidewalks on Rockside Woods are there?

Mayor Togliatti said not currently.

Finance Director Veres said we could go ahead and do that later. It would give us time to do it.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said especially if there's going to be other construction on the two other lots. That would make sense not to put a new road in until that's developed.

Finance Director Veres said the only other change in revenue is Home Days estimate. We have been having \$50,000 in and \$50,000 out for years; and we just figured \$60,000 would be a little bit easier in and out. So, we are bumping it \$10,000. Those are all the changes in estimated revenue.

Councilperson Trakas asked John, on some of these new TIF's, are you finding that people are living up to what we thought they were going to be doing roughly?

Finance Director Veres said yes.

Councilperson Trakas said like Involta.

Finance Director Veres said well Involta we haven't received anything yet, but SpringHill and Home2. We are hoping to get Involta because it's approved now, but the County sometimes lags behind.

Councilperson Trakas said understood.

Finance Director Veres said so then on the appropriation side, the change to Transfers Out for the street resurfacing I talked about, the reduction in the money going to the Drain Water and the \$350,000 to the Northeast Quadrant for the overlay. So, that's why the Transfers Out changed.

The Non-TIF Debt Fund on the next page, I already pointed that out that we increased it to \$4,700,000 so we can pay off the Shared Facility. So, money coming in and money going out. The 410 was the change for Phase 2 of the HVAC in the Fire station. We are going to wrap that up.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that will be Phase 2, yes.

Finance Director Veres said \$31,200.

On the next page, you guys recently approved the change order to QCI in the Northwest Quadrant for engineering. So, I had to add that in. The 555 we added, we have to pay taxes on the BP property and then get the money back. So, we had to pay the taxes, and we will get a refund once they change it over to municipal property. The 560 I added \$15,000 for legal services, and \$350,000 for the overlay. The \$3,300,000 for the Rockside Woods North intersection tie in and north and south of Rockside Woods North, the improvements on 21, and then \$15,000 for engineering that you approved in Ordinance 2019-24.

Then Fund 564 which is the Selig TIF, there's a traffic study that we are going to do on Pleasant Valley and I-77. If you are coming southbound on I-77 and exit; and you are going around the ramp, typically if people have been there before, they go to the left so you can continue around and head east, especially around rush hour. So, Don has asked ODOT if there's a way that we can actually make it two lanes. So, first you have to do a traffic study.

Councilperson Asseff said that gets to be dangerous.

Finance Director Veres said there's some people who don't know, and they don't move over.

Councilperson Asseff said and you have a rut where the paved area ends.

Finance Director Veres said and that gets kind of bumpy. So, that is what that study is. Beth Fulton is actually going to be doing that, for those of you who remember Beth. We are paying for it out of the Selig TIF because it's listed as, people who come down that way end up going to the Cleveland Clinic to work. So, it's eligible.

Then the Home Days change by \$10,000. So, those are the only changes. Nothing changed in the General Fund or SCM&R, which is basically our operating fund.

Finance Director Veres said that's just the one page summary of what I just went over. It just highlights the changes. The beginning balance, the cash, restricted and unrestricted is now \$17,700,000; and then at the end of the year we are projected to be \$12,100,000 because we are using some of that cash to pay down the Shared Facility debt. We are paying \$3,000,000 of it, or \$3,500,000. It would still leave us with about \$7,000,000 in what they call the General Fund, unencumbered cash at the end of year. The TIF will go up by about \$1,000,000.

I don't know, maybe it's nice to point out too what our Rainy Day Fund is at now.

Mayor Togliatti said \$1,600,000.

Finance Director Veres said I just wanted to leave that up here. Right here, it's \$1,600,000.

Councilperson Asseff asked what do we put in every year, \$200,000?

Finance Director Veres said usually \$100,000, but we dropped in \$500,000 last year.

Councilperson Trakas asked we put in \$100,000 this year?

Finance Director Veres said \$100,000 this year so far. We could change that if you want.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so far.

Finance Director Veres said as revenue comes in, we could pump that up.

Councilperson Asseff said I saw that Cleveland was, they had an article that Cleveland was developing plans should they have to tighten their belt; and you get projections out there from Chase and others that they think the business cycle will slow down a bit in the next year or so.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked is there money set aside for the downtown? We had talked about it.

Finance Director Veres said yes, \$500,000 we are going to encumber this year out of the Five-Year Capital.

Councilperson Trakas asked could we talk about head count as part of this as well?

Finance Director Veres said yes, that will be next. If you are done with the increases in resources and appropriations, then we can get down to the line item.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked any other questions on the material so far for John?

There were no other questions.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I do have a question about the Rainy Day Fund? Have we really defined what we are going to use that for? Like what would be a true emergency, or what are we setting that aside for?

Mayor Togliatti said I don't know if it's clearly defined to that degree.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so maybe we put that on our punch list this year as to what would we actually dip in there for.

Mayor Togliatti said we have never drawn against it.

Councilperson Wisnieski said right.

Finance Director Veres said that's the Temporary Appropriation that I gave you guys.

So, in general, the General Fund and SCM&R line item, with the wages I rolled up the expenses by 2%, not knowing where we would settle with the unions. Health and Life is flat because we were able to receive a flat renewal; but where there might be an additional full-timer, I added that. Dispatch is an estimated payment that we will be making to a third party, the Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Other items have been kept at the 2018 numbers.

So, we will go to the line items. Just an increase here percentage wise; now health insurance dropped because we are not paying the dispatchers' health insurance. That cost has now come down here to this Contract Services line because we are contracting out for that service. The same thing with wages Dispatch, overtime Dispatch, and any related items. I think the number is a little high because we ended up paying one payroll, and you will see the amendment for March because timing wise we had to make one payment out of Independence for the Dispatch. So, we have to code it to that wage line. I don't know Maggie, we might not have to do an amendment, right? No, because they are grouped. So, we are good. So, we don't need an amendment for that. I need to move money into that line item. There will be a wage line going forward for the two clerical people who were paid off of that line item that we were going to change. So, that's the Police Department.

Councilperson Trakas asked do we anticipate any new Police officers coming on board?

Mayor Togliatti said I don't think. Not at this point, additional increase in head count; but we do anticipate some retirements in the next year which will obviously we will backfill one-to one.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked with the Dispatch going as far as on our budget. Are we saving money?

Finance Director Veres said like I said in here, this number Dave, it's a little high. What I did was I took the expenses from 2018 and just added them together and put them there. So, we will have a little bit of money left over. After the first quarter, we will have a better feel for what the total will be for the year, but yes it is going down.

Councilperson Asseff asked how are we charged for that? Is it per call?

Finance Director Veres said it is, but they base it on July 1st to June 30th time period. So, I don't know how they would do that. I guess they might have gotten our call volumes for those 12 months.

Mayor Togliatti said right, they are doing an estimated payment initially.

Finance Director Veres said they used to do it on a January to December, but it was too hard to turn it around by January 1st and send out invoices. They bill you the same amount for 12 months based upon that 12 month activity.

Councilperson Trakas asked so then they bill actual?

Finance Director Veres said they bill based upon July 1st to June 30th and then adjust it for the next cycle.

Mayor Togliatti said right, there's a correction.

Councilperson Trakas said okay, I see.

Finance Director Veres said that's all right there.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked now that's the wages, overtime?

Finance Director Veres said wage, overtime, health insurance. You see health insurance went down.

Finance Director Veres said the next page is Fire, and this is where we added three firefighter/paramedics in anticipation of retirements.

Fire Chief Rega said well there's one we would be replacing and adding three to the department. So, a total of four who we will be replacing this year, but one is a replacement and then three new.

Finance Director Veres said okay. So, the wages are a little bit higher, then the 2% increase, and the health went up. I just assumed worst case scenario family, but they haven't started yet; so there will be money in those lines.

Fire Chief Rega said they haven't started yet, and then the other person is kind of off the books. It will probably be June.

Finance Director Veres said everything else is pretty much the same.

Parks you can see went from \$456,000 to \$462,000. I meant to add \$1,000 to the July 4th line item.

Mayor Togliatti said yeah, it's \$21,000.

Councilperson Asseff said I did my best.

Finance Director Veres said the Pools, just a slight increase there for the wages and the overtime. The same thing with Concessions and Fieldhouse, wages for Rec, Admin. So, the total Recreation went from \$2,373,900 to \$2,409,900.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked how is the revenue for the Fieldhouse? Is it keeping up?

Mayor Togliatti said it's growing. It's covering the salary for Tony Appenzeller who is handling that center over there and covering some of the utilities as well.

Finance Director Veres said the Civic Center went from \$3,310,000 to \$3,360,000.

Rubbish was \$602,000 to \$638,000. I increased the disposal fee because I think they are going to be charging us now for recycling. So, I don't know how much, but I bumped it up to \$30,000. Leon was saying they are going to start charging for recycling. The market is not like it used to be I guess.

Finance Director Veres said Buildings and Lands.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said the wages have gone up on that.

Finance Director Veres said I don't know why. Is there somebody?

Maggie Osysko said they have two new guys in that department at the end of last year. They came here in November.

Finance Director Veres said so that's why. Those two new guys.

Then Motor Pool, just the increase in wages.

Water and Sewer is the same. Admin is the same. Total Service is \$3,155,000 to \$3,287,000.

Technical Service is just the normal increases, no manpower changes. IT is the same thing. The Building Department is the same thing.

Councilperson Trakas said I have a question. At the Strategic Planning meeting we were talking about adding a person who could do rental home inspections and handle the rental program. Have we considered trying to do that?

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said I know we have a workshop set in March. We will discuss this further then.

Councilperson Trakas said there might be some wages in there.

Finance Director Veres said it's easy enough to make an amendment should you guys decide you want to do that.

Engineering Department there's just the normal wage increase, the same for Economic Development.

Councilperson Trakas asked how many people are working in Engineering? What does that represent?

Mayor Togliatti said five full-time and one part-time. Is Jack out of there?

Maggie Osysko said a little bit.

Mayor Togliatti said five full-time and one and a half part-time.

Councilperson Trakas said from a policy perspective, that would be a place I would like to see maybe staffed up so we could do less contracting out.

Finance Director Veres said yeah, right.

Councilperson Trakas said that's another issue.

Finance Director Veres said that's good. I didn't know which way you were going with that.

Councilperson Trakas said up, or maybe down.

Finance Director Veres said in Economic Development we have a Promotions line in there with \$60,000. So, that's why if you were thinking that it's only one person and \$215,000.

Councilperson Asseff said it's the lifeline of the City.

Finance Director Veres said I wanted to make sure you see that \$60,000.

Boards and Commissions is the same. The Mayor's office is just the normal. Finance is the same thing. Council office has the normal increases. I think I adjusted Legal based upon the last twelve months.

Councilperson Trakas said it's going to be a big year.

Finance Director Veres said yeah, so we will see. Luckily a lot of theirs is TIF related or Economic Development related. Hopefully we don't have many of the bikes off the end of the sidewalk into a ravine this year.

Mayor Togliatti said and all of our HIDTA and Strike Force is totally reimbursed, so it's budgeted for but it comes back to us.

Finance Director Veres said General Government is the same. I kept Workers Comp the same. You never know what's going to happen with that, but we should be good there.

I would like to point out that the telephone is only \$150,000 now. It used to be near \$400,000. So, that's the changeover that Jim Gibbs initiated.

Councilperson Trakas said that's fabulous.

Finance Director Veres said Professional Fees Miscellaneous and City Engineer, I just kind of based it on last year's ending.

Mayor's Court, no changes. The Total Government was \$4,624,000 to \$4,707,000. It was just a slight increase overall. Then the General Fund Total was \$22,484,000 to \$23,241,000. It's not too bad.

Councilperson Trakas said John, could you go back to the one line item under Professional Fees Miscellaneous. That's a catch-all. Who else?

Finance Director Veres said you have that program that we did with the schools. You have the Intervention Specialist. You have Youth for Christ out of there.

Councilperson Asseff asked is Dale Carnegie in there?

Finance Director Veres said yeah, that's where it would go. I can do a print out of what we paid last year and send it to you if you want.

Councilperson Trakas said I was just curious.

Finance Director Veres said and then the City Engineering stuff is the general stuff that's not project related, the outside consultants they hire to do general work.

The broker fees for the health insurance comes out of the Professional Fees.

So, SCM& R there are no manpower changes. With the salt, knock on wood, I think we have been doing okay with the salt; but I just threw \$300,000 in there. I would rather be high on the expense than low. The two combined, General and SCM&R is \$23,802,000 to \$24,663,000. It's not too bad of an increase. We never reach that, so it would end up falling back into those two funds, with more into the General.

Finance Director Veres said so that's the end of that.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked John, when you were adding the numbers for health insurance, what is your calculation? Do you just take the number of full-time employees, and come up with a general number?

Finance Director Veres said no, we look at each department and who have health and what we paid.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so it's actually based on who is in each department.

Finance Director Veres said what will happen Patti during the year is we will at the end of the third quarter I will ask Maggie where are we at with wages and health and what do we need. You are pretty set at that point from manpower. You have three months left of health insurance, so we adjust it, pretty closely because you know that's going to be a constant number. So, you

can be pretty close within a couple of thousand. We have a cushion, but nothing like \$10,000 or \$15,000 on those lines for health.

Finance Director Veres said and then street lighting Dave, electric street lighting. Hopefully, that will start coming down as we start replacing.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we are going to be talking about that. We just did our audit and just went through an analysis. According to what we came up with, in 20 years we should be well over \$4,000,000 that we will save.

Finance Director Veres asked really?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that's the calculations so far. Obviously, there's going to be a big discussion on this. It will have to go to Utilities. This is converting all of our street lights to LED's. It would be every one of our street lights. It would post lamps, everything.

Mayor Togliatti said over 1,100 lights.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said there's two different numbers on the audits, one is 1,103 and the other one is 1,190.

Councilperson Asseff asked what is the average cost per light to change?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it all depends on your wattage. First Energy would be \$301. We are thinking of doing it in house. I mean hire a company and do it, but purchase our own lights, purchase the arms, run our own. It would be a huge savings. You could do it with First Energy. Right now for instance we pay a little over \$250,000 in street lighting, electricity and their maintenance. This would come down to, if we were able to meter every one of these lights that we have, the projected cost is well under \$50,000 or \$40,000 a year. It's a \$210,000 savings. Up front costs will be purchasing the lights, which we are thinking of installing; and it's somewhere around \$750,000.

Councilperson Asseff asked can we use TIF money for that?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it's a huge savings. It would be huge over the years.

Finance Director Veres said yes, on the TIF streets and most of them fall into that. Are you talking residential streets?

Several people said everywhere.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked are there other communities doing this? Can they afford to do that?

Mayor Togliatti said we would be the first in Ohio.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's what I was wondering.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we would probably be the first. It's coming. We have saved enormous amounts of money in electricity costs right now on our buildings.

Councilperson Trakas said it's a better lighting too. You could see better. It would be better for the public.

Mayor Togliatti said and it's a uniform color across every street.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said for instance, just in our gymnasium and handball court with the new LED lights, with replacing 1,500 watt lighting. We figured it out, and per year we were paying, and this was 12 hours a day, 7 days a week that we had those lights on because you never turn them off. You turn the basketball court, the handball courts on in the morning, and they never went off. So, about 12 hours a day; and now with the sensors and with the electricity costs, we were paying about \$8,300 a year just for those two rooms. Now we are down to \$780 in electrical costs with the sensors. That is what made a huge difference. You are at 10% at the basketball courts, and the handball courts are off unless you go in.

Resident Chris Zamborsky asked are you putting it out to bid?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we are not even in that stage yet. We have to look at it.

Mr. Zamborsky asked well will that be the procedure

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I can't even tell you. We don't even know.

Mayor Togliatti said we haven't even finalized the number of lights in the City yet. We are at the early stage.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked will some of the lights on the light poles be different, on different arms?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we would purchase the arms.

Mayor Togliatti said the arms would stay, the cobra lights would change.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked didn't they replace on I-77 some of the lights?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said with LED's.

Mayor Togliatti said they replaced the entire pole and everything on I-77.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked where's an example of that?

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said it was from the 21 merge going on up and all the way downtown.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said almost to Fleet or something. The problem with our lighting too is like Rockside Road there are three different lights there. You have high pressured sodium, mercury vapor and (inaudible) lights. It's not a uniform light. When we did Rockside Road it was all nice and white; now it's dull over here, bright over there. It's not a uniform light. It certainly doesn't make Rockside Road as attractive.

Councilperson Trakas said well from a safety perspective, I mean that would just be huge.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it's a big thing, and it's coming. Everybody is converting to LED's.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked what's the timeframe you are looking at as far as this project?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it's a big up front cost. Like I said, it's \$750,000 up front, and we have to acquire the arms from First Energy. That's going to be a little bit of a (inaudible).

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked like two or three years down the road? We talked about it two or three years ago.

Mayor Togliatti said First Energy does have their own program, and we are comparing their program to other options to try to determine what the maximum benefit is. Ideally, within a year I would like to have it implemented.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked do they have grants and any type of funding?

Councilperson Trakas said there's tons of money out there for this.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we would apply for those.

Councilperson Trakas said some of these folks will do it for you for "free" if you get the electricity with them; and then you save over time. So, there's ways. We have to consider all those sets of options.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so that would be part of the discussion.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said just so you know too, LED lighting has evolved over the last two or three years. I mean it's much better than what it was three years ago.

Finance Director Veres said you are seeing it on more and more cars too because of that improvement.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what committee is going to talk about that, utilities?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I imagine the Utilities Committee.

Councilperson Trakas said we will have a public meeting, everyone is invited.

Finance Director Veres said alright David.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said I don't know if there's any other questions. So, built into the appropriation was the increased staffing for the Fire Department.

Finance Director Veres said right and Service for the labor. We added two people in November.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked and what area are they in?

Mayor Togliatti said Building & Lands.

Councilperson Trakas asked what are the responsibilities of those people on the Buildings & Lands part?

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what was your question? I didn't hear it.

Councilperson Trakas said on the new Service people, what are their responsibilities in Buildings & Lands?

Mayor Togliatti said mostly grounds maintenance and exterior, all season long their work responsibility changes.

Councilperson Trakas asked does that include some of our properties that we own in odd parts of town?

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Councilperson Trakas said because those weren't getting done really.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess we will, if there aren't any other questions for John regarding the appropriations, this will be on the agenda.

Finance Director Veres said I will put the ordinance together based on these numbers.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said very good.

Councilperson Trakas asked what do we build in for overtime for fireworks? What does it actually cost to put on the fireworks?

Finance Director Veres said good question.

Councilperson Asseff said more than \$21,000.

Councilperson Trakas said I'm thinking.

Councilperson Asseff said all our safety forces, plus the cleanup.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it depends on if it falls on a Sunday or something like that. If it falls on a weekday; we keep our overtime to a minimum. I don't know about Fire. I don't know if there's any overtime.

Fire Chief Rega said I think there's some, but I don't think it's that bad.

Councilperson Trakas said I'm not objecting, but I just think it doesn't cost just \$21,000.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we have everything set up ahead of time so the July 4th day obviously you have off. I think Parks is here anyway because the Civic Center is open. So, I don't think there's a whole lot of overtime.

Finance Director Veres said I think at most it would be the Police.

Mayor Togliatti said Police for traffic control.

Finance Director Veres said which is needed.

Mayor Togliatti said right.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said and this year July 3rd is on a Wednesday.

Finance Director Veres said Trump is supposed to do something July 4th. He said to mark it down.

I don't have anything else for your next item.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said as far as the safety forces, is that ready to be implemented?

Mayor Togliatti said well on the Chief's timeline, but it has been discussed at Safety Committee meetings in the past; and I think all of Council had quite a bit of information regarding it.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I think the Chief wanted one more opportunity for people to ask questions.

Fire Chief Rega said I didn't come before the Finance Committee about it.

Councilperson Trakas asked are you squared away on equipment for the extra folks?

Fire Chief Rega said we do have equipment they could use in the interim, but then eventually they will get a full set, new set. We do have stuff we can give them right now. That's always a challenge when you have part-time.

Finance Director Veres asked did I increase the equipment? We usually have a cushion in that line anyways, and it's in a group with PERS and pension. I built the health insurance in for the full year; so we are good. I wouldn't need to increase that group.

Councilperson Trakas said it's not that expensive.

Fire Chief Rega said we have it in the capital, but there are programs out there where we could rent that kind of thing in the meantime. I haven't used that, and I don't think we need to go to that level.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said the bottom line is there's money in the budget for that.

Finance Director Veres said it's in the health line, it's in the same group. I can move it down to uniforms.

Councilperson Trakas asked Chief, this isn't necessarily financial related, but just while you are on the topic. Does everyone who comes on board, new people, are they all trained on the unmanned vehicle for search and rescue?

Fire Chief Rega said no. Right now I guess Assistant Chief Wheeler has that function. Are you talking about the UAV's?

Councilperson Trakas said yes.

Fire Chief Rega said going on board with Chagrin Valley, they actually have a team put together. So, I think at this point we will try to expand into what they have going on and would be dispatched through that center. They have a whole group together, and pretty much everyone does the same thing with that. It would probably be a better function in that respect. Although I have never, we have other people who are interested in doing that, we can do that.

Councilperson Trakas asked so do you have to have a pilot's license in order to fly?

Fire Chief Rega said from my understanding there are two different routes. You could go the route if you are a pilot and get your license; or you can get some kind of 176 exemption. A lot of people are going that route now. So, there's pros and cons of both ways, but from what I am hearing the restrictions are getting less and less as far as what is going on with that. So, you will see more of that happening in the safety services.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said and Mayor with Hemlock Trail opening up this summer, will we have enough manpower as far as taking care of issues that occur there as far as policing and if there are any injuries?

Fire Chief Rega said we ordered a new brush truck that connects us to the park system and that's due in or around May of this year. So, hopefully the timing is right for getting that completed.

Mayor Togliatti said and the Police took delivery of their Polaris Ranger a few months ago, which still has to be outfitted with some Police equipment; but it will be ready for the trail opening.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked so we will have somebody regularly on that trail then from the Police?

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked how's the County bridge coming along?

Mayor Togliatti said we don't have an engineer here, I don't know the status of that project being that it is a County project.

Finance Director Veres said we are supposed to be invoiced by the Engineer, and then each month I would send a copy of the invoice and the canceled check to the County for reimbursement; and we haven't received an invoice yet.

Councilperson Trakas said I know we have last year, I think at the beginning of the year we didn't meet our estimates one month in terms of taxation; but what's your overall belief economy wise with the mix of businesses we have.

Finance Director Veres said I think I did a 2% increase on what we collected. So, no new money.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's you being conservative though, right?

Finance Director Veres said yes.

Mayor Togliatti said John is always conservative.

Finance Director Veres said then after the first quarter, it's hard to read the first two month's collections. I will get a better idea after the first quarter.

Councilperson Trakas said some of that had changed because the State changed what we collect, so we weren't sure.

Finance Director Veres said and with the new net profits, some of them going to State, and the timing of that coming to us is different than if it would have went to RITA.

Councilperson Trakas said we saw some anomalies last year.

Finance Director Veres said even this year. So, after the first quarter we can take a look at it.

Councilperson Trakas said it makes sense.

Finance Director Veres said usually throughout the year when I do an amendment, I will increase the net profits and the municipal income tax line if we are trending that way because the auditors like you to adjust either up or down instead of just leaving it at the beginning year number and doing nothing with it. You are supposed to kind of follow it through.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said and this summer with Topgolf opening up; so that will be a source of revenue, not only income tax but also amusement tax too.

Councilperson Trakas said the construction wages for that too.

Finance Director Veres said it would probably be a good thing too Maggie to give them a print out of all the capital and infrastructure funds that we have because we have over \$40,000,000 in the bank, but we have \$20,000,000 in encumbrances for different projects. So, you know, instead of not knowing what you have already set money aside for, it would probably be good for you guys to know.

Councilperson Trakas said sometimes you forget.

Finance Director Veres said I will get you a copy of the most recent encumbrance report for those items and Streets and the TIF, various TIF's, Capital Improvement and even with the Fire Chief's program for your planned capital. You might hear somebody out there saying I hear you have \$40,000,000 in the bank. We do, but a lot of it is spoken for. That's why we do that. That's why we create the P.O. and plan over a number of years and then do the project. So, I think that would be good for you guys to have.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Any other questions for John? Are we ready to move on to Item 4? That's Doc's proposed legislation. It's Ordinance 2019-19. It's an ordinance amending Ordinance 2018-140 which was passed last year creating informal procedures required by the City for entering into contracts for the procurement of goods and services not in excess of the amount requiring public bidding found in Article IV, Section 2(c)(5). Doc, that was introduced.

Councilperson Asseff said I want to take it back to where it was because of the extra workload now that has been thrown on the individuals who are purchasing; and that was changed without a problem being there to change it. There was nothing identified as a problem or an issue. The voters gave a vote of confidence to the Mayor and took it up to \$15,000; and we had a vote of non-confidence in dropping it to \$2,500 without a problem being there. If there was a problem that we were going to fix, that's fine; but the opportunity it costs in their workload. They are spending a lot of time trying to get to fulfill this to get informal bids, then they are not doing the rest of the job that they should be doing. You are pulling them away from one thing to do another.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Dave, I think you had talked about that too, I don't know if you have any input into that.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we have Dennis who is very, very good. He does a great job at shopping for us. He is our shopper, and we kind of know who we have used in the past or if something is proprietary, so we really can't. It's tough to keep getting bids for things that are very inexpensive. You know \$2,500 is not a lot of money any more when you have items that you are dealing with like big boilers and big commercial things. It's just not a lot of money. You could spend \$2,500 on one pump, a pool pump. The main pool pump is, if I bought a new one it's probably \$7,000, and the activity pool pump is \$3,000. So, it's things like that, and we know what pumps we have been buying. We know what we use, but that's just a for instance. Like I say, anything we have any questions on or we aren't sure, or we want to research it a little bit, we go to Dennis anyway because especially through the Procurement Program we have. That is what the City hired Dennis for. So, he's a very good steward of money, and I think all the Directors are very good stewards of the City's funds.

The only reason why I'm saying that, and nothing against you or any of the Council. It just makes it a little bit tougher, especially when you keep going to the same people for the same quotes. There are only so many people who you can go to, unless you go on line, which we do buy stuff on line a lot.

Fire Chief Rega said I would like to speak to that because I know at times a lot of these vendors have regional territories. You can't even call out of your region to get a quote because they will just refer you back to your region. So, some items, well you will say that's a special service. That's not necessarily. If I use a certain brand of fire gear, and I want to be consistently using that fire gear; and one set of gear with the helmet and boots is going to be over \$2,500. So, I don't want to have to go out to bid or get three quotes when I can't even get the three quotes on the same gear I want to use. So, it complicates issues a little bit.

It just repeats itself over and over again. If I have a truck that needs repairs. It is very easy on a large truck to run up \$2,500. Now if I have an in to get it fixed by that vendor instead of having to get three quotes, and then once I get those three quotes, after a while the person who never gets the bid is going to stop quoting that. There are some problematic issues with the number being at \$2,500.

I know that things are getting more restrictive. I just talked to a County rep about bids like for instance radios. After a while you get into a situation where you are trying to get three bids on three different radios or the same radio. Again, it's this regional thing, regional territory comes into play; you can't bid out of your region. So, you can't even get three quotes, and you want to stay with the same equipment. It complicates the issue as far as the bidding. I think we were doing a great job at the \$7,500, and if I would see a problem there I would call Dennis. Dennis would work through things, even the prior Purchasing Coordinator, Gus, was trying to work through that. I was a little confused by the \$2,500 coming because it seemed like it made it more difficult to do business. You have to stop and calculate and do things a little bit differently just to get the same results.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we have been doing it, but it does take a quite a bit. Dennis spends a lot more time with us, and we try and get these bids. Some of these guys just

live in town. We keep having them bid against their competitors who live in town which is fine. After a while, for that little bit of money, there is no sense in them doing it.

Councilperson Asseff said it sounds like this is also non-productive work.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked well how many times have you had to do it this year? Or how many times?

Fire Chief Rega said I had to write a lot of memos justifying what we are purchasing like for even software stuff. Some of our software packages are over \$2,500, and I'm not going to change my whole system of operations just because of the vendor.

Councilperson Trakas said that's a proprietary system, that's a different story.

Fire Chief Rega said I have to add another letterhead, another thing to the annual cost.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said for instance, I just did the Willow Room. I just finished it last week. So, what we did is we bought the ceiling tile. In other words, have a contractor. What I did is because I wanted it done in two days. So, we did all the lighting. Tech did all the lighting, changed out all of the lights. Then I had a contractor come in, and what he did was he took all the tile out. We helped him. Threw it all out, and he cleaned all the grid and wiped down all the grid. Put all new tile back in while we cut every one. We put the lights in, he is cutting the other lights. Now he was at \$1,900. In fact, it will even be less now because he was going to paint the grid, but the grid was so good after he cleaned it that there was no sense in painting it. I think we got three different prices on doing that, and I think it took us about, even to get the prices, it took us about three weeks. I would say three or four weeks.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said by the time all the vendors would respond.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said by the time they responded, and here's a \$1,900 item. They were all close. One guy was a lot more than the others. That was just last week, we finally got the Willow Room down. There were stained tiles there. It looked really bad, and go in there now with the new lighting, everything. It looks fantastic. Before we would have probably just been able to do that right away; somebody who we know is very good and very competent and just go in there and get it down. That was my most recent.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek what are your thoughts?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said it's still, even now with items that are purchased under the \$2,500, I still do my due diligence. I will seek some quotes and contact different vendors. It does take a little bit more time, especially when you get a situation like the Chief was mentioning when a truck is down. It was either towed into a facility. They get into it, and there's more work needed than the \$2,500. Then you have a choice. You either have it towed to two other shops to get quotes or we put together an emergency memo. I would run it by John and say hey John this is a situation, why we can't get the two additional quotes. It keeps us in compliance for what the

requirements are for that. I take my cue from Council, the Mayor, John as to what you feel is best.

There is still a vetting process where we do, make sure that in a way that we kind of make sure, we just don't go out there and say we are buying this.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said you do your research and due diligence. John, what's your feeling?

Finance Director Veres said I was going to say a good process that came out of it Councilperson Trakas was the bidding out of light truck parts, heavy duty truck parts.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said and one thing we have done is we start putting contracts out for bid like for automotive and light truck parts. We had sent that out to seven vendors, and two responded. We did the same thing with heavy duty parts. We have done it also with plumbing parts. We also had a contract for parts and labor in case Technical Services can't do it. So, I think we are making sure that we are not just going out there and calling someone on the phone and saying here fix this garage door. There are instances where it is either a proprietary, especially the software where you can't get, you can get other quotes; but you aren't comparing apples to apples which kind of defeats the purpose.

Fire Chief Rega said I would also like to comment on that. It is a good process to do that, go out; but typically what ends up happening is like for tires for instance. The City will approve \$40,000 for tire purchases. Well they will add that to the line item as a service, probably Police and Fire. It just happened now with the car parts, I had \$17,000 in the line item; well they put \$10,000 in there as part of that. Now it was \$5,000 for Freightliner; so my budget went down to zero in that line item because now it's encumbered in the purchase orders that I may or may not use.

So, it's a good process to do that; and now I will have to go to John and say hey John I don't need that much money.

Finance Director Veres said it was a guess.

Fire Chief Rega said right, it is a guess; but the other thing is the flexibility to if I have something that's \$4,000 and it's an emergency repair, I can take a quick look at this and have it done. I have the money there, instead of just encumbering it and it sitting there in anticipation of using it. I don't know, to me it's kind of counter-productive to tie up all my money into a purchase order. It doesn't make a lot of sense in some respects.

Councilperson Trakas said this is new so managing these situations, none of these are unsolvable. I think that perhaps figuring out emergency measures, make it a definition of what an emergency measure would be. What you described Dave isn't an emergency. It would be nice to do.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said you are correct.

Councilperson Trakas said but something like that, that is. If you have a vehicle down, it's costing you money being down. We are still just a couple of months into this; so with respect to what Dr. Asseff is proposing, maybe we hold on the big part of it, but solve some of these problems, create some emergency powers, what constitutes an emergency or for repairs or whatever. I don't think it's not working properly, I think to the point of what we were talking about is eight times before the City has asked for increases in how much it can spend. It didn't get them by the voters. This time they did because they saw that they had this informal process in place. So, I think we have an obligation to the voters who also concurred with us to do that; they had some satisfaction that there would be some type of an informal bid process that was put together. I don't know that we need to throw the whole thing out. We need to manage it a little bit differently. Maybe we could put some definitions in there to give you better management tools so that these problems that arise can be dealt with.

Councilperson Asseff said again I am asking what problem did we try to solve? What problem was there that this legislation would solve? There wasn't one.

Councilperson Trakas said well I think there was.

Councilperson Asseff asked what was it?

Councilperson Trakas said it was the voters who didn't want to give us the authority to spend up to \$15,000.

Councilperson Asseff said that has nothing to do with this. That's apples and oranges. Apples for the Mayor, and then we went and we cut it from \$7,500. We took it away. We should leave it as it is.

Councilperson Trakas said no we didn't.

Councilperson Asseff said we did.

Councilperson Trakas said that's not quite the case. We said that if you give us the authority to spend up to \$15,000 without public bidding, we would do informal bidding to make sure the people knew that there was some type of a process to be a watchdog on that. For the first time in our history, the voters awarded us with that.

Finance Director Veres asked was that in the language?

Councilperson Asseff said no that wasn't in the language. You are adding it now.

Councilperson Trakas said but that's what functionally happened.

Councilperson Asseff said no, that's what you think functionally happened. I don't think the voters knew what was going on in the inside.

Finance Director Veres said not that I'm against it, I don't know if somebody who voted knew that there was a change.

Councilperson Trakas said there was one.

Councilperson Asseff said what I am trying to do is save their work effort so that they don't have to have negative time trying to get these things to work.

Councilperson Trakas said we are supposed to be looking after our tax dollars and make sure everyone is getting the best bargain. This is one way to assure that.

Councilperson Asseff said maybe. I don't think you have the evidence and proof to say that we were having a problem. We weren't spending our money well. We weren't doing our watchdogs well, and now we lose it, and you are creating more opportunity loss because they are spending time do things that ordinarily they didn't do before we changed the ordinance.

Councilperson Trakas said it's been productive time because we have been able to save money on several of our products and reduce some of our costs. I think it's too early to say throw the baby out with the bathwater. Functionality wise we can make some changes.

Councilperson Asseff said well I'm saying we didn't need the baby.

Councilperson Trakas said it's a philosophical question.

Councilperson Asseff said well I have the facts and in looking at this, I'm just asking, what was the problem that we had that we tried to solve because every bit of legislation is there to solve a problem, to solve an issue.

Councilperson Trakas said it could be best practices.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well the problem also is how do you know that three quotes are being received.

Finance Director Veres said we scan them in with the invoice.

Councilperson Trakas said we don't know.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well we know now that's being done, right?

Councilperson Asseff said well if we can get three bids.

Finance Director Veres said and if we don't, we have a purpose sheet that states they tried.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well then that's verification. So, it was a check and balance system to make sure that quotes are being received.

Finance Director Veres said and if it's proprietary, we have a statement for that too.

Mayor Togliatti said and much of that is the function of our Purchasing Coordinator. Dennis does a great job doing all of that.

Fire Chief Rega said it's just when you lower the bar so low, we are doing that more often than not. We are going out to get quotes, and I'm just saying that there are multiple vendors.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I still want to know how many times that has happened. I wanted to know how many times we have had to do it so far this year. I want facts. It is inconvenient, but I want the facts.

Mayor Togliatti said so you want the number of purchases between \$2,500 and \$15,000.

Councilperson Wisnieski said if we could have waited to why it's time consuming, what burden is on that department; then that would be, we could then say.

Finance Director Veres said it might be too early, but we could get more information. Some good things have come out of it, the grouping, what I mentioned before.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said and we approved that last month on the tires and parts.

Finance Director Veres said even the garage door.

Mayor Togliatti said the plumbing supplies.

Finance Director Veres said even the HVAC.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said Johnson Controls. That's proprietary too.

Finance Director Veres said yes, but because of it we saved some money.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked is there some metric we can use to see if it's actually saving money?

Finance Director Veres said I will tell you right now, we are saving money on Johnson Controls. They are charging us a lower hourly rate.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it was a good thing.

Fire Chief Rega said that's kind of independent of what we are talking about. You could have gone out to bid for that two years ago and had the same success. When you raise the bar to \$15,000, and we were at \$7,500; it would have made sense to set the bar at \$7,500 because we are already working under the restrictions; but to drop it to \$2,500, I think it creates an undo paperwork thing, and in some cases vendors get tired of us asking for quotes.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what's vendors jobs but to give quotes?

Fire Chief Rega said but they say I don't want to give you a quote on that.

Finance Director Veres said then you go to a different vendor.

Councilperson Wisnieski said any salesperson that I have been involved with, they are happy; that's part of doing their business. No?

Councilperson Asseff said well it depends on how much.

Fire Chief Rega said when you start asking them, soliciting bids all the time for lower items, and you will get them because if somebody else beats them by a little bit; and then after a while they don't want to do that anymore.

Councilperson Asseff said we saw that when seven bids went out and two came back on what we just talked about today.

Fire Chief Rega said I mean not everybody carries everything, if you want specific items.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked well is that not a specialty item then?

Fire Chief Rega said for instance, thermal imagers. There are different brands of thermal imagers, but why would I want to have multiple brands.

Councilperson Trakas said that's proprietary.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so you don't think you have the leeway to do that?

Fire Chief Rega said I think it's a stretch. It's a specialty item, but it's not a one-of-a-kind item. Do you know what I mean? You may break it up in a region.

Finance Director Veres said you would have to train people differently for each one.

Several people began speaking at once.

Councilperson Trakas said it would certainly fall under an exemption for proprietary materials. Do we buy anything other than Xerox these days?

Councilperson Asseff asked what would happen if we raised the ceiling to \$5,000?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn asked would you consider that?

Councilperson Trakas said sure, that was an arbitrary number. If it's not functional, then we should change it.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that would be nice. For instance, and Councilperson Wisnieski you are right in asking how many times this has happened. I have to tell you, as soon as it passed, as soon as this passed, it happened the next day. It started happening then, and in fact I couldn't pay a vendor until this year. We had to take bids for roofing so I had a vendor. I think we owed him another \$250 because, and the total repairs that he did, it ended up coming to \$2,750. I couldn't even give him, we said we could pay you \$2,500 until you come in and make sure you are the lowest bidder. We will pay you the \$250 the following year. That is the truth.

Finance Director Veres said we might have a compromise here I think.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said there are some good things that have come out of this, and there are some things that have been counter-productive.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said we didn't go to the vendor and say you have to be low bidder, it was an open process. We were hopeful that he would have gotten the bid. It was a case that money was spent that because we didn't have something in place.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said and that's the reason why we always used this vendor because he was so good and so reasonable. I mean, we went to the other vendors, and we didn't even have to say is this guy going to be the lowest because he was the lower by far. That is why we are using him. He does a great job, and he's very, very inexpensive. You don't even understand sometimes how he can work this cheap, but he does a great job. He even takes photographs, everything.

Tom Avsec said if I could add one thing real quick. You asked how many times, and last week I had three items that were out for service calls for example. It's impossible to know that the cost is going to be over \$2,500 or under \$2,500; and you can't take it to three different people to get the quotes. This was on three different things in the last week. It's a service issue where it becomes a problem, not so much purchasing something. We have a lot of issues with that with service. We had to back out some sludge, and we had no idea how much sludge is there, and they charge by the gallon; so, all these things.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it's almost like an unintended consequence.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said it makes sense. We could compromise to \$5,000 and see how that goes. See if that alleviates some of the problems.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said it's still best practice. It's like our hands won't be tied with a situation like Tom or Dave.

Councilperson Trakas said that's not what I think the intent was ever to do. That makes sense to exempt those things, and for proprietary materials. If you have something and it's the same thing, you wouldn't want to change that. I think we could easily, and with permission from you Doc, make those types of changes. See how it goes, and come back in a couple of months.

Councilperson Asseff said make it a working document.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said let's do that at the March meeting. It's on First Reading, and we can amend it to \$5,000.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it would really definitely help us.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so when we bid things out, we do it for lowest and best, right? So, why couldn't we work that into this as well because like the thermal imaging; could you come back and say this is the lowest and put the reasoning?

Mayor Togliatti said it would be depending on the price threshold because you still have to file all the paperwork and write the memos and get the P.O.'s.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I guess we need to know how many times they are doing that to determine whether it's really a labor.

Councilperson Trakas said an emergency situation shouldn't be, that's not what it was intended for. That was for general purchasing.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I agree with Tom. I think in those cases.

Mayor Togliatti said I don't know if the legislation states emergency situations.

Councilperson Trakas said it should have a definition of maintenance or something like that. Then again, if you create a relationship with a vendor, you have to check them every once in a while. The relationships are critical. You have to have somebody you can go to. There's got to be some language that we can come up with.

Finance Director Veres said and it doesn't say lowest and best anywhere.

Councilperson Wisnieski said but if we put a qualifier in there for emergency purposes.

Finance Director Veres said proprietary equipment even.

Tom Avsec said that's key, the proprietary part. If I need a part specific to a Freightliner, there's only two Freightliner dealers in the area.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said what we can do is amend this to \$5,000 because it was \$2,500 and Doc had suggested \$7,500; so we will do a compromise of \$5,000 and get that language in there about proprietary.

Finance Director Veres asked do you want to change the language? Who do you want to do that?

Mayor Togliatti said Greg O'Brien.

Finance Director Veres asked do you want us to call him?

The Clerk asked do you want me to call him?

Finance Director Veres said you can call him.

Fire Chief Rega asked can't this be done under policy? Can you just have the legislation adjust the amount and then have policies that can be flexed with the situations?

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess we could. Usually the language of the legislation is more broad, and then you have administrative procedures underneath it to implement it. Does that make sense? This way we don't have to change the legislation.

Councilperson Trakas said we aren't trying to micro-manage, we are trying to have a general philosophy.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said let's do that. Just change the amount. We don't need to have the Law Department do that, and then we will change it to \$5,000.

Finance Director Veres said good idea.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said I will still do my due diligence and compare prices and shop and whatever.

Councilperson Wisnieski said and continue to put those good explanations in the print out.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess we will amend it at the time of our meeting.

The Clerk said I can do that right now.

Mayor Togliatti asked that's all we are changing?

The Clerk said just the amount.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I still want to know how many times.

Mayor Togliatti said we will get the number.

Councilperson Asseff said after we get the numbers, we will raise it to \$7,500.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I honestly don't know why we are changing it to \$5,000, what the difference is because if we are talking that it happened one time. That's the evidence I'm looking for.

Councilperson Asseff said it gives them a little bit more before they have to (inaudible).

Councilperson Wisnieski said that means nothing to me honestly. I like to see the facts.

Councilperson Asseff said well it means a lot to me.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it's just a feeling that we have more work. I can't verify that.

Finance Director Veres said and Dennis is okay with that.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said maybe between now and the March meeting we can have that information.

Mayor Togliatti said we will.

Councilperson Wisnieski said you might get me to increase it to \$7,500 if the evidence is there. That's what I am saying.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said right now you can't have, even if it approaches \$2,500, you have an invoice that you are putting in a req. for; it's automatically, forget it. Talk to Dennis.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Veres said Dave, it's called internal control.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I agree. It's their job.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel said let's get that info and everything, and then we will discuss it a little further even at the Caucus. For now we can at least have \$5,000, and we will see where we go from there.

Councilperson Veverka said it's always very helpful when the Directors specifically tell you that, for example, that they had seven bids pulled, but only two came back or if it's a specific proprietary thing. If that's included in the letter, that's always helpful.

Councilperson Asseff said we can get data by looking at last year, how many purchases were done under \$5,000, under \$4,000; what they really did.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that would be nice to seek that data.

Councilperson Asseff said I would like to see it.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that's a lot of work to put that together.

Finance Director Veres said no.

Chairman Vice Mayor Grendel asked is there anything further for tonight's meeting to discuss? There was nothing else to discuss.

Moved by Veverka, seconded by Grendel, to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting of February 26, 2019. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Finance Committee Meeting was adjourned at 5:21pm.

Debra J. Beal, Clerk of Council
Minutes Unapproved at Time of Release 02/27/19
