

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 17, 2009
City Hall – First Floor Hearing Room West

Chairperson James N. Brey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: Alderpersons James N. Brey, Christopher T. Able, Eric J. Sitkiewitz, Dean W. Graunke, and Jill C. Hennessey.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Finance Director/Treasurer Brian Ruechel, Assistant Finance Director Tony Scherer, Mayor Justin Nickels, Alderpersons Ray Geigel, Jason Sladky, and Scott McMeans, Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, and Keith Hartlaub of Creative Solutions Inc.

Telephone System Replacement

Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer told the Committee the current telephone system has been unreliable with system failures occurring on June 19 and August 10 and 12. He is concerned that when the system fails and the phone system is inoperable public safety is a major issue. He is recommending replacement of the system.

Finance Director Brian Ruechel is requesting approval of a two-year lease agreement with Creative Solutions with the option to renew on an annual basis at the identical lease rate. The monthly additional cost to the City operating budget is an additional \$910 per month or \$10,020 annually.

Keith Hartlaub of Creative Solutions explained to the Committee the problems with the current system. The current telephone system uses a 3-1/2" floppy drive to operate and Creative which the system is having a big problem finding these drives for replacement when the system fails. The floppy drives are a specific kind and not an ordinary floppy drive that could be taken from an old PC. The only place Creative Solutions has been able to find a replacement drive has been off the internet, as new parts are no longer available and they are at the mercy of using used parts. This is a critical piece of equipment for the current telephone system and when it fails completely, the City is without phones. Because of this vulnerability Creative is also recommending to the Committee that the current telephone system be replaced.

Hartlaub has met with the City Finance and Data Processing Departments regarding a replacement system that is being recommended for approval. He distributed a packet of information detailing the specific features of the replacement system.

Motion by Alderperson Able, and second by Alderperson Graunke to approve a two year lease with option to renew of a new telephone system with Creative Solutions. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Brey declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Aldersperson James N. Brey
Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Brian C. Ruechel, CGFM
Finance Director/Treasurer