

**RESOLUTION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Approving Transfer of Funds in the 2011 Budget, Crossing Guard Contract

Committee Action: Approved 5-0

Fiscal Impact: Transfer between Accounts \$41,500

File Number: 10-1109

Date Introduced: November 8, 2011

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, requests have been made for the following transfer of funds in the 2011 Budget to fund the Crossing Guard Contract:

**TRANSFER REQUEST**

1) FROM Account #110-32091211

Police - Crossing Guard Salaries..... \$41,500.00

TO Account: #110-30092560

Police – Other Special Services ..... \$41,500.00

PURPOSE: Fund the Crossing Guard Contract through December 31, 2011.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Wausau that the proper City Officials be and are hereby authorized and directed to transfer the funds as stated above and to publish the transfer of funds in the official newspaper as required.

Approved:

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James E. Tipple, Mayor

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 @ 4:45 pm., Board Room

Members Present: Klingbeil {c}, Brezinski, Oberbeck, Nagle, Havel

Others Present: Gale, Rasmussen, Wagner, Abitz, Groat, Hardel, Hart, Klein, Lenz, Loy, Tipple, Werth, Wessling, Goede

### Transfer of Funds

Klingbeil stated the request was from Chief Hardel for a transfer of \$41,500 from Crossing Guard Salaries to Other Special Services. He indicated Rasmussen was present and asked to address the committee on the issue. Rasmussen requested the Finance Committee delay action on the transfer of funds until a committee has reviewed the contract wording, actual costs and community impact. She suggested this review be undertaken by the Committee of the Whole, or a standing committee of either Human Resources or Public Health & Safety and a recommendation be forwarded to the Council for a vote. She commented this was not about taking people to task for a mistake; it's taking a step back because what matters is what we do now. She indicated there is community concern and she has received feedback from the schools, parents, and the crossing guards. She felt in order for the Council to preserve its authority and credibility it needs to make that decision and own it for the good of the community. She asked the committee to delay the funding until we can get that review process completed..

Groat stated they have already had two months with the crossing guards and suggested they allow the contract through the current school year as a pilot. She felt that way they could flesh out the problems and look at it during the summer months to determine if it is worthwhile to continue. She commented change is hard but if we want to be creative out of the box thinkers and utilize employees to their highest potential we should give it a chance.

Rasmussen was concerned with the fact that we eliminated an entire class of employees with no Council purview and even though the contract has been in effect for two months, the Council has known about it for less than one month. She stated there was a fair amount of public backlash over it and not just because it is administered out of state, but because it costs more. She stated the alderpersons could not go out in the field and discuss it effectively if we haven't analyzed it and voted on it. She reiterated the Council needs to make the decision and own it.

Oberbeck agreed it was important for the Council to know the details because the public is asking. Brezinski read a letter to the editor in the newspaper regarding this very issue and agreed that the proper procedure was not followed. He indicated he was willing to take the responsibility and heat for a decision he makes but it needs to go through the proper channels. He was not sure, however, that delaying the transfer of funds was the way to do it.

Nagle pointed out if there is a valid agreement between the city and another party, we have an obligation to pay until we either rescind or opt out with the 60 day provision. He questioned if there was enough money to pay without the fund transfer and cautioned that if there isn't, we need to provide enough funds to pay the contract. He felt the decision as to whether the Council wants to terminate the contract was a separate issue and not germane to the Finance Committee.

Michael Loy reviewed the productivity savings related to the outsourcing of the crossing guards. He estimated salary and benefits amounts for reclaiming 10-15% of Lt Bliven's time, as well as details regarding patrol officers covering crossing guard absences and no-shows. He also reviewed fiscal intangibles such as recruitment, discipline and liability issues.

Klingbeil stated the chair of HR or Public Health & Safety can choose to place the crossing guard policy issue on their agendas if they so wish, however, the transfer of funds is a finance issue that the Finance Committee has a duty to carry out. He noted the transfer would only carry us through the end of the year and since we have to provide a 60 day notice to opt out anyway, the year will be over and we'll be obligated to pay. Groat stated the 2012 budget already has this item in contractual services, so if they ultimately make a decision to terminate the contract they will need to do another transfer of funds out contractual services back into personnel salaries. She indicated the Special Services account is currently \$300 overdrawn so they need to transfer the funds.

Motion by Nagle, second by Havel approve the transfer of funds to pay the contract through the 2011 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.