Appropriations Committee

Chairman Brodeur, Mortimer, Infurna, Tramontozzi, Forbes, Wright, McAteer-Margolis, Seaboyer, Medeiros, Conn
Absent: Boisselle
In attendance: Human Resources Director Marianne Long

Appropriations called to order by Chairman Brodeur at 7:53 p.m.

Order No. 08-258, APPROPRIATION Amount: $45,000.00 From: A/C #01-123005 - FY2005 Overlay To: A/C #011512-544500 - City Solicitor, Suits & Claims This appropriation is necessary to settle a pending Workers Compensation matter.

Chairman Brodeur says the Overlay account is set up to pay potential tax abatements. The Board of Assessors has verified that these funds are available for appropriation.

Human Resources Director Marianne Long says that as discussed in the past, medical and payroll benefits are paid out for long-term Worker's Comp claims. It is beneficial to the City to settle those claims; this money will settle one claim. The claim originated in 2005 and the person has been out since then. He recently retired with disability benefits.

President Conn says he would like to know from the Chief Assessor if this transfer exhausts all funds in the Overlay account for 2005 claims, if all funds prior to 2005 are exhausted, and the 2006 Overlay account balance.

Alderman Mortimer moves to recommend, 2nd by Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Order No. 08-263, TRANSFER Amount: $20,800.00 From: various accounts as set forth herein To: A/C #012121-511000 - Traffic Supervisor's, Salaries This is necessary due to unanticipated expenses.

Chairman Brodeur says all appropriate paperwork is included as well as the Auditor's verification that the funds are available.

Ms. Long says this is a housekeeping matter. The Traffic Supervisor's budget and supervision is being transferred from the Police Department to the School Department. The Traffic Supervisors have earned these wages and it's a matter of how the payroll works. Since 1993 the payroll cycle has run from July 1 to June 30. The move from the Police Department to the School Department affects an agreement signed in 2003 with the Traffic Supervisors Association; these dollars are owed them.

Alderman Forbes asks if the third paragraph means the City is trying to avoid paying unemployment benefits. Ms. Long says the City learned that the Traffic Supervisors would be eligible for unemployment benefits even though they receive a weekly salary during the summer months because they aren't performing the actual work. Alderman Forbes asks if this change occurred as part of collective bargaining. Ms. Long says there were 4 or 5 meetings with the association, and the membership fully signed off on it.

Chairman Brodeur asks if this change precludes a Traffic Supervisor from collecting unemployment during the summer with the intent to return in the fall. Ms. Long says they are exempt by law under the School Department; they will receive reasonable assurance letters.

President Conn says the City isn't taking unemployment compensation from someone that's been terminated.

Alderman Wright asks about the Traffic Supervisors ticketing cars. Ms. Long says changes were made under Chief Morrissey. Prior to 2004 the Traffic Supervisors ticketed throughout the summer as part of their duties and they couldn't collect unemployment benefits. Chief Morrissey changed those duties with collective bargaining. They recently had the option to do ticketing. Alderman Wright asks if they still have that option; Ms. Long says not as of June 30.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Alderman Mortimer motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman McAteer-Margolis. All in favor.

Appropriations adjourns at 8:07 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees