

**MEETING MINUTES - CITY OF TOMAH
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING of the City of Tomah was held on the 11th day of January, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The following members were present: Nellie Pater, Dennis Greeno, John Cram, Joanne Westpfahl, George Wright, Ron Olsen, Ted Schleicher, and Pete Peterson. Absent: None.

Also present: Mayor Ed Thompson, City Administrator Jim Bialecki, City Clerk JoAnn M. Cram, Police Chief Wes Revels, Ambulance Director Jody Allen, and City Treasurer Julia Rusch. Gregg Hagen videotaped the meeting.

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Chairperson Pete Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Pater, second by Greeno to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 regular Committee of the Whole meeting as presented. Motion passed without negative vote.

Ambulance Department Monthly Report. Ambulance Director Jody Allen provided the monthly department report.

Fire Department Monthly Report. Fire Chief Decorah provided the monthly fire department report.

Motion by Schleicher, second by Westpfahl to accept the Fire Department monthly report as written. Motion passed without negative vote.

Lake Tomah Committee Update. Joe McDaniel of the Lake Committee advised that the Lake Committee met in December. The DNR was happy with the rotenone treatment of the Lake. They addressed the restocking plan for the spring. There will be large quantities of assorted types of fish put into the Lake. The DNR is beginning the island restoration, the riprap project and the trees today. The total cost for that project is \$60,120. The City built a ramp for trucks to get out on the island and that counts toward the City's share of costs. The trees came from Fort McCoy at no cost other than transport. The next thing to be worked on is the AIS Grant to complete the required training. The Committee is also reviewing some of the lake ordinances currently.

Zoning/Planning/Building Inspection. Dir. Shane Rolff provided a written summary of building permits and zoning activities with 2008/2009 comparisons.

Long Range Planning Committee Report. The Committee continues to meet monthly with positive progress. The present focus is on the development of the Canadian Pacific Railroad property. Vandewalle & Associates is working with the committee through a \$50,000 CDBG grant for utilization and marketing of the land. The original plan consisted of six concepts. The committee is leaning towards a mixed use which includes technology, wellness, institutional, region food, and regional visitor gateway. Walgreens has expressed interest in the site. Tomah Lumber will not be required to move at this time. The current phase is the development of white papers that will explain project components, identify the next steps, motivate potential partners and position the components for funding. There is funding available through Federal and State Grants. There will be an initial public hearing on this matter on February 2nd. The City ultimately will have final approval on any development on the site in accordance with current ordinances and zoning restrictions.

Police Department Monthly Report. Police Chief Wes Revels provided a summary of police activities for December. The K-9 Unit has retired and a new K-9 has joined the Department. The Department will recognize Crossing Guards on Friday, January 15th.

Accept Treasurers Cash & Investment Reports – December, 2009
Motion by Schleicher, second by Olsen to recommend the Common Council accept the Treasurer's Cash and Investment reports for December 2009. Motion passed without negative vote.

Bartender Licenses.

Motion by Cram second by Westpfahl to recommend the Common Council approve the bartender licenses as listed. Motion passed without negative vote. Bartender licenses approved as follows: Elizabeth A. Cottrell, Marie K. Harkner, Christina M. Huber, and Shantelle C. Hunter.

Additional Charges for the 2008 Audit. Clifton Gunderson informed the City in December, 2009 that the 2008 audit required an additional 93 hours to complete. Deb Welch of Clifton Gunderson advised that upon review of their files, they found that the actual hours for the 2008 audit were 346 which is an overrun of 93 hours. Some of the areas they spent more time on included the allowance of doubtful debt accounts for the ambulance service, the correction and updating of beginning fund balances along with designated and reserved fund balances within the governmental funds, corrections due to errors in the clearing of the tax fund and review, no past record of landfill related debt obligation, and corrections within the capital asset records of the City. They are proposing a compromise in the billing for the 2008 audit and are suggesting a one-time fee of \$5,820. The contract language states that their fee will not exceed \$24,600 unless the City is advised before they undertake any work that would require an increase in the fee arrangement. Deb Welch of Clifton Gunderson addressed questions from the Council. Ms. Welch advised the issues as stated above and feels the additional payment is warranted. City Treasurer Rusch responded regarding these issues and advised different auditors require different things.

Motion by Westpfahl, second by Cram to recommend the Common Council deny the request from Clifton Gunderson LLP for an additional fee of \$5,820 for services connected with the 2008 Audit as the contract states the fees will not exceed \$24,600 unless informed prior to completing the additional work. Motion passed without negative vote.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. The auditors have used 120 days as a cutoff for allowance for doubtful accounts. This is not to be confused with uncollectable accounts. It is requested that the City use 12 months versus 120 days as charges wind up in litigation and payment exceeds 120 days and the turn-around time with Medicare and Insurance companies may also exceed 120 days.

Motion by Olsen, second by Wright to recommend the Common Council establish 12 months as the cutoff policy for allowance for doubtful accounts. Motion passed without negative vote.

Resolution in Support of Midwest Rail Route – Chicago to the Twin Cities via La Crosse. In short, there are two proposed routes. One is Madison to La Crosse and the other Madison to Eau Claire. The Eau Claire route will go from Madison to Camp Douglas and then north to Eau Claire and by-pass Tomah. The La Crosse route goes through Tomah and stops in Tomah. The intent of the Long Range Planning Committee is to create a transportation hub located on the railroad property. Proposed users include High Speed Rail , Amtrak, Jefferson Lines and Greyhound, and local para transit providers. Presently Amtrak carries 10,000 riders annually. High Speed Rail is expected to increase ridership an additional 30,000. The increased frequency of trains on this route makes high speed rail a viable alternative to travel to the Twin Cities, Madison, Milwaukee or Chicago because a round trip may be accomplished in one day.

Motion by Wright, second by Pater to recommend the Common Council approve the Resolution in Support of Midwest Rail Route – Chicago to the Twin Cities via La Crosse. Motion passed without negative vote.

Resolution Approving Monthly Bills. Motion by Wright, second by Cram to recommend the Common Council approve the Resolution authorizing payment of the monthly bills for a total amount of \$ 855,681.56. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Wright, second by Cram to adjourn. Motion passed without negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnn M. Cram, City Clerk