

**Wahpeton City Council**  
**Special Meeting**  
**January 7, 2011**  
**7:30 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Mayor Sturdevant, Bajumpaa, Bohn, Dale, DeVries, Hansey, Hartman, and Mitskog.

**Members Absent:** Bertsch

**Others Present:** Huwe, Lies, Nelson, and Johannessen

Mayor Sturdevant called the meeting to order.

**Snow Removal Related Contracts**

Nelson provided an overview of snow removal operations explaining the current estimated snowfall accumulation exceeds 30" and has created snow storage issues and limited visibility throughout the City. Nelson, in conjunction with Public Works Superintendent Steve Fehr, are requesting permission to rent a tractor, a front end loader, purchase a blower and allocate funding for additional staff hours to remove excess accumulations in the intersections and to maintain optimum right of way widths that are currently narrowed with snow accumulations from plowing operations.

Council member Dale inquired regarding the potential to stagger the current operations schedule to run the existing City equipment for extended periods to catch up on the snow accumulations. Nelson explained that although snow removal operations are generally more productive in the overnight hours removing snow from intersections and boulevards is best accomplished during daylight hours and is coordinated with Equipment Services Corp. for drivers, truck rental and hauling to the designated snow dumps, adding that splitting the staff would allow the existing equipment to be operated more hours but would increase the additional hours and mobilization expenses for hauling. Hansey inquired if the proposed rental equipment is on the current capital improvements list for acquisition; Nelson explained the blower and the front end loader have both been on the list for several years but have not been funded in the budget process; Nelson stated the supply and demand situation for equipment right now (demand far exceeds supply) would make this a challenging time to try to purchase equipment. Hartman also inquired if the City typically rents tractors for flood season, is it a good idea to continue renting and should the contract be revised/extended through April. Nelson explained that the proposed tractor rental is necessary for the proposed blower operations, because currently the City owned blower is affixed to the front end loader limiting its use for other activities. Nelson further explained RDO Equipment in Breckenridge has historically provided tractors for flood season, the tractor rentals are billed only for actual hours used and Nelson is confident the City will continue this practice. Bohn inquired about the proposed overtime schedule; Nelson explained the current plan is to maintain

overnight snow removal operations for public safety with the crews extending their shift to 9 or 10 hours for a 10 day work period.

Mitskog and Bohn inquired about the availability of funding, Huwe stated the current General Fund surplus is sufficient to fund a \$60,000 transfer to the Snow and Flood Emergency Fund to accommodate the requests presented by Nelson.

**Motion by Mitskog, second by Hansey, to approve a \$60,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Snow and Flood Emergency Fund. Motion carried 6 to 1 roll call vote with Dale voting Nay.**

**Motion by Mitskog, second by Bohn, to approve a front end loader rental contract with Ziegler Cat for 2 months up to \$15,040. Motion carried 6 to 1 roll call vote with Dale voting Nay.**

**Motion by Bajumpaa, second by DeVries, to approve a tractor rental contract with RDO Equipment for 2 months up to \$6,000. Motion carried 6 to 1 roll call vote with Dale voting Nay.**

**Motion by Hansey, second by Bohn, to approve the purchase of snow blower from RDO Equipment for up to \$9,000. Motion carried 6 to 1 roll call vote with Dale voting Nay.**

Motion by Mitskog to adjourn.

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Mayor Sturdevant

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Darcie Huwe, Auditor