

Harbor Springs City Council Minutes
August 25, 2008

Mayor Jardine called the nineteenth meeting of the Harbor Springs City Council to order at 7:00 pm, in the City Council Chambers at 160 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, Michigan.

1. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

Present: Jean Jardine, Alan Hegedus, Laura Kors and Pringle Pfeifer

Absent: Michael Heinz

Also Present: City Attorney James T. Ramer, City Manager Frederick W. Geuder and City Clerk Ronald B. McRae

Mayor Jardine noted that this meeting was a special meeting and there were two items on the agenda. They were:

- A. Consideration of a Service Agreement with the Petoskey Public Library; and
- B. Consideration of Hiring a Search Firm to Find a New City Manager.

2. Service Agreement with the Petoskey Library

City Manager Geuder stated that based on the August 4, 2008 meeting discussion, he modified the agreement that the Petoskey Library sent the City of Harbor Springs, and drafted a cover letter. City Attorney Ramer reviewed the agreement and letter. Manager Geuder stated that he was trying to keep the agreement simple, but making sure that it is understood that the agreement is a one-year agreement and that the City of Harbor Springs still wants to control the state aid. Further, Manager Geuder stated that the year of the contract would be from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009.

Mayor Jardine asked if there was any public input from the constituents present. There were no comments offered.

Councilperson Kors stated that the City Manager had written the proposed agreement as directed by City Council.

Mayor Jardine questioned if the City would pay the \$1,340 up front or collect \$10 from each person wanting a library card, then paying the monies to the Petoskey Library. Manager Geuder stated that this agreement would require the City to pay the \$1,340 up front.

Councilperson Pfeifer concurred with Councilperson Kors.

#7484 - Motion by Pfeifer, second by Hegedus, to approve the proposed Agreement for Library Services with the Petoskey Public Library on a one-year basis, to authorize payment of the \$1,340 and to authorize City Manager Geuder to execute the Agreement.

Ayes - Kors, Pfeifer and Hegedus
Nays - Jardine
Absent - Heinz

Motion approved, 3-1, with one member absent.

3. Search Firm for a New City Manager

City Manager Geuder stated that there are two search firms that Council could choose to help in the City Manager search process. They are the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and Pondera Advisors LLC. The MML is a professional service organization that assists municipalities. Pondera Advisors is a private firm from Grand Rapids.

The MML provides executive search services and uses former City Managers to perform the searches. The former City Manager that Manager Geuder recommended is William Baldrige. Baldrige retired from the City of Royal Oak in 1994 after serving twenty years as their City Manager. Baldrige also served as President of the Michigan City Manager's Association and the International City-County Management Association.

Pondera Advisors LLC is a leadership consulting practice. Their primary function is to "serve as leadership coaches for change". Pondera Advisors does recruit executives, primarily in the private sector. However, they did do a job search for the Cascade Township Manager.

Manager Geuder and City Attorney Ramer reviewed the search process of the MML and Pondera Advisors.

Manager Geuder also stated that he estimated the cost of the MML search process to be approximately \$15,000 and he estimated the cost for Pondera Advisors to be \$24,500. Both costs include some travel expenses.

Manager Geuder and City Attorney Ramer discussed and addressed Council concerns and questions. After the discussion, Manager Geuder recommended that Council proceed with the selection of the MML to serve as the Search Firm for the new City Manager.

Council members asked if there would be a transition process involving the City Manager Geuder and the new City Manager. Manager Geuder stated there could be something worked out. However, he is currently trying to get things written and have notes for the new Manager, if there is no overlap.

#7485 – Motion by Pfeifer, second by Kors, to contract with the Michigan Municipal League to serve as the search firm for a new City Manager; further to request that William Baldrige serve as the facilitator for the search process; and to authorize the City Manager to proceed and execute said agreement with the approval of the City Attorney.

Ayes - Kors, Pfeifer, Jardine and Hegedus
Nays - None
Absent - Heinz

Motion approved, 4-0, with one member absent.

4. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Jardine adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Ronald B. McRae, City Clerk

Approved: September 15, 2008

Jean Jardine, Mayor