

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Public Works of March 31, 2008

A Special Meeting of the Board of Public Works was held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008 in Mayor Lozeau's conference room, 2nd floor City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Donnalee Lozeau, Chair
Timothy Lavoie, Vice Chairman
Don Dyer, Commissioner
Dan Gagnon, Commissioner
Tracy Pappas, Commissioner

Rick Seymour, Director
Nick Caggiano, Superintendent, Parks & Recreation
Kathie Berube, DPW Administrative Assistant III
David Deane, Aldermanic Liaison

There was no formal Agenda for this meeting.

Chair Lozeau called the Special Meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and stated that all Commissioners were present.

MOTION: Commissioner Lavoie to award the Lead Groundsman position at Holman Stadium to Monte Freire, effective April 1, 2008.

SECONDED: Commissioner Gagnon.

OPPOSED: Commissioner Pappas.

MOTION CARRIED: Majority.

Chair Lozeau mentioned to the Board that at the last Board of Public Works meeting a motion was approved for tuition reimbursement for an Engineer in the Engineering Department in the amount of \$6,754.50. She stated that since then, she has learned that based on the Engineer's position as a Merit employee, the funds are not available for reimbursement because Merit employees are only eligible for \$1,500.00 yearly. She added that it was of great concern to her that the City has Merit employees that we encourage to go to school but that they are limited by the ordinance.

Chair Lozeau then asked the Board to reconsider that previously approved motion and vote against it. She explained that she would like to bring a Resolution before the Board of Aldermen to allow for the same type of tuition opportunity for Merit employees as Union employees. She added that she did not know if it would be as much money but it would give the Division the flexibility to be able to encourage Merit employees to further themselves educationally.

Chair Lozeau informed the Board that the previously approved motion should not have been approved because the funding was not available and that is why she was asking for reconsideration.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER: Commissioner Dyer to reconsider the Board's action.
SECONDED: Commissioner Lavoie.

Commissioner Lavoie inquired about the Ordinance.

Chair Lozeau apologized and stated it was language in the Merit plan, not an Ordinance.

Aldermanic Liaison Deane informed the Board that if a request was brought forward to amend the language to the Merit Handbook, it would need to be brought forth as an Ordinance.

The Board concurred.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

Chair Lozeau suggested a motion to deny.

MOTION: Commissioner Dyer to recommend change to the language in the Merit Handbook (pertaining to the monetary allowance for Merit employees' yearly educational re-imburement) and to correspond with the unions and other city employees regarding this proposal.

SECONDED: Commissioner Pappas.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Lavoie to deny the reimbursement of tuition for Engineer Mr. Joe Mendola in an amount depending on department's budget balance at the end of FY08 but not to exceed \$6,754.50. Funds will be paid under account # 551-94005-6901, Conferences and Seminars.

SECONDED: Commissioner Gagnon.

Alderman Deane suggested an amendment to the motion denying Mr. Mendola's reimbursement to state that the reimbursement shall be given to him after the Ordinance takes effect.

Chair Lozeau thanked Aldermanic Liaison Deane and asked if the maker of the motion agreed with the amendment.

Commissioner Lavoie accepted the amendment to the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Gagnon to adjourn.

SECONDED: Commissioner Lavoie.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

*Transcribed by
Kathie Berube
BPW/DPW Administrative Assistant III*