

DRAFT

City of Lawrence

Sales Tax Audit Committee

November 29, 2012 minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ted Boyle, Jon King, Charlie Sedlock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Timothy Bateman

David L. Corliss, City Manager

Casey Toomay, Budget Manager

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Bradford, Fire Medical Chief

Mark Thiel, Public Works Asst. Director

Ed Mullins, Finance Director

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

The meeting was called to order.

Mark Thiel reviewed the 2012 street maintenance program. The committee discussed microsurfacing and Corliss explained that the goal is to get to where we are doing preventative maintenance and avoiding major reconstruction.

Corliss discussed the plans for 2013. The major projects will include reconstruction of Iowa, from Harvard Road to the Irving Hill overpass and Bob Billings Parkway, from Iowa to Crestline.

Corliss updated the committee on the Maple Street Pump Station project. Construction is expected to begin in 2013.

Corliss explained that the City does have a plan to replace fire apparatus. In response to a federal mandate, the City Commission spent \$1 million of proceeds from the infrastructure sales tax on radios for the fire department. The Commission also decided to spend more of the infrastructure sales tax on street maintenance in order to maintain funding but avoid increasing the property tax mill levy. As a result, less funding from the infrastructure sales tax will be available for fire apparatus in the outlying years of the ten-year sales tax. Instead, funding for fire apparatus will come from other sources (i.e.debt.)

Chief Bradford walked through a map showing each fire station that lists all the fire apparatus assigned to the station and provides a status update on each. The map is colored coded to alert where the highest priorities need are located.

The Chief also explained how the department has made changes to the color and type of apparatus we buy and how the expectation is that these changes will result in greater resale value in the future.

The committee briefly discussed the purpose of the committee. Corliss explained that he saw a couple ways the committee was important. First, when the public asks why the Commission spent the sales tax money, the committee can say it was in keeping with the ballot language. Second, when it is time to consider renewing the sales tax, it will be helpful to point to a record of spending the proceeds in keeping with the ballot language. Finally, Corliss said the committee provides a good check on the temptation to “stretch” the interpretation of the ballot language when deciding how to spend the sales tax proceeds.

Sedlock commented that you can really see the impact of the sales taxes in the community when you look at the condition of our streets and at our transit system.

Toomay walked the committee through revenues and expenditures related to the transit sales tax. Corliss explained that while none of the proceeds of the 0.05% sales tax have been spent, the City plans to use some of it to fund a study of where to locate a permanent transfer station. It may also be used to support operations of the K-10 Connector service. He also pointed out that it is good to have those funds to respond to possible changes at federal level plan.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting on March 28. King noted that the minutes had an error- he was not present at the meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes, with the change to reflect the absence of King, was made by Boyle. It was seconded by King. The motion passed 3-0.

The committee scheduled the next meeting for February 28, 2013 at 4:00.

A motion to adjourn was made by King and seconded by Boyle. The motion passed 3-0.