

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held this evening with Deputy Mayor Scott in the Chair with all members present with the exception of Mayor Jacyno. Staff members present were Terry Lapierre, CAO; Frank Boucher, Fire Chief and Barry Church, Human Resources & Purchasing Manager.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Lafreniere THAT the Minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting are accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

ITEM #1 FIRE DEPARTMENT

A. PROPOSED PURCHASE 2006 PUMPER TRUCK

Mr. Lapierre presented the recommendation to purchase one Pumper Fire Fighter Apparatus.

Councillor O'Neill said that input was received from the firefighters regarding their needs. Councillor O'Neill added that monies to purchase the truck would come from reserves; therefore, the taxpayers would not be burdened with the cost of the fire truck replacement. Councillor Levasseur said it is time for the City to keep up to date and the time is now to replace the 1973 ariel truck.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Lafreniere, seconded by Councillor O'Neill THAT the City purchase one Pumper Fire Fighter Apparatus from Fort Garry Fire Trucks
In the amount of \$254,153.00

CARRIED

B. MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Boucher presented this report as an information item.

Councillor Levasseur said it was good to see how the exercise equipment is being utilized. Our firefighters are taking the initiative to keep themselves in good shape and the exercise equipment was a good purchase on the City's part.

ITEM #2 HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

A. Human Resources – Hiring Policy

Mr. Lapierre presented the Human Resources Policies and Procedures and stated that the City needs to submit their hiring policy to the Province. Staff is in the process of developing a comprehensive rewriting of the policies. The Province is currently asking for the policy with specifically our procedures on hiring of relatives. This has been addressed in the policy.

Councillor Levasseur said that he would like the criteria of residency reviewed for Senior Management. Councillor Levasseur felt that all Senior Management should have to live in the City or within a certain distance. Deputy Mayor Scott questioned whether we can direct an individual where to live. Mr. Lapierre said that this could become a Human Rights Issue.

Councillor White asked why we do not submit the complete policy all at once to the Province. Mr. Lapierre said the City is already behind the deadline date and the Province is only requiring this item right now.

Councillor Levasseur said he would be prepared to support the policy but would like the residency issue reviewed by staff.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Lafreniere, seconded by Councillor O'Neill THAT the City adopt the Human Resources Policies and Procedures as presented with The exception of #3 Residency to be reviewed. CARRIED

ITEM #3 PENSION FUND - OMERS

Councillor Levasseur asked Mr. Lapierre if any more information had been received regarding the OMERS and Bill 206. Councillor Levasseur said he was concerned that if this Bill is passed that a 2-3% tax increase could be handed down to the taxpayers.

Mr. Lapierre said that Mayor Jacyno has held a meeting with the Minister regarding Bill 206. Mr. Lapierre added that the Union is also looking at going after the Province.

Councillor Lafreniere questioned how much more downloading can the City take from the Province. Councillor Henderson added that the Municipalities are at the whim of the Province.

The meeting adjourned on motion by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor White. CARRIED