

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023
2:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in a Special Session on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, Aaron Herzog, Marcia Seibert-Volz, Sandy Farder, and Jackson Purfeerst. City Administrator Mike Lyonais was also present.

Dave Nevin called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Sandy Farder reported that she contacted the City of Nisswa and the City of Baxter for references for the law firms that submitted RFP's. Ms. Farder stated that the City of Baxter did not return her call. The City of Nisswa gave Kennedy & Graven a positive review.

Jackson Purfeerst asked if the Council's plan was to hire a firm in addition to current labor and employment attorneys at Johnson, Killen & Seiler. Dave Nevin responded that initially, that would be the plan.

Mike Lyonais stated that he reviewed the proposals. Madden Galanter Hansen is a small firm of 3 lawyers and Kennedy & Graven is very large. Mr. Lyonais stated that the Council decided to retain the City Attorney and the current cleaning service company after receiving RFP's a few weeks ago because there was little difference in costs. The two proposals received for legal and employment legal services have similar fees to what the City currently pays. If the Council is only looking to save costs, they would not have to conduct interviews with the other firms because Johnson, Killen & Seiler charges the similar rates as the two firms that submitted RFP's. If the Council wants to change firms for other reasons, those reasons should be stated.

Jack Purfeerst stated that Attorney Jacob Stonesifer of Johnson, Killen & Seiler does not always give direct answers, however the City is in the middle of negotiating and should finish that issue before changes are made. Aaron Herzog agreed. Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that the Council only has to get through mediation and then could make a change. Ms. Seibert-Volz stated that Johnson, Killen & Seiler does not do a good job with following up on things and she is not impressed with them. Ms. Seibert-Volz is in favor of interviewing the two firms that submitted RFP's.

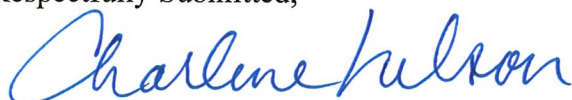
A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the timing of starting a new contract with a new firm, whether the new firm would participate in current negotiations, and the notice needed to terminate the current contract.

Sandy Farder stated that Madden Galanter Hansen represents many cities and counties in the State and wondered if they had the capability to take on more clients. It was the consensus of the Council to interview both firms. Aaron Herzog and Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that they would prefer in-person interviews. The Council stated that the interview questions should be the same for each firm. Sandy Farder offered to collect questions from the Council, if they didn't want to discuss that now. Marcia Seibert-Volz asked if staff had a list of questions to ask labor and employment attorneys. Mike Lyonais stated that he would have the City Clerk look into that.

MOTION 03SP1-01-23 WAS MADE BY JACKSON PURFEERST AND SECONDED BY SANDY FARDER TO INTERVIEW THE LAW FIRMS OF KENNEDY & GRAVEN AND MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN FOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LEGAL SERVICES. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

MOTION 03SP1-02-23 WAS MADE BY JACKSON PURFEERST AND SECONDED BY SANDY FARDER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:26 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk