



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

300 Sixth Street

605-394-4110

Fax: 605-394-6793

E-mail: mayor@rcgov.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legal & Finance Committee
FROM: Mayor Sam Kooiker *Sam Kooiker*
DATE: April 16, 2014
SUBJECT: Item No. 16 – [No.LF041614-08](#) - Request from RPCC Board of Directors for monies, not to exceed \$50,000, for additional wheelchair accessibility in the Barnett Arena

During the Civic Center Board meeting on March 25, there was discussion regarding the need for some limited interim American with Disabilities Act fixes. I support these efforts to provide more wheelchair seating in the Don Barnett Arena. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in July of 1990, and some of these fixes are more than 20 years overdue. At the time the estimate was an amount likely not to exceed \$100,000.

At the meeting I suggested looking at our Capital Improvements (CIP) budget, since it appeared there was about \$2.1m available (plus \$1m reserves) in the fund not allocated to other projects. We were hoping to use most of the \$2.1m for additional residential street projects (Mills/overlays and Chip Seals) this summer. Given the situation, I thought it would be appropriate for the CIP Committee and Council to see if \$100,000 could be allocated from the \$2.1m for these important Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues.

Since March 25, we've received good and bad news. The good news is the costs are now expected to be \$50,000 rather than \$100,000. The bad news is bids on other capital improvements projects are coming in high – IE: Mount Rushmore Road.

We are seeing a boom in local private sector activity which is affecting the availability of contractors to perform public sector work. Prices of materials are also increasing. Terry Wolterstorff is now advising we hold off on adding more projects – it is possible the entire \$2.1m and perhaps also the additional \$1m in reserves will be used simply trying to keep up with the increasing costs for 2014 – 2015 projects. We will know more in the next few weeks when bids for other big projects are opened.

The City Council has basically three options for these fixes:

1. Civic Center cash balances
2. Council Contingency fund
3. Capital Improvements unencumbered cash (the next meeting is on April 25)

I recommend asking the Civic Center to take a closer look at their cash balances. In the alternative, the Council could choose to release \$50,000 from Council Contingency either in the form of a grant or as a loan to be repaid from Civic Center funds or from CIP or another funding source. Another option is to take this item to the CIP committee on April 25.



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