

**Observer Report**  
Administration and Public Works  
June 23, 2008

Observer; Judith Rosenthal

Members present: Aldermen Wollin, Jean-Baptiste, Holmes, Rainey, Hansen (chair)

Staff: Finance Dep't., Streets & Sanitation, Legal, Police and Fire Dep'ts.

Press: RoundTable, Evanston Review

Citizens: Owners of Bat 17 restaurant

Meeting began: 5:40      Meeting adjourned: 6:50

Most agenda items passed without discussion.

There was a delay in starting on the agenda item -- approval of bills-- due to the committee not receiving several answers to their questions for the staff held over from the previous meeting. The answers were only received minutes before the meeting, and the aldermen had to read the answers before proceeding to vote approval. This took many minutes and resulted in many questions to staff, still remaining unanswered. Frustration on part of committee was running high.

Discussion on the item involving the purchase of 23 vehicles for the Police and Fire Dep'ts. Alderman Tisdahl renewed her request that the City look into the purchase of more fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles, rather than the Ford Crown Victorias under consideration. Assurances were given that a hybrid vehicle had been ordered last October and the City had to wait until this month for its delivery due to increased demand. The assessment for switching to hybrids is ongoing, and in the meantime the Ford vehicles are the most efficient choice. Motion passed.

There was also some discussion on the acceptance of a grant (\$11,305) from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for lighting upgrades for Fire Station #4 and The Police Station which would require a City match of \$20,593. Alderman Rainey, while being in favor, remarked:"being green costs money". She was assured that the acceptance of the grant would help in getting future (possibly more generous grants). Motion passed.

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