
From: Zachary Kessler
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Zachary Kessler
Subject: FW: [External] Gov Affairs Committee 9-23

From: jbalzer317@gmail.com
Date: September 22, 2025 at 12:33:47 PM CDT
To: John Ruggini <jruggini@wauwatosa.net>, Ernst-Ulrich Franzen <efranzen@wauwatosa.net>, David Lewis <dlewis@wauwatosa.net>
Cc: Dennis McBride <dmcbride@wauwatosa.net>
Subject: [External] Gov Affairs Committee 9-23

In reviewing the Government Affairs Committee meeting packet for 9-23, agenda item #6 includes a resolution to draft the agreement to combine the Tosa and West Allis fire departments. I was aware of ongoing discussions and study, however this resolution sure looks like the deal is done...almost.

I am unable to attend (grandson on Tosa East soccer Team, game tomorrow night) however I wanted my elected representatives to know that I feel very strongly it is too soon to draft the final document. There is a "one pager" financial summary in the consultant's report – it is very high level and does not include all of the costs involved. Items missing are:

- CAP EX (consolidating dispatch, consolidating services like maintenance, rebranding, uniforms, etc.)
- costs to renegotiate labor agreements and potential unknown outcomes of those negotiations that will drive costs
- WRS cost impacts
- long range capital expenditure plan required (5 years?) for facilities and equipment in a combined scenario

The high level consultant analysis suggests an annual expenditure offset of approximately \$6 to \$7 million over 5 years. Obviously, a significant portion is in salaries.

I can tell you that in my 40 plus years in facility management I was involved in many consolidations and mergers that showed a potential savings via reductions in admin costs (i.e., one chief instead of two) that never hit the proposed targets due to "other needs" that always arose. The key to success here is sustained cost avoidance, how is the City proposing to do that?

John R, do you have more detailed financial homework on this proposed merger that is available to the public? The info in the consultant's report is certainly not adequate for a decision of this magnitude.

In the interim, I request my elected alderpersons to say time out on this resolution.

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