

Finance Committee Report

RE: NEMRC Cloud Services  
Pension Board Attorney Selection

Date: January 9, 2017

Chair: Christopher Etori

Other Committee Members Present: Allaire, Davis, Larson, Tommola

Other Aldermen Present: Gides, Robertson

Others Present:

Treasurer Wilton

Ernie Saunders, CEO, NEMRC (by phone)

The meeting convened at 5:30 pm. The first item on the agenda was converting our NEMRC operations from using a server in City Hall to using a NEMRC server in the internet "cloud". Rutland would be on the leading edge for NEMRC as the first municipality using the cloud. Ernie Saunders, CEO of NEMRC, gave a run-down of the benefits of moving to the cloud. These included increased processing speeds enabling greater efficiencies in the treasurer's office, extending the life and usefulness of the City Hall server, and allowing remote logins, including for interested Aldermen. Additional costs of moving to the cloud would be \$10 per user per month, of which the treasurer estimated 26 current users or \$3120 per year. Questions from the aldermen present referenced security concerns. Saunders explained that the cloud server would be backed up in multiple locations providing industry recognized redundancy procedures. Alderman Allaire moved to recommend to the full board the conversion from our current NEMRC server set up to NEMRC's cloud based operations. The motion passed 5-0, and I so move.

The second item on the agenda was to review and approve a selection for the Pension Board attorney. Treasurer Wilton indicated we received two responses to the RFP, one of which had extensive municipal experience. Treasurer Wilton and Peter Amons met with two partners from Robinson & Cole, LLP last week and City Attorney Romeo joined them by phone. During that conversation it became clear that the firm had great experience in working with pension plans similar to ours (closed plans, underfunded plans, etc) and would work well with the pension board as well as the board of aldermen. The firm would act at the direction of the pension board and be utilized to examine the fiduciary role of the pension board, review ideas and proposals, review and suggest any ordinance changes, and develop strategic priorities. Questions from the aldermen present were about the high hourly cost of the firm and their experience with Vermont. Treasurer Wilton responded that the firm would be used very judiciously and the funds would come from the pension fund, and that the firm would utilize the services of the city attorney or a Vermont firm such as Primmer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer if the need arose. Alderman Larson noted he would abstain from voting and a motion was made to approve the selection of Robinson & Cole, LLP as Pension Board Attorneys. The motion passed 4-0, and I so move.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Etori, Chair

January 9, 2017

To: Finance Committee

From: Treasurer Wilton

Re: NEMRC Cloud services

As you know more and more information systems are migrating to "cloud" based operations. NEMRC, our accounting package provider, is introducing a cloud-based option for \$10 per login user per month.

Currently, NEMRC is installed on a server in City hall that also hosts other programs and shared network documents. By moving to this option we would access the system, hosted on a NEMRC server, through the internet. The owner of the server contracted by NEMRC is Amazon.

I estimate that we would have 26 users in City government, or \$260 per month, or \$3,120 per year. The costs of our disaster recovery and our annual support fees with NEMRC would remain the same (\$672 and \$1,337 respectively). Considering that many financial packages are often in the \$40k per year range, it is still a very good value.

The advantages of moving NEMRC to the cloud are the following:

- The cloud server can process large volumes of data much faster than our server (45 min vs. 45 seconds for Utility calculation)
- Conflicts among users would be reduced
- The cloud server will have greater storage capacity than our current server
- Moving our NEMRC data to the cloud will free up the existing server and extend its useful life
- The back-up for the cloud server is done continually (dual locations)
- Users could login securely from remote locations
- We could add Board members to the user group, if desired
- Virus protection is more robust due to the size of the server

I recommend that we convert to cloud based operation of NEMRC.



Christopher Etori &lt;christopher.ettori@gmail.com&gt;

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**Re: Pension Attorney Recommendation**

1 message

**Charles Romeo** <charlesr@rutlandcity.org>

Mon, Jan 9, 2017 at 10:17 AM

To: Christopher Etori <christopher.ettori@gmail.com>, Sharon Davis <sharond@ravmah.org>, Scott Tommola <ScottTommolaPT@gmail.com>, Ed Larson <EDIN2010@msn.com>, "Allaire David (E-mail)" <Alls51@aol.com>  
Cc: Wendy W <wendyw@rutlandcity.org>, mayorfouras@gmail.com

Dear Chairman Etori and Members of the Finance Committee,

Unfortunately, I'll be unable to make the Committee meeting tonight. However, I wanted to write to concur with Treasurer Wilton's recommendation of the firm Robinson + Cole as attorneys to work with the City in providing advice and guidance to the City and its Pension Board.

In my conversation with them, while they note every municipality is different, it is evident to me they have the experience in these specialized matters to assist my office in providing guidance not only to the Pension Board, but to the Board of Aldermen as we improve our Charter and Ordinances relative to the pension. They seemed to be very familiar with our situation and I think will be a great help to us.

While the firm has done some work in Vermont on the federal level, it does not have any attorneys currently admitted in Vermont for state law purposes. For Vermont-specific legal needs, they stated they will work with my office or with other Vermont firms with which they have a relationship, including Primmer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer, of which our Bond Counsel, Paul Giuliani, is a Shareholder. They stated the City would decide who to use should the need for local counsel arise. Lastly, they indicated they do not litigate matters themselves, so were litigation to arise concerning the pension, we would need to obtain other counsel for those purposes.

Please feel free to call or email individually with questions. I should be able to respond up until 5.

Thanks,



Charles A. Romeo, Esq.

City Attorney

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