Special Finance Committee
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

   Committee Chair Benjamin Lee called the Special Finance Committee meeting for March 24, 2021 to order at 5:00 pm

   Members Present - Ben Lee, Mayor Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson
   Absent - None

   Staff present - Jim Lenner, Chief Haroon, Dana Steffan (joined during) Teresa Monroe.

   Public present - None

2. East Jersey Street Funding Application Review

   Jim Lenner said the Engineer is working on the application and reviewed recommendations. Village cash responsibility is $360,000.00; Mr. Lenner said we just need to figure out if we are going to do it and how we would pay for it. Said he spoke to the State Infrastructure Bank, could apply for a loan but no guarantee we would get it.

   Cheryl Robertson said she would really like to get this project done; does not want to take the money from the Budget Stabilization Fund because that shows we have cash and it helps us to borrow, her recommendation is to just get a loan for five or ten years.

   Chip Dutcher said he agreed and reviewed additional funds coming in over the next year or so; thinks a loan could be paid off quickly, he is in favor of borrowing the money as a straight loan then paying it off.

   Discussion on a SIB loan as well as The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) and revenue replacement of funds due to COVID; funds such as the Gas Tax.

   Ben Lee recommended applying for the SIB loan and committing to the cash as the number one option and to await direction from Treasury on the ARP to see if there is a way to plug in those funds. Does not want to borrow any more than what has to be borrowed.

2021 Committee Goals

1. Multi-year CIP Plan; Manager to provide quarterly
2. Get Budget Stabilization Fund back to $500,000
3. Keep water sewer & rate increase to less than five percent
4. Meet annual budget deadlines

Jim Lenner reviewed term details from the first SIB loan and the cost for borrowing; committee discussion on plan for paying off.

Committee desire to get this project done; next steps as follows:

1. Jim Lenner to apply for the SIB loan (36 month term)
2. Finance Director to explore loan options from Park
3. Look at Covid replacement dollars for 2020 gas tax etc.

ACTION:	Chip Dutcher moved to Approve; Cheryl Robertson seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Benjamin Lee, Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 3 - 0

Will continue to work with the Engineers and stay close to conversations with respect to the Federal dollars.

3. Notes on OML Webinar - Federal Relief Funding

   a. The American Rescue Plan Act

   Discussion previously in the meeting; will continue to wait on direction for revenue replacement. Finance Director attached summary of facts provided by the Ohio Municipal League.

   Chip Dutcher added that he hopes to set aside another round of funding for community non-profits.

4. Mobility Hub Concept

   a. Concept Report/Request

   Jim Lenner provided a summary report on the concept; said although not successful with the ITS4US Grant, the need and the demand for reliable public transportation is still there. Continuing to work with those partners and looking to have a central location in which mobility providers can pick up, drop off and schedule transportation. Primary reasoning is that this is in the Licking County Development Plan, to make sure people can get to work, get to school, get to medical appointments etc. and he thinks this is an idea that would be replicated throughout rural communities in Ohio. Mr. Lenner asks Council to dedicate $20,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds to come up with a concept plan for what our hub could be. Technologies could be developed with partners that would give real time information to riders and businesses. Federal earmark dollars will be sought from our Congressman; desire to show we have skin in the game; asks that the $20,000.00 be paid out of Budget Stabilization Fund now and then to reimburse ourselves when the monies come in. Mr. Lenner added that he overall project is about three million dollars, this will far surpass what we could have done with the ITS4US Grant; quicker, cheaper, more effectively and have a larger impact on the mobility of Johnstown. Mr. Lenner said the village would manage the project and reviewed some further details. Local companies interested in a mobility hub are Crow Works, Tech International and Ohio Pack. Mr. Lenner said the RFP still needs to be drafted and asked for committee support and to authorize the $20,000.00 to start the process of getting the RFP out and securing a design consultant for the work.

All committee members expressed their sentiments in favor of moving forward with this concept.

ACTION:	Chip Dutcher moved to fund an initial $20,000 to be paid from the American Rescue Plan Act funds or from Budget Stabilization in support of the Mobility Hub concept development; Cheryl Robertson seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Benjamin Lee, Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
	Passed 3 - 0

Mr. Lenner thanked the committee.

5. Other Business

1. Ben Lee noted concern on the parking for the business at the corner of Ford and Coshocton and overflow to the street. Would like to see a survey done, figure out where the street begins, and very similarly to what we did at Edwards Road and the funeral home, add some thermoplastic for a white edge line to clearly delineate the parking to keep it from encroaching onto the street; added concern for the Fire Department opening across the street and potential increase in traffic. A cost for man-hours, survey and thermoplastic would be associated and asked if there was support from the committee. Committee members expressed agreement that it is a problem and needs to be done. Mr. Lenner said he would confirm with Service Director that supplies are available and get it done; cost can be reconciled later in the year. Survey/pins will attempt to be located; Mr. Lenner said they will begin the process and come back to Finance if there is an issue.

6. Adjourn

ACTION:	Ben Lee moved to Adjourn; Cheryl Robertson seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Benjamin Lee, Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson
NOES:	None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.