



Finance Committee
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Benjamin Lee called the Finance Committee meeting for April 20, 2021 to order at 5:02 pm

Members Present - Ben Lee, Mayor Chip Dutcher
Absent - Cheryl Robertson

Staff present - Jim Lenner, Dana Steffan, Chief Haroon, Marvin Block, Bailey Klimchak, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - None

2. Action on Minutes

a. March 16, 2021 Regular and March 24, 2021 Special

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to Approve minutes en bloc; Benjamin Lee seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Benjamin Lee, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 2 - 0

3. Finance Director Reports

a. Finance Report

Dana Steffan said aside from what is written in the report, nothing else noteworthy; Mr. Lee noted a report from OML on impact of HB157 with respect to municipal tax withholding because of workers working from home; asked about local impact on the village. Ms. Steffan said she received feedback from RITA and was provided with a ten, twenty and thirty percent net impact of non-resident employees shifting to working from home and the thirty percent would be a negative to the village of about \$253,000 so that

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

could be the extent of the impact we would see. Discussion on different scenarios, Ms. Steffan said she needs to look more at the details RITA provided to see what they are looking at. Mr. Lee said he would like to see an analysis and to see what factors are being taken into account; noted potential for legislation to oppose at next council meeting. Mr. Lenner said he would hate to oppose it and then there is a benefit to Johnstown, would like to see the analysis. Discussion on having the analysis within ten days.

4. New Account Needed for ARP Funds

Finance Director confirmed she plans to create a new fund when the village receives the American Rescue Plan Act money. No new guidance released from Treasury at this point. Mayor Dutcher said the only new thing they came out with is a new list of towns and amounts they would receive.

5. Jersey Street Funding Update (SIB Loan / Park / Treasury Guidelines)

The application has been submitted to Small Governments; decision could be made May 12th. Mr. Lenner discussed points and scoring; said he has talked to the SIB people to see if we can piggy-back off of the existing Sportsmans Club Road loan just executed or would apply for a new one.

6. Water and Sewer Rates discussion

Finance Director provided analysis and projected figures on where the village would be at the end of 2022, 2023 and 2024 if the current allocation were kept along with the five percent increase in the water rate each year; said she also increased expenses by five percent each year to be conservative. Ms. Steffan projects that by fund everything would be ok through the end of 2023 but 2024 goes into a negative balance but by making a small change in allocation in the four funds, she shows more of a steady stream in the balances; however for such a small change, she does not feel it is necessary to do at this time. Ms. Steffan added that another assumption in her analysis was to take New Day sewer revenue out of the equation; it was noted that the contract revenue on water was not considered either. Mr. Lenner said that water consumption leads to expense, the sewer does not; Ms. Steffan said the water revenue was not increased nor was the expense. Discussion on sewer operating cost and exploring alternative energy providers, sources and funding.

Continued discussion on changing the allocation of water and sewer funds now; decision for Finance Director to review in six months to look at actuals.

7. Parks & Rec Committee Items

a. Trailhead Sidewalk Quote / Rt 62 Hannah's Park Sidewalk Quote

Marvin Block discussed bids received by Mark Rogers Construction and Holbrook Custom Concrete for both the Trailhead sidewalk to the shelter house and for the Hannahs Park walkway; Holbrook bid came in at a lower cost by ten thousand dollars. Added that the

stone company on Pratt Street is donating an archway and Susan Straub is going to draw up a plan for Hannahs Park entrance. Mr. Block said the idea is to get all this together and present to the Babcock Foundation for funding. Discussed grass fertilization at the three parks and moving forward with the Trailhead sidewalk and fertilization now; the Hannahs Park walkway project to be submitted to the Babcock Foundation separately. Holbrook estimate for the Trailhead sidewalk is \$2,200 to \$2,500, fertilizer cost estimated at \$1,500.

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to Approve \$4,500.00 total from the General Fund (\$3,000.00 sidewalk, \$1,500 fertilizer and landscaping); Ben Lee seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Benjamin Lee, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 2 - 0

8. Federal Notice of Funding Opportunity: RAISE Grant for Infrastructure / Mobility Hub Concept
- Mr. Lenner said the RAISE program is the Federal Infrastructure dollars through the ARPA program; Mr. Lenner said he was thinking the opportunity to apply for the 3 million plus dollars for the construction of the Mobility Hub then that project would be complete. Noted the village has not secure any money right now but did submit the \$900,000 application with Congressman Balderson's office; has not heard back as of yet. The \$250,000 ask to the County has made it up the chain, looking for funds through air quality mitigation (CMAQ).

Mr. Lenner noted the RAISE Grant is due July 12, 2021 and he will also be looking at a water and sewer solar energy application; will take up staff time and looking for reassurance of Council support.

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to proceed with moving forward on exploring the RAISE Grant for the Mobility Hub and for water and sewer solar; Benjamin Lee seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Benjamin Lee, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 2 - 0

The matter will be brought to full Council.

Jim Lenner also gave a brief explanation of Toll Development Credits and how that could be used.

9. Other Business

1. Ben Lee noted the open position on the Police Department and gave his thoughts on making the village compensation package competitive; asked if there was a need to advertise outside of the area, add a signing bonus or cover moving expenses etc. Marvin Block said that could start a slippery slope, we don't pay moving expenses for any other departments; would have to be across the board. Chief Haroon said there are a few factors; first, we could do a little better with the benefit package but feels we are making good strides, secondly he said candidates are getting lost in background, he performs a very stringent background investigation and he wants only the best candidates for this community, lastly, there are just not a lot of people interested in being police officers right now. Chief said he has been casting a wider net, applying with academies further from us, considering visiting with cadets; added at this time he doesn't think the mentioned incentives are appropriate just yet. Chief Haroon added that the village has not been very competitive with other agencies in Licking County, as we stand now we are not but feels that what is on the table will make us competitive with what is out there and thinks that is what is needed to get the applicants in the door.

10. Adjourn

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

Passed 2 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm