

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2019

5:00 p.m.

Members present: Joette Dedden, Chris Colvin

Staff Present: Jamie Morley, Clerk to Council; Kitty Crockett, Finance Director

Guests in attendance: Connie Miller, Earl Isaacs

1. Mr. Colvin made a motion to excuse Mr. Blankenship from tonight's meeting and was seconded by Ms. Dedden.
2 Yeas
2. Mr. Colvin made a motion to approve the Finance Committee minutes as written for October 24, 2019 and was seconded by Ms. Dedden.
2 Yeas
3. Ms. Crockett stated that the Village is doing well financially and asked the committee if there were any questions. After reviewing the reports, Ms. Dedden stated that the amount collected by RITA is comparable to where it was last year.
4. At this time, the Committee discussed large projects that are planned for 2020 to help the Finance Director prepare the appropriations. The Committee decided on the following items to be included in next year's budget.
 - Generators for both Wellfield and Covey
 - PRVs for Warren County connections
 - Tank cleaning and maintenance for towers
 - Repaving 2-3 Streets
 - New dump truck and possible leaf vac
 - Well 9 (running electric and water line)
 - Emergency alert system
 - Sawyer Building demolition
5. Ms. Dedden stated that storm sewers are not on the list as it is a reoccurring appropriation and the plan is to have 8-10 storm drains replaced every year.
6. Mr. Stubbs suggested that the Village may want to consider adding to the list the hiring of an engineer to perform a study to see roughly how much it would cost the

Village to get the water system capable to service the Oberer Development on the Lemay property.

7. Mr. Colvin asked the status of Wilkerson as several Wayne Township residents came to a Public Works meeting and asked about having the road repaved. He asked if there is anything the Village should be doing to proceed with their concerns. Ms. Dedden questioned if the residents had approached the Township Trustees about the road. Mr. Stubbs stated he had gone to the School Board and asked why the buses do not go up the hill. It was stated that it is not the condition of the road that prohibits the bus from going up, but lack of turnaround at the top of the hill. Wilkerson belongs to the Village but only two Village residents live on it, the rest are township residents. Township residents do not contribute to the street levy or income tax which is what pays for the streets to be repaved.

8. At this time, the Committee discussed the water rates for the upcoming year. Ms. Crockett did a cash summary by fund for the past 4 years showing how much cash was in the water and water capital. The water fund: 2015 - 550K, 2016 - 850K, 2017 - 825K 2018 - 1 mil, and 2019 - 1.2 mil. Water capital fund: 2015 - 1.2 mil, 2016 -1.2 mil, 2017 - 1.4 mil, 2018 - 1.2 mil, and 2019 - 1.2 mil. Ms. Dedden went over the reports provided by Ms. Morley outlining the revenue for water since 2015. 2019 showed a loss of revenue because Warren County was no longer a customer as of May this year. Mr. Stubbs noted that even though there is less revenue coming in, the Village is pumping a lot less water saving on chemicals and electricity. The committee discussed a 2% to 3% increase in water rates for 2020 to account for inflation and loss of revenue. This would bring in about 14K more a year. It was agreed that customers will not feel an approximate 60-cent increase. Ms. Dedden also suggested increasing the bulk rates. It was stated that the rates must be raised by \$.25 increments and were raised in March 2018. Currently the rates are comparative to Xenia and Morrow.
 - Ms. Dedden made a motion to submit legislation to Council to raise the inside and outside water rates 3% for 2020 and was seconded by Mr. Colvin.

2 Yeas

9. Ms. Dedden presented the rates and ranges for employees pay as suggested by the Village Manager. See attached. Mr. Colvin stated he felt the rates are comparable to other municipalities that are the same size as the Village. He also said he felt this is a good step forward to give the Village Manger the flexibility with wider ranges to reward staff for doing a good job without Council getting too involved with the staff's pay.

- Ms. Dedden made a motion to present legislation to Council with the attached rates and ranges and was seconded by Mr. Colvin.

2 Yeas

10. Emergency Water Agreement: Chief Copeland spoke to Chris Brausch about the emergency water agreement. Chief is waiting for a response from Warren County that if the Village would forgo the litigation part would Warren County be willing to agree to keep the cost at 90% of the lower cost. This would still have to be approved by Council.
11. At this point, Mr. Stubbs asked about the status of the magistrate's pay. Ms. Dedden stated that it is being taken care of and there will be an ordinance January 6 with a new contract and pay increase to \$8,000. Mr. Stubbs stated that he felt that the Village should pay enough to qualify for OPERS. Ms. Dedden asked Ms. Crockett to verify the amount to qualify.
12. Ms. Morley stated that the new State Auditor, Keith Faber, has enacted a new Sunshine Law Star Rating System (StaRS) to be used to rate municipalities during audits. Municipalities will be given up to 4 stars on their compliancy with the legal requirements of the Sunshine Laws of Ohio. One of the requirements to receive the 4 stars is to keep on file a copy of attendance of the public records training in the appropriate personnel files. She asked that if any Council members attend the training to ensure the office has a copy.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.