

Finance meeting October 21, 2024 at 1800

* Rollcall was taken, and those present were Mr. Colvin, Mr. Lauffer and Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Morley and no guest present.

* The minutes were discussed and Mrs. Miller requested that the last names were used from here on out so that they could be referred to in the future minute. Everyone present agreed that last names should be used instead of first names to avoid confusion in the future.

* Mayor Isaac's joined the meeting at an unknown time.

* Mrs. Morley started the meeting to discuss increasing the water cost up 4% over the next three years. She stated that this is the first time the village has had two full-time water employees, and that the cost of salaries and insurance is increasing. Mrs Morley suggested that we drop the storm sewer fee from \$6 down to \$4, which would offset the increase of the monthly water bill. Mrs. Morley advised that since the village is on schedule of replacing the storm sewers, there is no need for the increase for the storm sewer. Mr. Lauffer asked Mrs. Morley why we would raise one rate and lower another? Mrs. Morley explained how the storm sewer money has to be used for storm sewers only. Mr. Lauffer asked why do we need to keep charging anyone for catch basins if we have over \$289,000 in the account. Mrs. Morley advised that fund is being used for the OPWC grants, and \$20,000 of that is earmarked to replace the catch basin near Pats Gas. Mrs Morley advised we need to have the funds available if there was an emergency for a catch basin. It was discussed that the catch basin on State Route 42 was \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mrs. Morley said, if we reduce the storm sewer fee from \$6 down to \$4 and do the increase of 4% on the water bill, it would be a wash for most residents on average. The increase was clarified that it was per thousand gallons, not per gallon and Mrs. Morley advised that the average amount of gallons used is 3 to 5000 per resident household. Mr. Lauffer advised that now the current price is \$4.14, and with the 4% increase over the next three years the next increase would be \$4.31 and then the next increase after that would be \$4.48 and then the final increase would be \$4.66. Mrs. Morley confirmed those numbers. Mr. Lauffer asked, why do we need to keep charging residents anything for the sewer fund? And can't we lower it to \$3 or even \$2. Jamie explained how water funds are very strict on what the money is used for. Water pays for water. It is an enterprise fund. Jamie further advised how she will use another \$100,000 on the Franklin and 4th street projects. Mrs. Morley felt comfortable if the sewer fund brings in around \$56,000 to \$60,000 a year so that it will pay for general maintenance and emergencies. Mr. Colvin asked if the \$4 sewer rate would stay that rate for the three year period? Mrs. Morley advised it would stay that rate until council approved otherwise. After much discussion about the rates, Mrs. Miller stated she wants

to move to make the changes. Then Mrs. Morley said we also need to re-evaluate the bulk water rates. The current rate is \$5.75 per 1,000 gallons and Mrs. Morley believes the rate should be raised to \$6. Mr. Lauffer researched the rate from Morrow Ohio, and it was \$3.75 per 500 gallons or \$7.50 per 1,000. The increase would bring in \$5,700 more per year. Mrs. Miller asked what the total water loss is, meaning how much water is wasted. Mrs. Morley said that in 2023 we loose about 4 million gallons a month. This comes from water leaks and other unknown reasons. Mr. Colvin stated he agrees the rate should be increased to \$6. Mrs. Miller moved to raise the bulk water rate 25 cents, and we lower the storm sewer fee from \$2, and we adopt a 4% increase over the next 3 years, and it was seconded by Mr. Lauffer and all in favor was Mrs. Miller, Mr. Lauffer, and Mr. Colvin.

* Mrs. Morley discussed setting aside money for sidewalks on Main Street. It was discussed to start saving and appropriate money for new sidewalks on Main Street. Mrs. Miller suggested we continue to save for the lamp posts and the sidewalks, and combine that money.

*Mrs Morley went over some other line items and what she has set aside for each. \$250,000 for the stoplight and that should be reimbursed when we apply for the CVT money. \$80,000 in storm Drains. \$20,000 for new vest and tasers for the Officers. \$60,000 for a new police car. \$80,000 for sidewalks, and \$300,000 for Franklin Phase 2, \$60,000 for the water line from well 10. \$20,000 for new valves, and also \$28,000 for new hydrants. Streets department was asking for \$5-\$6,000.

*The committee discussed to have Mrs. Morley get rid of cods we don't need or use anymore. It has been discussed in the past. Mrs. Morley is working on it.

*Mr. Colvin ended the meeting at 1848 hrs.