

SPECIAL FINANCE MEETING MINUTES
September 27th, 2011

Call to Order- 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call: Linda Clark, Ben Prescott, Roger Hawkins, Jenny August was absent

Others: Mayor Donna Hawkins, Councilwoman Linda Schilling, Rich Iafelice

Citizens: Edie Benner, Aaron Snopek, Michelle Barnauskus representing Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee

DISCUSSIONS:

AMATS Grant Funding:

Linda said we received this letter Aug. 23rd but it was not presented to Council until Sept. 20th. Donna said for the record, it was postmarked Sept. 1st. Linda asked Rich to explain. Rich said the Mantua area is part of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation which is the agent of the federal government that studies transportation projects in this region. AMATS communicates with its region any opportunities that come about. He quickly put together an estimate based upon the enhancement sketch of the bridge and streetscape of the area. Usually ODOT administers the funds, does the engineering, however, in this case, the Local Public Agency, in this case, the Village would do it. Two firms are required per the ODOT policy. ODOT contracts a consultant for plans and engineering, and we pay ODOT.

Rich received an e-mail from Victor Botaza from AMATS, and he basically recognized the letter of interest and indicates there must be three copies the application and supporting material by Oct. 19th and then consenting legislation from Council by Nov. 16th. There is approx 53 million available for fiscal year 2016 & 2017 projects. Lots of communities apply every year until they get it.

For this project 80% of construction is paid by the government, and the local share is 20% of construction and 10% beyond this in design and engineering. The project includes trees on S.R. 44, landscape beds, stone bridges and decorative lighting and the streetscape. This can be scaled down or done in phases to save on costs. Rich said the rule of thumb would be to expect to pay 30% of the total cost. Ben asked about the right of ways. There is no money anticipated for right of way, so if it is not donated, that will be additional cost. Linda said the \$90,000 would include engineering. Rich said possible sources of funding would be the Village, or private sectors. ODOT, County Engineer, and OPWC are available but this project would not rate very high. Maybe we could focus on Public Safety. County Engineer may be precluded in participating. ODOT said there is not a lot available in the stimulus program for an enhancement project, but they will consider this.

Ben asked if the \$30,000 cost for engineering has to be paid now, and Rich said applying is part of their retainer, the rest would come later. Ben said the matching funds wouldn't be possible right now because we have problems at the plants. Rich said maybe we could accumulate a certain amount each year since we have four years. Linda Schilling said we couldn't even do \$10,000 per year. She suggested Downtown Revitalization might be able to pay for it.

Linda Clark asked what plans EG&G has already done towards this project. Edie said they are just conceptual drawings with basic costs. Linda asked what funds DMRC has available. Edie gave basic background of DMRC and said one of their main goals would be to raise the matching funds for these projects. This is the first tangible project. They will support this any way they are able, verbally or written.

Ben asked if this project could be done in stages over several years. Rich said construction could begin in 2016. That fiscal year begins in July 2015. If the Village applies, then at least they are on the list, and if they are selected, they would have to determine if they can come up with matching funds.

Michelle Barnauskas asked what happens if the Villages project is selected, and the matching funds aren't available. Rich said then the funds would go elsewhere. Rich said it doesn't hurt the Village to apply. Michelle showed a new sketch from a landscape specialist that is slightly different than the one from EG&G. They are trying to figure out a way to expand the shoulder so a sidewalk could be incorporated into the plan. Rich said if you expand the project, you expand the price.

Aaron Snopek said the west side of 44 mainly would be a tree lawn, some curbing, a sidewalk and some trees. Aaron doesn't know specifically what the cost estimate would be for the landscaping. Rich said the bridge is about 100 grand. Linda Clark asked how we could scale it down. Aaron said how far south we go may affect contributions. They can go to every business from the bridge to Canada Road. Michele said there is a Gateway ODOT grant out there that may be something to cover the trees and landscaping. Edie said the state is paving from SR 303 to Mill Street. That is when we would want to widen the bridge and the state may consider it. Edie asked what the Village needs from them. Linda said the Village can't commit to anything at this point.

Edie asked about the cost of running the electric lines underground. Rich said it is a million dollars per mile. Edie is interested in seeing that considered. Would that section cost \$200,000? She may have some people interested in doing some trenching. Rich said to get a true cost from First Energy, they will charge us for the cost estimate. Ben said to be cautious of adding so much to the project that it can't be done at all.

Donna asked Rich to look into the cost so DMRC has something to work with. Rich said there is a resolution that must be done in November. Linda Clark asked Rich if everything he is doing is still under the retainer. Rich said yes.

Connecting Communities Grant:

Edie said the trail that ends at the river and picks up behind McDonald's needs to be connected. Michelle said this grant is through AMATS, and they need a letter of intent and application before October 14th. The only responsibility the Village would have would be a letter saying we approve. There would be no monetary commitment. Donna wanted to verify that there would be no matching funds for the Village. The letter is due before the next Council meeting. Ben said it just can't cost the Village any money. Rich assured Ben that it won't. Michelle said the application is also due October 14th. Donna asked if Regional Planning, the County could do this on our behalf. Michelle didn't think so. Getting an extension is sometimes difficult, so the Linda Schilling suggested moving the Council meeting up a week. Ben agreed. Linda Schilling will call everyone and get a date set. It is tentative to change it to the 12th. Ben also said he would like to change the regular Finance meetings to 6:30 since it is so hard for him to get here from work. Linda said it would be okay. Rich will finalize the application. Michelle showed Rich the specs.

COUNCIL RULES:

Linda distributed the updated Council rules that included the changes. We left off on Article 11, section G. Ben thinks it should say two members of Council and one member of the community. The Committee moved to #3, Committee reports. They referred to Ord. 2009-60. Ben wants it changed so it does not say with approval of the Mayor. Ben said we need to repeal this ordinance 2009-60. Linda said it will be repealed anyway when this passes. Roger disagreed, and felt the Mayor should approve appointments. Linda said back to Committee Reports, there should be reports submitted.

Article 12; Other Boards and Commissions. Ben wants to take the Mayor out of Planning, but Donna said it is ORC. Ben said we can check, and if it is not, we should change it. Linda said as far as Shade Tree, there have never been 5 people that she knows of. Ben wants to take out "appointed by the Mayor". Ben feels that committees should be appointed by Council. Same with the Parks Board. It is not ORC.

Article 13; Clerk of Council. Regarding the deadline for documents being submitted to Council for packets, Jenny put in her paperwork that Friday, 9:00 A.M. before Council would be okay. Linda said in section f and g, the word Clerk should be Clerk of Council.

Linda said we need to check in Article 12 as to whether we can remove the Mayor appoints, and change it to Council appoints. Roger asked if we are going to put in there that all committees should meet in the upstairs meeting room in the evenings. Ben agreed with meeting upstairs in Council Chambers, but felt the time is up to the Committee. Roger said we would serve the community better. Linda said we can check with the other Council members. These are only recommendations.

Motion to adjourn at 8:37 P.M. by Linda, seconded by Ben. All eyes on vote.