

FINANCE MEETING MINUTES
October 9th, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chair David Sluka

Roll Call: David Sluka, Ben Prescott, Paula Tubalkain, and Jenny August.

Others: Linda Clark

Citizens: None

CITIZENS: No one in attendance to comment.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Dave had two amendments for the Finance minutes;

- The first one is a typing error on page two under discussion on Storm Sewer Fee's. The words "on the" in line 5 need to be removed.
- The second amendment is on page two under the discussion on Staffing Issues. The words "income tax" should be added to line 4 between rescinding and reciprocity.

❖ Motion to accept the September Finance minutes as amended by Paula, seconded by Ben. All ayes on vote.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Jenny reviewed the Financial reports for the month of September. Paula questioned the General Fund property tax percentage increase. Jenny explained that it is because we now receipt all of the tax money to General Fund and then transfer out for the Village Hall Note Retirement rather than splitting it up when originally deposited.

BILLS OF RESOLUTION:

Paula questioned the large income tax refund of \$9,818.45. Jenny said that is for a company in the village that overestimated on their taxes. Paula also asked about the payments to C.T. Consultants. Jenny said one is for some missing invoices from the High St. Paving project and the other one is for work on the Reservoir Rehab project.

❖ Motion to approve the September Financial reports and Bills of Resolution by Ben, seconded by Paula. All ayes on vote.

LEGISLATION:

ORD. 2019-32 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 921.02 OF THE STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA, RELATING TO WATER RATES. 2nd Reading.

This is for Council to freeze the water rates after the 2019 increase.

ORD. 2019-33 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 931.01 OF THE STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA, RELATING TO SEWER RATES. 2nd Reading.

This is for Council to freeze the sewer rates after the 2019 increase.

ORD. 2019-39 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNIT INSPECTIONS . 2nd Reading.

The Finance Committee discussed this and would like further discussion with Council and the Planning Commission as to whether or not the inspector should be certified. Also, Jenny contacted OPERS and determined that if the inspector is paid \$50 per inspection, that is not considered earnable salary, and advised that we must follow the IRS rules for an Independent Contractor. Jenny provided those rules to the Finance Committee.

RES. 2019-47 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA, OHIO TO DISPOSE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE VILLAGE WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED, BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading.

Dave said this is too ambiguous. He would like clarification on what this is for.

RES. 2019-48 AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF SALT FROM THE RAVENNA CITY/ODOT SALT CONSORTIUM AT 701 OAKWOOD STREET, RAVENNA, OHIO 44266. 1st Reading. This was approved last spring without a dollar amount per ton of salt. This resolution adds in a dollar amount of \$69.99 per ton.

ORD. 2019-49 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING PORTAGE COUNTY THE MOST QUALIFIED AND RESPONSIVE BIDDER IN RESPONSE TO THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA'S REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF ITS WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER THE OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF SAID UTILITIES TO PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO. 1st Reading.

Jenny asked why we would not just keep the plants if the residents are being forced to pay for everything on the "needs" list by way of a monthly surcharge of \$85. It seems like if we are paying to fix the infrastructure and upgrade the plants, why wouldn't we just keep our assets? Mayor Clark said the \$86.79 monthly surcharge, if the residents pay it for the next 30-40 years, it will be what the cost is to make all of the repairs on the "needs" list. The residents said it would be cheaper to go on the county bill in 2015. The county has pro-rated the estimated bills of ALL of their users. There is the \$66 for 500 cubic feet as the base usage for all of their customers. We would add the \$86.79 to make the minimum bill \$151 per month. The \$86.79 does not account for the licensed employees that we need to run them. As the county gets grants with us working with them, the surcharge can come down . There is a possible 3% increase to the \$86.79. That would be the cap. The total surcharge can come down. Jenny asked why we wouldn't just get the grants ourselves. Mayor Clark said the projects do not include the labor portion. Ben disagreed. He said the \$87 surcharge will cover everything and it can be increased. Jenny said they are also asking for any money left in our water & sewer funds that came from the villages blood, sweat and tears so to speak. Paula said we are placing a huge burden on the village water/sewer customers to pay for projects that are actually going to benefit the rest of the county. Jenny said she is concerned that Council will feel an urgency to act before the Dec. 27 deadline of our contract with the county expiring. She offered to look into temp agencies to see if there are Water and Wastewater Operator of Records available and what is the going rate. Dave would like to see an "apples to apples" cost analysis of what it will cost our residents to keep the plants versus turning them over to the county. Mayor Clark said she lined up operators just in case Council did not pass the MOU last month.

RES. 2019-50 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF DISPATCHING SERVICES TO THE MANTUA-SHALERSVILLE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT.

1st Reading. Council should suspend the rules in order to make this effective by the date necessary.

RES. 2019-51 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA TO CONDUCT AN INTERNET AUCTION LASTING TEN DAYS FOR THE SALE OF A 2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA POLICE CRUISER, VIN # 2G1WS55R479380090 WITH A STARTING BID OF \$2000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading. No discussion.

RES. 2019-52 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER OF THE VILLAGE OF MANTUA TO CONDUCT AN INTERNET AUCTION LASTING TEN DAYS FOR THE SALE OF A 2004 FORD EXPLORER POLICE VEHICLE, VIN # 1FMZU72K74UA11512 WITH A STARTING BID OF \$2000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading. No discussion.

ORD. 2019-53 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2019 APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading. This is appropriating sewer funds that will be advanced into the sewer operating fund for the sewer line repair on Main St.

DISCUSSIONS:

Continued Discussion on the Storm Sewer Fee's

This discussion started in the Finance Committee March of 2016. It was sent to Service and seems to be off the agenda now. With the possibility of water and sewer revenues going away, the Finance Committee wants to revive the discussion. We need to determine how to get an Equivalent Residential Unit (E.R.U.), and also we need to determine whether or not to put this charge on the as a semiannual county property tax assessment. Jenny is going to look for sample legislation and updated dollar amounts since the last amounts are from 2016.

Continued Discussion on the Position of Rental Inspector

This was already discussed in ordinance 2019-39

The 2020 Appropriations

Jenny provided the Committee members with her first draft of the 2020 appropriations. Council can have 1st reading next week, and then set up a workshop to go over them thoroughly.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Clark reviewed two work authorizations for CT Consultants. One is for easement work relating to the Main St. sewer line repair project. The other is additional amounts for the Mats Rd. bridge work.

Paula said the DMRC has agreed to pay for the new "weekender" planters for the bridge flowers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:07 pm by Ben, seconded by Paula. All voted aye.

David Sluka, Finance Chair

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer