

**Village of Mantua
Finance Committee Meeting
February 14, 2009**

Call to Order- 8:01 A.M.

Roll Call: Ben Prescott, Roger Hawkins, Jim Rogers was absent

Others: Clerk-Treasurer Jenny August, Councilman Marty Hura, Councilman Giles Seith, Linda Clark and Kevin Vidmar

Minutes:

Ben asked if the \$16,0000 to CT Consultants was on this months Bills of Resolution. Jenny said yes.

Motion to approve the January Minutes by Roger Hawkins, seconded by Ben Prescott.

Financial Reports:

Jenny gave checkbook balance of \$296,915.14. All funds in black, but sewer operating is staying very close to being down to the wire. No adjusting factors to the bank reconciliation.

Legislation: Ben reviewed the list of legislation for Tuesday's Council meeting. No discussion.

Bills of Resolution:

1. Linda said regarding line 80, what does the CT Consultants monthly retainer cover? Roger said it guarantees availability. It keeps us from having to go to the Yellow Pages.
2. Kevin asked about the old CT invoices.

Motion to approve by Roger, seconded by Ben.

Discussion of Clemens:

Ben said we need to get him paid on a monthly basis. Roger thought we might become obligated to a monthly payment if we start doing that. Marty thinks we could open an interest earning account and deposit a monthly amount and then pay him off in 2011. Ben thought we should do that. Linda Clark asked if our insurance might pay it off. Giles said Betsy asked and was told no.

Discussion about buying out Dan Forman:

Roger asked if we are required to do this. He said he wondered why Dan didn't buy it back sooner when he had an opportunity. Ben said he probably didn't think he would be laid off again. Giles said if he stayed three more years, he would gain 10%, so we should buy it back so he can get the 3% increase. He also said after 20 plus years, it would be unforgivable to not do it. Ben directed Jenny to create an ordinance for Tuesday and see what happens.

Council Pay:

Ben said there will be four seats open, and we should do it for them and anyone elected thereafter. The money is not the issue. The issue is that we need to have Emergency and Special Council meetings, but we don't because it costs us so much money. Ben directed Jenny to make an ordinance for that as well.

Professional Services:

CT Negotiations- Mayor is not here to report where she is with this. RFP for Solicitor- Jenny said we have only received three resumes so far. Ben said negotiations will be very important. Roger said if we get someone inexpensive, we get what we pay for. They shouldn't learn on our nickel. Kevin said we should negotiate so many hours free. Giles said we lose money every time Tom goes to court because his fees are more expensive than the court fines. Ben said to run the Village Solicitor ad in the paper again. Roger asked if everyone could see a copy of the resumes before the interviews.

Stimulus Package:

Roger said the Mayor is inquiring information for grants. Ben said she can't apply for grants without Council approval. Kevin said it is a lot of mumbo jumbo.

Citizens:

Linda Clark requested copies of the Kevin Poland letters. He never replied regarding missing trust documents. Why isn't he accountable? Ben agrees, and feels it should be pursued. Jenny said we should ask Tom because he may have information or some sort of response from Kevin Poland. Linda asked about the Bina Coit Trust. Jenny said it was supposed to be dissolved, but we haven't seen anything yet. Linda asked who handled it before Poland. Ben said it is possible that we can ask the court to appoint a new trustee. Linda asked if there is activity on it. Jenny said we get statements from Chase Bank saying the value. Roger doesn't understand why it costs so much to reproduce it. Marty and Ben explained the million dollar trust to Kevin.

Linda also wants to know if we have an ordinance stating that people like Jim Kotkowski and others that do work for the Village should be bonded. Ben said it is Village property. Roger said there may be a law saying people that work for the Village must be bonded. Ben said he would check into it. Jenny said she could check with Love Insurance.

Ben said the departments need to watch the money. The money will be really, really tight this year. Roger said Ben is producing an unnecessary scare and he doesn't think Ben needs to keep saying that.

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 A.M. by Roger, seconded by Ben. All ayes.

Ben Prescott, Chair of Finance

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer