

FINANCE MEETING MINUTES
September 9th, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Ben Prescott

Roll Call: Ben Prescott, Matt Rosolowski, Tammy Meyer, and Jenny August.

Others: Council member Paula Tubalkain, Village Administrator John Trew, Mayor Linda Clark, Solicitor Michele Stuck.

Citizens: Several unknown viewers

NOMINATION OF FINANCE CHAIR:

Matt nominated Tammy. Tammy nominated Ben. On roll call Tammy voted for Ben, Ben voted for Ben, and Matt voted for Tammy. Ben Prescott is the Finance Chair.

CITIZENS:

No comments at this time.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

There was no discussion.

❖ Motion to accept the August Finance minutes as presented by Ben. All ayes on vote

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Jenny reviewed the financial reports. There was no discussion.

❖ Motion to forward the Financial Reports to Council by Ben, seconded by Tammy. All voted yes.

BILLS OF RESOLUTION:

Ben asked about line 16, Control Associates. Jenny asked John Trew to explain. It was replacing nozzles and things to rebuild the light kit that was causing alarms to go off at the water plant.

❖ Motion to forward the Bills of Resolution to Council by Ben, seconded by Tammy. All voted yes.

LEGISLATION:

ORD. 2020-30 This is to allow the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals to reduce or waive fees relating to chapter 504. Jenny said the public hearing isn't until October, so this will need to be tabled this month. Ben said when you take the Oath of Office it is a responsibility for citizens, business, property, and finance, so he doesn't think we should give that authority to the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. It should come through Council.

ORD. 2020-31 This is to amend chapter 610 of the Zoning Ordinances relating to site plan review submittals. This would only affect residential site plan reviews.

RES. 2020-35 This is a work authorization for CT Consultants to do the engineering for West Prospect St. phase 2. Ben thinks it should be reduced since some of this work was done with the last phase such as surveying and they were already paid for it. Mayor Clark said the survey was done in phase 1 and is not part of the costs in phase 2. Matt said he understands that the cost of the surveying was already knocked off the cost because it was part of phase 1.

RES. 2020-39 Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Portage County Budget Commission. This is just housekeeping. Matt moved to forward this resolution to Council with a second by Tammy. All ayes on vote.

ORD. 2020-40 Ben explained that we are increasing the appropriations in the General Fund by \$30,000 to pay for the chipper, and \$4,500 to pay for monument leveling at the cemetery. Tammy moved to forward this resolution to Council with a second from Ben. All ayes on vote.

ORD. 2020-41 Jenny said this is for the 2021 appropriations. She used the exact same numbers as Council approved earlier this year when passing the 2021 budget. She sent copies to the department heads and they did not have any changes at this time. Because Council already approved these amounts with the budget, Jenny didn't think we would even need to have an appropriation workshop. Ben moved to forward this ordinance to Council, with a second by Matt. All ayes on vote.

RES. 2020-42 Jenny said this is another annual housekeeping resolution to meet debt requirements. Michele read a question from a viewer. The question was that since the water and sewer plants are almost paid off, will the water and sewer bills be reduced once they are paid off. Ben answered that the water plant has been paid off for a few years, and the wastewater plant is nearly paid off, but it is not likely that rates will go down because the plants need operations and proper maintenance. For right now- no. Tammy moved to forward this resolution to Council, with a second from Matt. All ayes on vote.

RES. 2020-43 This is the annual Council meeting calendar. Matt asked if we need to add some language in this resolution about meeting virtually. Michele said if we have a change for meetings, we publish a notice as to which meetings are in person and which meetings are remote. Matt moved to forward this resolution to Council. Tammy seconded. All ayes on vote.

Michele said there was another email from a viewer with a follow up to their last question. They wanted to know how much money we are paying on the wastewater treatment plant per year. Jenny said we are paying \$340,000 per year for sewer debt. Mayor Clark asked how many more years we owe on this. Jenny said the wastewater plant is paid off in 2023.

ORD. 2020-44 This ordinance is declaring that the village cannot provide sanitary sewer service to Bentree Condominiums, which would allow them to tap into the county line. Ben asked who owns the sewer line to the north of the village. Mayor Clark said the county owns the line. Bentree is part of our sewer district, so that is why we are making this declaration. Tammy moved to forward this resolution to Council with a second from Matt.

RES. 2020-45 This is authorizing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the county relating to the transfer agreement. Ben said he read this and has not changed his mind. He is not in agreement with it. Tammy asked what the total is that the village residents would pay, and if there is a time frame. Mayor Clark said the combined charge including the surcharge would be a minimum of about \$60 because it will be determined by Equivalent Building Units (EBU'S) compared to how it is calculated in the current agreement for a minimum surcharge of \$86 per month. Every million dollars of grants will reduce the needs list about \$7 per month per customer. Tammy asked how long we will pay the surcharge. Ben said it is for 40 years and there is a provision that it can be increased 3% per year. Ben said we started this whole thing because we thought we couldn't operate and maintain the plants, but now we learn that we are paying for it anyway. Also, they are not paying us anything for the property. The needs list is about \$12 million dollars. Our property and our plants have got to be worth something, so it doesn't make sense to Ben to give it away for free. Matt moved to forward this resolution to Council. Nobody seconded. The Finance Committee did not move this resolution forward to Council.

ORD. 2020-46 This is to renew the contract with the American Legion for the use of the park lodge. Tammy moved to forward this ordinance to Council with a second from Matt. All ayes on vote.

Mayor Clark said Resolution 2020-45 is on the Service Committee agenda which follows this meeting, and they may recommend sending it to Council. John Trew said if this MOU does not pass, the original MOU stands which authorizes the county to charge the \$86 surcharge if the November ballot issue. Ben said we are giving the county 18 million worth of property and then we will pay them to operate and maintain it.

Michele had another question from a viewer. The viewer asked if once the plants are paid off, will we be able to afford to hire our own treatment plant operators. They also asked “transfer what”? Jenny said the transfer agreement is on our website if someone wanted to read it in full. Jenny said we could easily afford to pay treatment plant operators now, but evidently we have not had any luck hiring. John Trew said no one qualified has applied. Mayor Clark said no one qualified is going to apply until this referendum is decided.

DISCUSSIONS: No discussion topics

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Clark said she received an email from Todd Peetz, Director of Portage County Regional Planning Commission stating that there is USDA grant that is due tomorrow. They would like a letter of support from the village. This is an “in kind” match of up to \$1,500 to \$2,500 worth of committee time with Windham, Garrettsville, Hiram and several townships together. John Trew explained that this is a community grant, a collaborative workforce initiative to establish goals for better quality of life through the trails and also some jobs and work force training programs. The Finance Committee has no problem with moving forward with it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm by Tammy, seconded by Ben. All ayes on vote.

Ben Prescott, Finance Chair

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer