

FINANCE MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Tammy Meyer

Roll Call: Tammy Meyer, Chuck Peterson, and Jenny August.

Others: Police Chief Joe Urso

- ❖ Chuck Peterson made a motion to excuse Ben Prescott, with a second from Tammy Meyer. Both voted yes.

CITIZENS: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

The minutes could not be approved because Chuck was not here last month and Ben is absent.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Jenny said she will be asking Council to approve a request to the Cemetery Trust for reimbursement of labor expenses related to Memorial Day preparations in the amount of \$ 1,353.56.

Jenny reviewed the financial reports. Funds are in good shape. We can expect a new allocation of corona virus money soon. Legislation is in the packet. Chuck asked how many cell phones we are paying for. Joe said there are five in the police department and Jenny said there are four in the service department.

- ❖ Motion to forward the Financial Reports to Council by Chuck, seconded by Tammy. Both voted yes.

BILLS OF RESOLUTION:

Tammy asked why our water bill is the same as the residential rate when the churches are paying so much. Jenny did not know.

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

LEGISLATION:

Tammy reviewed the legislation:

Ord. 2021-26 This is taking out water-sewer language from the Service Committee section of the codified ordinances.

Ord. 2021-27 Chuck asked if the ½% increase was for hiring Police Officers. Chief Urso explained that we are going to lose our contract with Garrettsville at the end of the year. We will be losing \$90,000 annually. Eventually, there will be five Public Safety Access Points (PSAPS) to be located in Ravenna, Kent, Streetsboro, the Sheriffs Office, and one other place in Portage County. If our funding is cut, we will have to outsource.

Ord. 2021-28 This is the ballot language for the previous legislation.

Ord. 2021-30 This is more cleanup work eliminating water and sewer sections from the codified ordinances.

Ord. 2021-31 This is for the next round of Covid money.

Ord. 2021-32 This is to not allow roosters in the village. Jenny said rural residential should be excluded. Tammy said people in rural residential may apply for a conditional use. Jenny said that will cost them \$200 and that is not fair.

Ord. 2021-33 This is to join the Purdue Pharma lawsuit which would reimburse us for some of the opioid intervention expenses.

- ❖ Chuck moved to forward legislation to Council. Tammy seconded. Both voted aye.

DISCUSSIONS: _

Potato Festival Special Event Addendum

Jenny thinks it is a lot of maintenance issues and getting in for inspections, cleaning up, etc. This will go in the Council packets.

Pay scale ordinance review

Tammy said she sat in on Sergeant interviews and she was shocked when she found out that we have Police Officers making \$15.00 per hour with 20 years' experience. Ravenna starts dispatchers at \$19.60. Starting Police Officers in Ravenna make \$25.56. Chief said our Auxiliary Officers make \$10 per year, and once they are trained and promoted to part time they normally start at \$11 to \$13 per hour. Chief said we are spending money training these people and they leave once they are trained for better opportunities. Tammy asked if there are funds available to increase wages. Jenny said we have carry over money available, but if we want to keep expenses even with revenues, we need to start looking at ways to cut back. If the levy passes, that is another solution. The last option would be to outsource our dispatching after we have fulfilled our contract with the Mantua Shalersville Fire District. That would free up enough money to hire more full-time officers at a higher wage with a benefit package. Tammy said that would save over \$200,000. Jenny asked if the fleet could be reduced. Joe did not think so, but he did think he will be able to sell a used one for \$4,000. Tammy said the village would like to buy the next police car for the Village Administrator to use for her daily drive around village streets. Jenny said when Council approved the 2022 budget we forgot to take out the \$90,000 of Garrettsville revenues. We will have to address it when we do the appropriations this fall. Tammy said we will see what happens in November with the levy.

Fiscal Officer Position- continued discussion

Jenny provided the Finance committee with a "task list" that Tammy requested last month. Tammy said currently Jenny works 40 hours per week and it is a full-time position. She asked if with not collecting taxes and water-sewer money, does it need to stay a full-time job? If they take it to a part time position, will it be appointed. Jenny said she is still keeping busy 40 hours a week working on old stuff, but the actual job is taking about 30 hours a week. Jenny said she is in her fourth term, so it may take a new person 40 hours to do this job. Jenny said she personally thinks it is best to keep the position elected so you don't lose the checks and balance system. The other side of that is that if it is elected, anyone can run for the position with or without qualifications. Jenny said now the state has the Fiscal Integrity Act which requires training, and also the biannual audit. Tammy said she thinks it should stay elected so the clerk-treasurer, mayor and council are all equal for continuity. Chuck asked Jenny when she is planning to leave. Jenny said she would like to finish her term, but eventually she may have to give up benefits if she can't work 40 hours.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm by Chuck, seconded by Tammy. Both voted yes.

Tammy Meyer, Finance Chair

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer