

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Finance Committee

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

7:26 a.m.

Village Conference Room

Attendance

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| Committee Members: | |
| Timothy Nugent, Mayor | X |
| Timothy Boyce, Trustee | X |
| Todd Crockett, Trustee | X |
| Diane Dole, Trustee | X |
| Joel Gesky, Trustee | X |
| Sam Martin, Trustee | X |
| Wendell Phillips, Trustee | X |
| Other attendees: | |
| Chris LaRocque, Village Admin | X |
| Jim Hanley, Supt. Of Public Works | X |
| Al Swinford, Chief of Police | X |
| Ryan Marion, Building Official | X |
| Sarah Marion, Event Coord. | X |
| Sheila Martin, Treasurer | X |

Trustee Gesky called the meeting to order at 7:26 a.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Nugent, seconded by Trustee Boyce to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 as written; motion carried by voice vote - all ayes, no nays.

No Public Participation

Items for Discussion:

- **Railroad Insurance** – Mr. LaRocque reminded the committee that insurance for the railroad spur has went from \$22,000 two years ago to \$93,000 for this year. Excess liability insurance for municipalities has increased due to civil unrest, police lawsuits and natural disasters. The policy was allowed to lapse due to the high cost. The village does have a \$2 million per occurrence with IMIC, with a total of \$7 million coverage. The CN railroad requires an additional \$12 million dollar of excess liability coverage, which was at the cost of \$93,000. The Village Attorney and Mr. Cainkar has been working with Pactiv, which is the only company that uses the spur, about getting on their insurance. They feel confident that the village can be added to their insurance at no cost to us. It is hoped that CN railroad will accept this.
- **Vedette Newsletter** – Mayor Nugent was contacted by Chris Russell, with Russell Publications, concerning a proposal to include a two page insert in the Vedette on a monthly basis. The paper would go to all mailing addresses in the 60950-zip code. This would cost \$1000 per month. The information would be provided by the village. Mr. LaRocque will contact Mr. Russell if he is interested doing the newsletter on a quarterly basis.
- **Ring Camera Resident Offer** – Mayor Nugent stated that the village is still looking for ways to use some of the CURES money to help our village residents and businesses. Trustee Gesky suggested supplying Ring doorbell cameras to all residents. This might allow police to have access to the cameras to help with any crime

in the neighborhoods. Trustee Crockett asked if there are any restrictions on what the CURES money can be used for. Mr. LaRocque stated that he is unaware of any restrictions. Mr. LaRocque will contact vendors and work on the logistics. Trustee Boyce suggested that residents pay a small fee. The information will be brought back to the next Public Works meeting for more discussion. Chief Swinford stated that the police department has an agreement with Ring to allow for access to doorbell cameras in certain areas with the homeowner's permission.

- **Wayfinder Fee Waiver FY 2022** – Mr. LaRocque stated that the idea was proposed by Joelene Hays to help businesses with their costs. This could also be another use of the CURES money. Mr. LaRocque provided a spreadsheet on the businesses that utilize the program. Trustee Gesky suggested that the production fee should be paid by any new business who wishes to start the program, but the rental fee will be waived.
- **Liquor License Fee Waiver FY 2022** - Trustee Gesky stated that the village waived the current fiscal year fees and there will also be another round of PPE funds that will be geared toward these types of establishments. Trustee Gesky stated that waiving the fees again would be a rather large hit to the village revenues. Mr. LaRocque stated he will review sales tax data for all the liquor license holders. It was suggested to monitor the situation and then make a decision as it gets closer to the new fiscal year.
- **Budget Project List** – Mr. LaRocque prepared a list of projects that have been suggested over the last six months. The members were asked to consider the list. Decisions by the board will need to be made on whether any of these projects would be financed in the new fiscal year. Mayor Nugent asked Mr. Hanley to look at adding bathrooms to the Square on Second or using the old Channel 4 building for bathrooms. Trustee Gesky suggested that a dog park could be developed on the land on South Main Street if a new Public Works building is constructed.
- **Month End Financials** – All departments are doing well on their budgets. State revenues are up from what was expected except video gaming is down due to the closures required due to COVID restrictions. Mr. LaRocque stated the initial budget was showing a \$1.3 million deficit, but with revenues up, the deficit is looking more like \$500,000.
- **Misc.** –
 - Mr. Hanley stated that poles that can be placed between the decorative lights on Division have been ordered. This will allow for lights to be strung between the poles and to look like Main Street. The new poles will have planters placed on them. Trustee Crockett had suggested this idea at a previous meeting. The poles will match the current poles. There will be 18 poles needed.
 - Mayor Nugent asked that Merchant's Park possibly be updated in the spring. The area will have the "Locks for Love" sculpture placed in the park.
 - There was no new information on the catenary lights. Mayor Nugent stated that a decision will need to be made to continue with current company and type of lights or go with a whole new system.

A motion by Trustee Gesky and seconded by Mayor Nugent to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 a.m. Voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted by Darla Hurley, Deputy Village Clerk