

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 21, 2025 @ 3:15 pm – Village Hall

Attendees: Koons, Canton, Porter, FO

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Canton

Financial Reports & Updates

- The committee reviewed the bank statements, check register, and credit card statements. It was noted that fund balances are currently strong, but major projects like the salt building construction, park restroom, drone garage and the Bell Road East paving project will significantly impact the budget.
- FO is currently working on the 2024 Annual Financial Reports and will have them filed before the 2/28/25 deadline.
- FO is currently in contact with several financial software vendors and has been doing demos, getting prices, and obtaining feedback from other municipalities. IT support for the current vendor is available until 12/31/26.
- Cash Balances as of January 2025:
 - Huntington: \$800,000
 - Star Ohio: \$1.4 million
 - U.S. Bank: \$1 million
 - Total cash balance is \$3,338,968.70

Proposed Funding Request

- The Mayor was contacted by State Representative Steve Demetriou who asked if the Village had any financial funding requests. Potential requests and estimates the Mayor had included:
 - Bellwood Repaving –\$600,000
 - Fairview & Hazelwood Stormwater Management - \$500,000
 - Street Building garage doors - \$80,000
 - East Washington Park flagpole solar lighting - \$10,000
- Mayor will contact Demetriou with his asks.

Salt Building Construction Update

- Deadline for design-build applications to find interested/qualified contractors is 2/28/25. Porter said he believed the Village would get a rough estimate of the project cost at that time.

Roadwork & Infrastructure Projects

- The Mayor reported that the Bell Road paving project is being pushed to 2026 as there were funding issues with ODOT and OPWC. The project was not on their approved project list for 2025.
- Mayor will contact the engineer and get more information.
- Mayor said the Village should coordinate roadwork with potential gas line work on East Bell Road as well.

IT Support

- FO said she understands contracting with ADP for IT support is more expensive than her and the Chief doing it in house, but she in no way is qualified and is not comfortable with that responsibility. With cybersecurity and hacking risks, she is very happy that responsibility is now with the county. ADP has top-notch infrastructure and software and a team of people who are trained in computers. She is happy with the support she receives.
- Committee expressed their preference to continue with ADP for computer IT support.

Employee Gift Policy

- Discussion on accepting gift cards was discussed. Past practice has been to return them due to ethics rules and the Village's Gift Policy.
- Committee members questioned whether the Village could accept the gifts and put them in the Village's funds to pay for Village expenses and compared it to the donation for the drone vehicle and garage. FO said constituents pay their taxes and should not give gifts to receive services. The donations for infrastructure were for the Village as a whole and those expenses must be clearly tracked in detail.

Miscellaneous Discussions

- The solar project at the PD will be difficult to analyze the savings since the Village has now been moved from a residential account to a commercial account, the drone vehicle requires electricity to stay charged, and there will be a new garage using electricity as well. These expenses are new, so it will be difficult for an apples-to-apples comparison.
- The Village has been awarded approximately \$10,000 in NOPEC Energized Community Grant funds.

Motion to adjourn was made at 3:45 PM.