

**THE FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 beginning at 7:25 P.M**

**Committee Members Present:**

CD: Co-Chair Mitchell, Schneider, Oswald  
Finance: Chair Tollett, Schneider, Cerra, Siwierka, Davis  
Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Oswald, Armstrong, Pres. Stewart  
Excused Absence: Callahan and Lipian

**Administration and Department Heads Present:**

Mayor Brubaker, Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Engineer Schneider, Public Works Supt Conner, CD Manager Almobayyed, CD Dir Scott, Building Official Farkas, Asst Law Dir Breunig, Fire Chief Pronesti, Police Chief Pelko

**1. The matter of approval of the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Finance Meeting Minutes.**

Motion Made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Siwierka to approve said minutes.

**MOTION CARRIES**

**2. The matter of increasing the hourly rate for the position of Security Bailiff MC as requested by Judge Gary Bennett.**

Referred By: Finance Dir Pileski

Mrs. Siwierka asked if this is just to increase the current part-time bailiff?

Finance Dir Pileski said they are having a hard time filling a vacancy and they have determined that other municipalities are paying \$25.00 per hour or even more. This will not affect the General Fund, it's one of Muni Court's special security funds.

Law Dir Deery asked when the last time there was an increase to this position?

Dir Pileski said he didn't have that answer. But, Mr. Farrell said the part-time salary was increased when the non-bargaining rec'd their increase, muni court got the same increase, which included the part-timers.

Mrs. Siwierka said this is where they should be and she's in favor of the increase.

**Motion made by Mrs. Siwierka and second by Mr. Cerra authorizing an ordinance to increase the 'said' salary changes for 'said' muni court positions.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**3. The matter of delinquent utility accts to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor.**

Referred By: Public Works Supt Conner

Public works Supt Conner said this is a list of 6 or 7 multi-unit accounts that were approved by the resolution board reviewed on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and to be assessed.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider authorizing a resolution for 'said' charges to be certified as liens to the Lorain County Auditor's Office.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**4. The matter of boarding up/securing and/or demo charges to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor.**

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

Building Official Farkas said he has 2 properties; 520 Carol Lane for a board up initiated by EPD in amount of \$1,252 and 323 18<sup>th</sup> for asbestos abatement removal and demo in the amount of \$11,700.

Mr. Schneider asked what is the time frame of how long a property can be boarded up?

Official Farkas said as long as a property is secured and is not a nuisance.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis authorizing a resolution for 'said' charges to be certified as liens to the Lorain County Auditor's Office.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**5. The matter of city property no longer suitable for use and to be disposed of.**

Referred By: Fire Chief Pronesti

Chief Pronesti said they have equipment that is no longer of use to the dept. Those items are as follows: ventilation blower, air chisel, ventilation fan truck cap, toy boat.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider authorizing the Safety Service Director to declare 'said' property unfit for municipal use and to dispose of by the best means possible, in accordance with the law.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of a request to donate a 1938 fire truck to Western Reserve Assoc.**

Referred By: Fire Chief Pronesti

Chief Pronesti said this is a 1938 ladder truck and the only one left of its kind. He wanted to find it a home. The Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assoc has a fire museum across from Progressive Field and they would like to acquire this truck. They will keep the Elyria designation. It would be a donation and this is the right place for it to go.

Mr. Tollett asked how it would get there?

Chief said it would have to be towed.

Mrs. Siwierka said she is glad the 1938 truck is going somewhere to be preserved. She said the lettering on the truck is real 14 karat gold.

Mr. Cerra asked if the cost of towing would be paid by the museum?

Chief Pronesti said that wasn't discussed. But, he will ask.  
Mrs. Siwierka said that Sugar Ridge Towing would probably tow it.

**Motion made by Mrs. Siwierka and second by Mrs. Davis authorizing the Safety Service Director to declare 'said' property unfit for municipal use and to be donated to the Fire Buffs Assoc of NE Ohio.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**7. The matter of city property (old generator), no longer suitable for municipal use and to be disposed of by selling on govdeals.**

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko

Chief Pelko said they purchased a new generator for the department. This one was the original which was put on the building in 1998.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis authorizing the Safety Service Director to declare 'said' property unfit for municipal use and to dispose of by the best means possible, in accordance with the law.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**8. The matter of city property (old firearms), no longer suitable for municipal use and to be disposed of in a legal manner.**

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko

Chief Pelko said they have several firearms that they want to trade in and upgrade.

[8] UMP 40 caliber automatic rifles, [70] Benelli pump action 12-gauge shotguns, [17] Benelli semi-auto 12-gauge shotguns, [12] Colt 5.56 semi-auto rifles. They will trade into an FFL and then upgrade to newer modern firearms. They will trade these into a legal firearms dealer, which is a company they always have dealt with in the past.

Mrs. Siwierka asked what the average age of these firearms are?

Chief Pelko said from 10 to 18 years old.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis authorizing the Safety Service Director to declare 'said' property unfit for municipal use and to be disposed of as allowed by law by trading in to a legal firearms dealer.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**9. The matter of city property (2012 Ford Fusion), no longer suitable for municipal use and to be disposed of by best means possible.**

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko

Chief Pelko said this vehicle is a vehicle in their fleet that needs numerous repairs which will be too expensive to repair and not worth it. So, they would like to sell on govdeals.

Mr. Schneider asked if they will purchase another vehicle to replace this?  
Chief Pelko said no, they don't need to replace it at this time. It's one of the unmarked vehicles and they have enough of those now.

**Motion made by Mr. Schneider and second by Mr. Cerra authorizing the Safety Service Director to declare 'said' property unfit for municipal use and to dispose of by the best means possible, in accordance with the law.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**10. The matter of a Change Order for 2023 OPWC project; Abbe Rd., South.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said during the construction of Abbe Road, south there was some additional repairs that needed to be done to the roadway. The good news is there was enough money in the Ohio Public Works grants to cover that cost. The total change order is \$47,433 of which OPW would pay for 75% of that, so the City share would be \$11,858. The section of Abbe Road that this is for, is from Chestnut Ridge to University. This year will be from University to East Broad Street. Emergency clause requested.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis authorizing an ordinance for the 'said' change order for the Abbe Road South resurfacing project.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**11. The matter of levying the final assessment for delinquent Storm Water Charges.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said this is done every year. It's a six-month process to gather these delinquent storm water accounts and compile this list. The total amount assessed last year was \$180,000 and this year the amount is around \$144,000 so the numbers have dropped a small amount.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if anyone has looked at the overlap, how many were delinquent the year before and have remained delinquent? And are we checking these to see if the properties have sold? She wondered if they withhold monies to pay those, like they do for water bills?

Finance Dir Pileski said when a property is sold and his office gets assessments request, they always identify on the search, storm water fees that have already been certified. They are paid directly by the title company to the LC Treasurer and then the City gets it during the property tax settlement.

Mrs. Siwierka said it would be interesting just to see if any of the same properties have slid thru of year after year. That would speak to the issue of whether we need to re-educate the public on the process of what this is about. It's been a long time since we've had any kind of public information on storm water fees.

Mr. Schneider asked if the water department knows to add the delinquent storm water charges to requests from the escrow company when they are looking for a release of a water and sewer hold for those charges and maybe the escrow company can tap on those storm water charges? The City gets paid back when those charges get assessed, but, at the time of the sale when the title withholds an escrow, the storm water is not included in that. Is there a way to incorporate that with the water dept?

Mrs. Siwierka said the problem is that the storm water charges are based on the parcel number and not on the address, which is part of the difficulty of tracking them down.

Mr. Schneider said if someone doesn't pay the storm water bill and the property is Transferred, does the new buyer get billed? The bill gets attached to the property, but it could be the prior owner's responsibility.

Law Dir Deery said it operates as a lien and it follows the land. If the property goes thru a foreclosure, we won't see the money.

Mr. Schneider said If the previous owner pays their sewer and water but delinquent on their storm, the next owner doesn't know anything about that. The quarterly charges could follow the wrong person.

Dir Deery said we're talking about \$40 for residential property, but for commercial properties, it could be a lot more. We do see recoups on these storm water assessments.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Schneider authorizing a resolution for 'said' charges to be certified as liens to the Lorain County Auditor's Office.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

## **12. The matter of Final Assessments for replacement of Private Water Service Lines.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider *[passed by Utilities on 8/7/2024]*

Engineer Schneider said they only had one resident who took out a water service loan this year at 245 Oxford. They do this program every year and it needs to be submitted to the County by September 9<sup>th</sup>. The job has already been completed. The City will assess this resident for what the City has paid to the contractor to complete the job.

The assessment is for 10 years.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize a resolution to authorize the final assessment for the replacement of 'said' water line.**

**Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**13. The matter of Final Assessments for replacement of Private Sewer Service Lines.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider *[passed by Utilities on 8/7/2024]*

Engineer Schneider said this is similar to the water line assessment, it's for sewer line replacement. This is part of the long-term control plan to offer services to residents to help them improve laterals that might be leaking. There are 12 residents on this list. It's also a 10-year assessment, but the sewer assessment is a 0% interest loan.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra second by Mrs. Davis to authorize a resolution to authorize the final assessment for the replacement of 'said' sewer service line. Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**14. The matter of discussion of Reaser Point Crossing updates.**

Referred By: Mayor Brubaker

This matter was removed from this agenda and placed in pending items.

**15. The matter of Amendments to the 2024 Permanent Appropriations.**

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell *[Standing Referral]*

Finance Dir Pileski said there are no amendments this evening.

Chair Tollett asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Cerra to adjourn this evening's Finance Committee Meeting at 8:08 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant