

**Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 1, 2017**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Charles Heller. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Heller were Terry Mest, Lori Carnes, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also present were Council member Barry Christman; Marianne Deery; Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Adrienne Blank and Charles Haddad, Building a Better Boyertown; David Shainline, Fire Chief, Don Hausknect, Treasurer Boyertown Area Fire and Rescue, and Randy Waltermeyer, TPD, Inc.

Mr. Heller called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

Mr. Heller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mest, to approve the minutes of the February 1st, 2017 meeting of the Committee. The motion was approved.

Review of Financial and Revenue and Expenditure Statements and List of Bills Paid –

Mr. Heller reviewed with the committee the financial reports for the month of February.

Unfinished Business

BBB Anniversary Celebration Finance Statement – Nothing new to report; the Committee was expected to finalize the Financial Statement by February 2017; it is now understood that finalization will not be complete until April 2017.

BAF&R – PA Fire Recovery Service – Billing Services – Mr. Heller recognized Fire Chief Shainline and BAF&R Treasurer Don Hausknect to discuss BAF&R's decision to enter into a contract with PA Fire Recovery Service to bill for emergency services provided. Chief Shainline and Mr. Hausknect noted that BAF&R, through PA Fire Recovery Service, is billing insurance companies for services provided. They noted that it is not the intent of BAF&R to bill individuals for the service if their insurance company does not pay the bill provided.

A lengthy discussion was held in which Chief Shainline noted that BAF&R is largely seeking to recover the costs of consumables such as foam, flares, and oil dry or similar products. Mr. Hausknect noted that funds received through billing are currently being deposited in a Capital Reserve Account to be used toward the future purchase of equipment. Discussion was held on the high cost of replacing fire trucks and it was noted that the ladder truck is due for replacement in the upcoming years; at a price tag of \$1,000,000 +/-.

It was also noted that there is no state law which prohibits or authorizes billing for services, and that insurance companies often will deny payment of a bill if the municipality in which the emergency service was provided has not enacted an ordinance or resolution authorizing the fire company to bill for the service.

Following all discussion, the committee agreed to recommend that Borough Council authorize the Solicitor to draft an ordinance to authorize BAF&R to bill insurance companies for certain fire services provided. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the March 6th, 2017 meeting of Council.

DCNR Grant Approval – Trail Feasibility Study – The DCNR grant is in the amount of \$35,000; Mrs. Loder has not received the grant contract.

Charles Haddad – BBB Main Street Planters – Mr. Heller recognized Mr. Haddad who advised the Committee that he and Roger Lehmann attended the recent meeting of the House Committee and requested the Committee recommend to Borough Council the purchase of a John Deere Gator at an approximate cost of \$10,000 which would be used by volunteers to water planters which are being proposed for the main street area. Mr. Haddad stated that after further review it has been determined that a “gator” is not appropriate for use on either public streets or sidewalks. Mr. Haddad is now recommending the purchase of two “water carts” at an approximate cost of \$5,000.

Mr. Haddad also shared with the Committee his plan for the purchase of forty four planters to be placed along East Philadelphia Avenue and Reading Avenue. Mr. Haddad advised that he is contacting business and property owners along those streets and requesting they purchase a planter at a cost of \$350; annual flower replacement is \$50.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested by the committee that the \$5,000 anticipated to be returned to the Borough from the Anniversary Celebration could be donated to the BBB to be used to purchase the watering carts. Following all discussion, Mr. Haddad was directed to obtain a final cost estimate for the purchase and advise the committee.

Mid-Block Crosswalk – East Philadelphia Avenue – Mrs. Loder introduced Mr. Randy Waltermeyer, of Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. Mr. Waltermeyer discussed with the committee the idea of a mid-block crosswalk on East Philadelphia Avenue between Reading Avenue and Chestnut Street. He noted that PennDOT standards require that the nearest marked crosswalk on the same roadway be over 300 feet from the proposed crossing. In addition, pedestrian crossings must meet a minimum on an average day of 80 or more during any 1 hour or 40 or more during each of any 4 hours; pedestrians must be crossing within 150’ of the proposed crossing to be counted. It was noted that the distance requirement cannot be met and that it is likely that the pedestrian count won’t meet the minimum requirement when the library relocates to North Reading Avenue.

Mr. Waltermeyer then discussed with the committee the conditions at each of the Borough’s five signaled intersections and noted the inconsistencies in pedestrian accommodations at the intersections. Mr. Waltermeyer noted that grant programs are available for signal improvements. Discussion was held on the subject and it was noted that engineering

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work would be required. The committee agreed that signal improvements would be beneficial, including an advance green light at the main intersection; however, due to the number of projects that the Borough is currently working on this project will be delayed until the 2018 budget year.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments

The Chairman called for public comment; no comments were forthcoming.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Mr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Mest. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled on Wednesday, March 29th, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary