

**Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes
June 2, 2021**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 8:15 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 Marianne Deery, Mayor; Councilman Keith Endy, Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Jillian Magee, Mainstreet Manager, and interested citizens.

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

Mr. Heller made a motion, second by Mr. Mest, to approve the minutes of the April 28th, 2021 meeting of the Committee. The motion was approved.

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

The financial reports for the month of May were reviewed and discussed.

Unfinished Business

Borough Hall Renovation - Mrs. Loder advised the committee that the renovation plans are complete and the project is now ready for advertisement for receipt of bids. Mr. Heller reviewed with the Committee project cost information provided by Mr. Cox, Meister/Cox Architects. Mr. Cox cited major increases in the cost of lumber, PVC pipe, plywood sheathing and other building materials, as well as extremely long lead times on receipt of materials and concern of building material being allocated or rationed. As a result Mr. Cox projects a project cost increase of between 20 and 30 percent. The 2020 ballpark project estimate was \$673,000; Mr. Cox now projects a cost of \$807,000 to \$875,000. Mr. Cox noted that the renovation of the lower level can be included in the request for bids as an alternate to be awarded at the discretion of Borough Council. Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend that Borough Council authorize advertising for bids for the project with the lower level renovation as an alternate. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the June 7th meeting of Borough Council.

American Rescue Plan – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that she doesn't have a great deal of new information concerning the ARP funds. She now understands that there will be significant oversight by the State Auditor General, and it is expected that the Auditor General will publish guidelines soon. The current information provided for use of the funds is for the benefit of public health and to impact the largest percentage of the population. The Borough's plan to use the money for sanitary sewer improvements does appear to meet the criteria for use of the money, which allows for use of the funds for water and sewer infrastructure investments. It also now appears that municipalities may use the funds for stormwater infrastructure. Mrs. Loder noted that the funds have not yet been received.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments

Mrs. Carnes requested permission to hold the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 4th and to waive the required yard sale permit fee of \$5.00. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the June 7th meeting of Borough Council for approval.

Mr. Heller called for public comment and recognized Ms. Magee who stated that she will be submitting a request to Borough Council to use some of the ARP funds to benefit and support non-profits and businesses.

Mr. Heller recognized resident Mr. James Hartenstein who requested discussion on painting center lines on East Second Street as a traffic calming technique. Mr. Deery advised Mr. Hartenstein that the matter will be referred to the next Police & Public Safety Committee for discussion.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. was made by Mr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Mest. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 30th, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary