

**Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 2, 2022**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 8:35 p.m. by Chairman Charles Heller. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Heller were Jeff Cascino, Charles Neubauer, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council member Keith Endy; Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Jillian Magee, Mainstreet Manager, and an interested citizen.

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

Mr. Heller made a motion, second by Mr. Cascino, to approve the minutes of the December 1st, 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 January were reviewed.

Unfinished Business

Borough Hall Renovation - Mr. Heller reviewed with the committee Change Order #1 in the amount of \$13,174.00. This change order is to reconfigure the accessible route to the parking area in order to meet ADA requirements. The reconfiguration is a bit more invasive than originally planned due to the slopes we are permitted to have under the ADA regulations for an accessible route to the entrance door. The committee recommended this matter be listed on the agenda of the February 7th meeting of Borough Council.

American Rescue Plan – Mrs. Loder advised that the final regulations have been published. In accordance with these regulations, municipalities may take a standard allowance for revenue loss of \$10 million allowing us to select a standard amount of revenue loss without having to use the full revenue loss calculation. Use of the standard allowance allows us to use the funds for general government services. The final regulation also streamlines the reporting process, which has to be completed by April 30th, 2022. A single report has to be filed stating that the funds were used for “general government services”.

Discussion then turned to the requests for funding made by BAF&R, Boyertown Community Ambulance, and BaBB. Following discussion, the committee directed Mrs. Loder to contact BAF&R and Boyertown Community Ambulance to inquire if they requested funding from all municipalities within their service area; if so, have those municipalities agreed to provide funds and in what amount; and to confirm the amount of donation they are requesting. Regarding the BaBB request for funds in the amount of \$100,000; Mr. Heller advised Ms. Magee that he will not support the request submitted stating his opinion that the request does not benefit a large portion of the constituency.

New Business

Water/Sewer Rate Increase Recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee –
Mr. Heller advised that the Public Utilities Committee of Borough Council is recommending an increase in water/sewer rates in order to cover budgeted expenses and continue to properly fund the Capital Funds for both water and sewer. SSM, Inc. provided a water/sewer rate increase analysis which was reviewed by the Public Utility Committee at their meeting on January 25th. The committee recommends Borough Council approve Option 3 water rate increase to generate an additional \$100,000 in annual revenue. The minimum charge will be \$24.02 for the first 3,000 gallons; and the charge for the next 297,000 will be \$5.91939. The committee recommends approval of Option 3 sewer rate increase to generate an additional \$80,000 in annual revenue. The minimum charge will be \$44.10329 for the first 3,000 gallons; and the charge for all in excess of 3,000 gallons will be \$11.53. Following discussion, the committee agreed to list this matter on the agenda of the February 7th meeting of Council.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. was made by Mr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Neubauer. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary