

**Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes
August 2, 2023**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 7:20 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 Councilman Barry Christman; Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; and numerous interested citizens.

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

Mr. Heller made a motion, second by Mr. Neubauer, to approve the minutes of the May 31st, 2023 meeting of the Committee. The motion was approved.

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

Mr. Heller advised the members that he reviewed the financial reports for the month of July and found no areas of concern. Mr. Heller called for questions on the reports, no questions were forthcoming.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

Aquatic Facility Design – Community Pool – Mr. Heller summarized the results of a meeting at the community pool with Brent Boyer of Aquatic Facility Design. Mr. Boyer discussed with Borough representatives a rough estimate cost to seal the skimmer pots and shell cracks, replace the main drain line, and sump if required, and replacement of pool expansion joints. The projected cost of that work is in the range of \$200,000. Mr. Boyer provided a proposal in the amount of \$21,000 for engineering and professional design services for the preparation of design, construction documents and drawings, bid documents and bid administration, and construction administration. Acceptance of this proposal would provide the Borough with the necessary plans and documents to publicly advertise for bids to complete the repairs.

Mr. Boyer also discussed with Borough representatives performing a Feasibility Study. This is a professionally prepared study to determine community support, market characteristics, physical/structural assessment, and the financial capability to rehabilitate and sustain the swimming pool. Mr. Boyer also noted a Feasibility Study is required by the DCNR if the Borough wants to apply for a DCNR Recreation Grant. The cost for the Feasibility Study is \$31,000. In addition, AFD also recommends investigative testing be done to verify the integrity

of the shell structure and piping systems. Investigative testing (Core Borings) to assess the condition of the pool shell and structure at a cost of \$7,200; and pressure testing of all lines at a cost of \$4,900. The total cost of the Feasibility Study and investigative testing is \$43,100.

Mr. Boyer noted that rehabilitation of the pool to include modern amenities with a multi-use design approach to ensure activities for all age groups and activity levels come with an estimated cost of \$1,500,000.

Mr. Heller stated that discussions to date have focused only on the pool; noting that the bathhouse is also in need of renovation.

Mr. Heller also stated that the YMCA provided financial statements for 2021 and 2022 and usage data for 2022. This information has just been received and is under review by the Borough.

Mr. Heller and the committee discussed their concern about placing the burden of this cost on the taxpayers of the Borough of Boyertown; noting that user fees attributable to a community pool are not sufficient to cover the renovation and ongoing maintenance costs associated with the operation of a community pool. Annual operational losses and maintenance costs would be borne by the taxpayers of the Borough; noting that many supporters of the community pool are residents of townships that surround the Borough. Discussion was held on a multi municipal approach to operation of the community pool. The committee acknowledged that the DCNR and DCED have grant funding available for projects of this type. The committee noted these grants are competitive grants and would not likely cover the entire cost of the project.

Mr. Heller stated that Mr. Boyer advised that it is important to have water in the pool over the winter months. This can only be done if the main drain is plugged and the expansion joints are resealed. Mr. Heller recommended this work be done in order to preserve the structure while Council considers their options for the future of the facility. The committee agreed that this was a good recommendation.

Mr. Heller and the committee members further discussed beginning discussions with the YMCA about the terms of a new lease. The committee agreed that Mr. Heller, Mr. Neubauer and Mr. Cascino will meet with YMCA officials to begin discussion on a new lease agreement.

Mr. Heller asked for public comment and recognized numerous individuals. Questions included the cost to close the pool permanently, grant funding opportunities, was the pool profitable prior to Covid, what can be done to encourage a multi municipal approach to operation of the community pool.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Mr. Heller, seconded by Mr. Neubauer. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary