



City of Powell Finance Committee

MINUTES August 9, 2016

Attendees:

Tom Counts, Jane Van Fossen, Jim Hrivnak, Dan Swartwout, Brendan Newcomb, Brian Lorenz, Frank Bertone, Steve Lutz, Jessica Marquez, Debra Miller and multiple Powell staff members.

City of Powell's Capital – Building and Infrastructure Tour by Databus

Due to rain, the City delayed the start of the bus tour and began the agenda.

Approval of minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Financial Reports for July 2016

Ms. Miller stated that our municipal income tax collection continue exceed our budget estimation and when comparing to July 2015 year-to-date, collections are up 14%. Ms. Miller noted that expenditures continue to be in-line with anticipated percentages (55.0% to 63.0%) and the Other Items of Interest, development and programming continue to be where expected.

Ms. Miller highlighted that the \$2.2 million advance would be returned in August which would bring our cash flow analysis back into the black. She also highlighted the noted on the comparison year-to-date collections chart of 2nd payment received early which distorted the collection of real estate taxes in 2015.

Seldom seen Park Contract – Meyer & Associates

Item delayed until staff members waiting for bus tour returned.

Verona Subdivision Special Assessment

Mr. Lutz and Ms. Miller went over the Verona Subdivision special assessment that the builders will voluntarily put on themselves. Ms. Miller handed out a revised Verona payout schedule which had changed slightly since the packet had been distributed in the prior week. Ms. Miller pointed out that (a) the City's fund balance would be utilized to fund this project and the City would be paid back by the special assessment; (b) the City would be using this as an investment vehicle and be earning 3% on the outstanding balance; and (c) the estimated amount that the Spectrum/Ganzhorn sanitary sewer project would be contributing is approximately \$75,000.00.

The Spectrum/Ganzhorn sanitary sewer project is being financed by their developers and will be paid back by the 3 parcels TIF revenues along with interest. However, part of the agreement was any amount less than \$1.2 million cost of the project needed to be contributed to the sister project – Verona sanitary sewer. As mentioned before that contribution is estimated to be approximately \$75,000.

Mr. Newcomb asked if this was the typical way sanitary sewer was financed. Ms. Miller went over the various financing that the City had used --- Spectrum; Verona and Liberty/Powell Community Infrastructure Finance Authorities. Mr. Lutz gave additional background information about Delaware County Sewer Agency and how it was the responsibility of that agency to provide but with heavy development, the recession and capacity issues, how the City became more involved.

After some clarifying points, Mr. Counts asked if the committee needed to vote/recommend on this issue. Ms. Miller stated none, as this meeting was just to go over the details of the issue. Mr. Lutz went over the schedule on when various items related to this issue would be before Council.

Seldom Seen Park Contract

Mr. Lutz turned the conversation over to Mr. Snyder, Parks, Recreation and Public Service Director. Mr. Snyder briefly reviewed the contract and expressed his pleasure in the cost of the proposals. Mr. Lutz reminded the committee that this proposal with Meyers dovetails with the Mad Scientist contract in getting the wetlands setup correctly.

The direction is to continue moving forward with the contract. The only comment was Mr. Newcomb's reminder from the last conversation on funding that he would prefer that we would have bid out the contract at this point but understands the need for moving forward and when we will be going out for bids in the future on this project.

City of Powell's Capital – Building and Infrastructure Tour by Databus 2016 City Council Goal – Fiscal Sustainability/Capital Funding

The rain had subsided so the committee broke from the agenda to go on the tour.

Members on the bus not including the driver were: Tom Counts, Brian Lorenz, Jim Hrivnak, Dan Swartwout, Brendan Newcomb, Jane Van Fossen, Chief Gary Vest, Steve Lutz, Jessica Marquez, Megan Canavan, Dave Betz and Debra Miller. A route map was posted and included in the packet for both the committee members. Chris Huber, John Moorehead, Silas Bowers and Jeff Snyder followed the bus in personal vehicles to assist in discussions during the tour.

The bus drove to Depot Street and East Case Avenue and paused several times on the roadway to allow Mr. Lutz and Mr. Betz to describe the Keep Powell Moving plans, parking possibilities if on-street parking was removed on Powell Road, the age of the roads (last worked on in the late 90's) and the narrowness of the road.

The bus then took the group to Adventure Park and the group departed the bus to walk to various points of interest.

- First, was the basketball court where Mr. Snyder and Mr. Bowers discussed when it was constructed, painted and the bid that will be going out in the near future to assist with some repairs. The money to assist with some repairs is

coming from the Voted Capital Fund. Next, the group walked over to an area overlooking the pool.

- Mr. Snyder and Mr. Lutz went over that the pool is not owned by the City but it is on City land. It was mentioned that the organization that owns/runs the pool has not been putting in funds to keep it repaired and it is anticipated that sometime in the future they will be approaching City Council for either assistance or to buy the pool.
- The group then walked down the bikepath by the Ash trees. Mr. Bowers explained about how the City has quite a few dead ash trees and they have been taking them down as time and funding allowed.
- Mr. Huber, Mr. Moorehead, Mr. Bowers and Mr. Snyder all discussed various points of interest as we walked down the path. The bike path conditions at various points; the railroad tunnel and graffiti and maintaining appearance/condition; and rain runoff. Because the very recent rain, the group was not able to get back into Beechwood Park to see the collapsed dam that is getting ready to go out for bids. The money to pay for these repairs is coming from the Voted Capital Fund. But, other points of storm and drainage points were pointed out and discussed.
- The group then walked back to the main area of Adventure Park. Mr. Lutz mentioned that the gazebo/shelter was the first one of the City and the City had gotten it from Metro Parks and rebuilt on City land.
- Mr. Bowers and Mr. Snyder pointed out the Blue Bird boxes in the park and indicated that Powell is part of the Bluebird trail.
- The group looked at the Salt Barn while Mr. Snyder discussed the capacity and how the City has to pay extra to have the salt “slung” into the barn. He talked about the worrying/time delay during the winter waiting for additional salt to be delivered since we don’t have enough storage area to cover a “normal” winter load. He was asked about the rumor of the City partnering with Delaware County on their new salt shelter and he stated that we have had discussions concerning that topic.
- The group then split up and wandered the bay area and inside the Adventure Park building. There were multiple conversations about the history of the building. Mr. Snyder went over how the building was used and the volume of children that come through the building in a summer.
- Outside, Mr. Bowers led the group down a bikepath to the one remaining outside storage area the City had along with the “old barn”. Mr. Lutz and Mr. Snyder gave a history of the barn including that part where the barn had recently been condemned which meant that all the items stored in the barn had to be moved to a paid off-site storage area. Mr. Bowers brought up that the neighbors of this area often call in about the view of the outside storage. Mr. Snyder indicated that there has been some interest from a few groups of residents that might be interested in helping cost share with the City to restore the barn to its original state and turning into a historical item or a picnic area.
- The group went back to the parking lot. Mr. Huber and Mr. Moorehead talked about the parking lot and how many sections of it were beyond repair and needs to be stripped down and redone.
- Next, Mr. Huber and Mr. Moorehead stopped by a curb inlet in the parking lot and described the 4 levels of rating conditions. The one being viewed was in the 4th category – bad condition and there were approximately 70 more like this in the city. Mr. Bowers indicated that he is in the process of obtaining quotes to fix these approximately 70 inlets that are in the worst condition, the funds will be coming from the Voted Capital Fund.

- The group reached the end of the parking lot and walked onto the skate park. This is one of the more recent park improvements – completed in 2004/2005 and where it is now needed more than just general maintenance. Cracks and crumbling tiles were pointed out. Mr. Bowers indicated that there will need to be significant work done on this structure in the next few years as the “patchwork” fixes they have been doing will no longer suffice.

The group got back on the bus and traveled north on Liberty to Seldom Seen. Mr. Lutz and Mr. Betz talked about the grant the City had applied for but didn't get that was for a signal at the corner and the bid that was going out to add bikepaths. Funding for the bikepaths was from the Voted Capital Fund.

The group drove past the site of the new Seldom Seen Park and turned south on Sawmill Road. Mr. Lutz talked about the grant the city was applying for work on Sawmill Road. The bus turned down Home Road and traveled west to Steitz Road. Mr. Lutz and Mr. Betz pointed out the land that had been donated in the Scioto Glen subdivision. Mr. Betz also mentioned 2 parcels that were working to be annexed into the city to be developed by a home builder. The bus traveled back to Sawmill Parkway where Mr. Lutz pointed out more curb inlets. Chief Vest also discussed a few accident prone spots along Sawmill.

The bus drove the group back to the downtown area where it turned onto Lincoln Street. The group could see some of the new construction and future construction sites. The bus turned onto West Case Street and after a minute or so found itself on an unpaved public street that was narrow and overgrown with brush.

Lastly, the bus drove over to Murphy Parkway where Mr. Huber, Mr. Moorehead, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Bowers moved the barriers and drove onto the new street. The new street connection is being paid by the Voted Capital Fund.

- The bus parked and the group got out and walked to the Lechler Building. The parking lot is completely failed and rated a 26 – the rating doesn't go any lower. The building was opened up and the group split up looking at the lean-to attached to the building and the office section where the City stores its records. The group noted that the stairs were not uniform or steady. Ms. Miller noted that water had to be turned off because the bathroom facilities were not functioning.
- The group then went outside and walked the road and sidewalk of the new roadway. It looked at the new wetland (detention pond) and other storm water runoff areas.

The bus then drove the group back to 47 Hall Street.

Once the group settled back in the Chambers, Ms. Miller went over the two spreadsheets projecting out the city's capital and operating needs. The group discussed what they had just seen and the increasing needs for funding. Ms. Miller stated to let her or Ms. Marquez know if the group had additional questions in the next few weeks as we get ready to continue the discussion in September and get ready for the 2017 budget requests.

Ms. Miller was asked about how much would be raised by changing the income tax rate and she stated that the information would be forthcoming. It should also be in a format that the group could easily see what minor changes would do to the numbers.

Ohio Checkbook

At this point, Mr. Counts asked if any of the remaining items had to be discussed tonight. Mr. Lutz pointed out the Electronic packets for City Council and the members were willing to postpone that discussion. Ms. Miller stated she had 1 item for Other Business.

So, Ohio Checkbook, Electronic Packets for City Council and Update on Telephone project was postponed to September. Mr. Counts asked if Ms. Miller wanted to saying anything about the phone project – and Ms. Miller stated that the IT Committee wanted to recommend going ahead with the project in 2016 instead of waiting until 2017. She gave a brief description of the four companies and how the decision was made. The committee will look at and ask questions to Jessica Marquez or Rocky Kambo before the September meeting so they can decide then.

Other Business

Ms. Miller stated she usually didn't like changing the fee schedule mid-year but she would be bringing forward a modification to the contractor registration fee to change it from a two-tier fee to a one-tier fee. This would help in the process of putting this on the web to allow the contractor to complete the form and pay online.

Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 9:05 pm.