



## **City of Powell Finance Committee**

### **MINUTES January 10, 2017**

#### Attendees:

Tom Counts, Dan Swartwout, Brendan Newcomb, Frank Bertone, Steve Lutz, Jessica Marquez and Debra Miller.

#### Approval of minutes

Minutes were approved as printed.

#### Finance Director's Report – December 2016

Ms. Miller stated that revenues came in at or above budget for the calendar year while expenditures continued the trend to be well below budget. Ms. Miller, then drew the committee's attention to the Executive Report where a new line had been added – Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures not including Verona advance. This was to show that the City had ended the year in the black (or positive) if the Verona advance had not been made.

#### Ohio Checkbook

Ms. Miller asked Ms. Marquez to discuss this item since she had done the research. Ms. Marquez stated that her research showed that the time to upload the information was just a few minutes and there was no schedule on when it had to be done. Some entities did it quarterly, while others did it 2-3 times a year.

Mr. Swartwout brought up the prior subject about having a representative come to the meeting to discuss the program. The committee discussed this past subject and felt that if it wasn't time consuming for staff that there really wasn't a reason for the Ohio Checkbook staff to come discuss the topic. The committee was in favor of the Finance Department pursuing this since it wasn't time consuming and that they would leave it up to the department to decide how often to post.

#### Software Solutions Inc. (SSI) – Software Issue

Ms. Miller and Ms. Marquez discussed what the software issue was – prior year encumbrances and incorporating into the current year's budget – and the mess of getting it resolved with SSI. Ms. Miller stated that the meeting had to be rescheduled from December as did many meetings due to her unexpected leave. However, the meeting was rescheduled for Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and she would let the committee know what occurred.

Mr. Swartwout was considered that the company wasn't given enough attention to the City after the issue and that possibly looking at other software companies was needed. Ms. Miller stated that the president of the company was the person she would be meeting with and agreed that if she felt that enough attention wasn't given to the City about this issue she would let the committee know.

The committee had a brief discussion on the limits getting a variety of software providers and the associated costs of maintaining and implementing. However, future discussions may be needed depending on the outcome of Friday's meeting.

#### 2016 City Council Goal – Fiscal Sustainability/Capital Funding

Ms. Miller reminded the committee that they had asked a few months ago for her to come up with some scenarios to begin the capital revenue discussion. The estimate created last summer for capital infrastructure/equipment was \$43 million for a ten-year period. Ms. Miller briefly reviewed the four options that she had put together. She also included how each of those options would affect a typical taxpayer.

The committee spent a lot of time discussing what the issues were in the past for residents and how these scenarios addressed those issues. Such as: dedicated by ballot and not just by council ordinance; senior citizens on pensions; and fair-share of the increased costs. Mr. Counts asked the committee members to take time this next month to review the scenarios and decide which was the most palatable to them and any recommendations to changes.

The committee also discussed what kind of education is needed for our community including how to explain why population growth isn't covering these expenses. Ms. Miller was requested to bring a list of capital needs to the next meeting. Topics to discuss next month on this subject is: timeline; education; and selecting a scenario/option.

#### Other Business

Ms. Miller stated that Mr. Lutz and she had several things to bring to the committees attention.

1. Bond Sale – Request for Proposals were sent out January 9<sup>th</sup> and responses were due back on January 18<sup>th</sup> with funding on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. A few days after the responses are due, she will be able to let the committee know interest rates and the debt schedule.
2. Marysville Amnesty Program – brought the penalty and interest amnesty program to their attention and that it has not been the City's intent to have a similar program because of all the case by case reviews and adjustments that is done by the Finance Director. Mr. Newcomb and Ms. Miller briefly discussed the volume of requests done by the City's residents.
3. Property tax millage issue – Ms. Marquez and Ms. Miller updated the committee on the City receiving a revised millage number from the County and how it appears it will under collect the property taxes needed for debt service. They are hoping it will be resolved quickly but they are planning on working with Gene on Thursday on the issue.
4. Mr. Lutz went over the updated 2012 Voted Improvement Bond balances. In the next month or so, more of the current projects will have completed engineering to assist with getting a good construction estimate including the first three phases of Seldom Seen Park.
5. Powell Cemetery – a request to purchase two plots. The resident has paid for a thermo-scan of the area and found where the two plots could go. The City Attorney has an ordinance that would be brought forward to City Council authorizing the purchase and a price needs to be recommended. Based on Orange Township's active cemetery costs the recommended cost was either \$250 or \$500 and \$500 was

selected. Mr. Lutz also mentioned that the City would also be looking at the process in closing the cemetery which doesn't seem to have occurred.

Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 8:40 pm.