



City of Powell Finance Committee

MINUTES March 14, 2017

Attendees:

Tom Counts, Dan Swartwout, Brendan Newcomb, Frank Bertone, Jon Bennehoof, Jim Hrivnak, Steve Lutz, Jessica Marquez, and Debra Miller

Approval of minutes

Minutes were approved as printed

Finance Director's Report – February 2017

Ms. Miller apologized but she forgot to put in the packet the report. It is prepared and she will email everyone the report. She and Ms. Marquez did give a brief update on the income tax collections and the timing issues that many entities were experiencing with the change in due dates.

Street Maintenance Fund Projections with Grant Contributions

This report was included in the February meeting however there was only time for Ms. Miller to give everyone a brief overview of it with no questions. Ms. Miller again gave an overview of the report. It reflects the City getting the MORPC grant but not the County grant – right now the odds are looking good that the City would get both grants but we should know for sure sometime this year.

One of the questions that came up was there isn't a Street Maintenance Program reflected in future years and why was that when there was a \$1 million balance in 2018. Ms. Miller explained that the majority of the balance was needed in 2019 and no at this point there is no projected Street Maintenance Program.

Other questions and discussion points was the odds of the grants (extremely high); why we were getting a debt instrument (road needs repaired before grant funding is available); and what the grant does for the City (gives City access to funding that would take years for us to accumulate).

Mr. Lutz stated that Mr. Huber and he would be bringing a proposal to a committee about not utilizing all of the 2017 Street Maintenance Program funding to allow a small program to exist in 2019. Some discussion of how additional revenues are needed for streets and roads came up but were delayed until later in the evening under the topic of Capital Funding.

SEC Municipalities Continue Disclosure Update

Ms. Miller gave a little background information for the members who weren't here in 2014. The SEC was cracking down on non-compliance and offered a voluntary self-reporting window. The City along with its bond counsel and financial advisor reviewed its history of post-issuance compliance and found one instance of non-compliance due to conflicting dates. The issue was in 2012 and the City was late by six days.

The SEC has finally responded and that they do not intend to recommend any enforcement action against the City.

2016 City Council Goal – Fiscal Sustainability/Capital Funding

Ms. Miller opened the discussion by reviewing the options put together by staff. These options had been presented in January but discussion was postponed until the committee members could think about the options.

Questions and discussions included:

- Why the revenue projected remains flat? Based on previous recommendations, staff doesn't include growth in the numbers because how much growth becomes the topic instead. Also, staff doesn't include growth in the expenditures numbers because it is anticipated that any growth would hopefully offset in change in expenditures.
- What would the millage be if the City separated out the police for a ballot issue instead? Staff will need to gather that.
- Question on where the recent postcard got the fifth lowest rate in Ohio? Staff will get back with them.
- Mr. Counts and Ms. Miller talked about the workplace report and that she is working with RITA to get that information. The report shows how many people would be affected.
- How much we need for capital funding? Prior reports were discussed which brought up a list of projects.
- How much debt does the City currently have outstanding and when do they expire? Staff will get back with them.
- Why the numbers are for 2014 or 2015 instead of 2016? Ms. Miller stated that the numbers are based on income tax returns so 2016 numbers won't be available until late 2017.
- The term "placeholder" was brought up that Mr. Rich Cline used to say about the list of projects. The example of "sirens" was brought up and how whether or not sirens were purchased something at that expense level would be needed.
- Mr. Counts discussed coming up with CIP categories such as: roads; downtown traffic; expanding bike path connectivity; and municipal structures.
- A timeline to get on a ballot was discussed. What that timeline is for the next few election cycles was requested.
- Working on messaging and education was also discussed. Mr. Swartwout talked about aversion to taxes; issues with Keep Powell Moving initiative; and track record on ballot issues.
- Whether or not the income tax would be designated/earmarked and how that would be accomplished.

A straw poll was taken on the four options given by staff. The poll based on six people showed a vote for each option but with leanings toward options 1, 2 and 3.

Other Business

Ms. Miller updated the committee on the Fiscal Integrity Act and that the Fiscal Officer for Powell was in compliance.

Ms. Marquez updated the committee on the State Treasurer's Checkbook website. Powell is anticipated to go live by the end of the week.

Mr. Newcomb asked for an update on the Auditor of State's performance measures since we didn't get to discuss last month. Ms. Miller will be bringing that back to committee soon.

Mr. Newcomb also asked for an update on the meeting with the SSI representative. Ms. Miller stated it went very well and he has provided documentation about the education his staff has received and changes in procedures. Ms. Marquez also stated that she has gotten several calls about issues and how to correct them going forward.

Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 8:40 pm.