



# Finance Committee

September 22, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson: Mark Helbling

Council Chambers

## Minutes

### In Attendance:

Mark Helbling, Chairperson  
Dave Gillingham Member  
Paul Cusick, Treasurer

Linda Woshner, Member  
Connie Flasher, DAS

**Mark Helbling called the Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

### Citizen Comments:

- ❖ A resident from Bellevue explained to the Committee that he owns land on both Rheams Avenue and Greenough.
  - He stated he would like to purchase a property on Greenough Avenue that is currently vacant and owes money for real estate taxes.
  - He stated he is requesting to have tax forgiveness since the total owed on the property is \$88,278.88 without including garbage, sewage and water.
  - The Committee stated they would like to see about getting a tax abatement policy in place.
  - The Committee stated they will look into it.

### Citizen Communications:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

### Treasurer's Report:

- ❖ The Treasurer reviewed his cash flow and bond reports.
- ❖ The Treasurer stated he received information from Mellon Bank saying the Borough may be able to take out 5% out of the Amanda Bayne Teece fund for the Library. He stated he gave the information to the Solicitor for their review.

### DAS report to the Committee on financial related matters, activities, and events:

- ❖ The DAS updated the Committee on the payments that were made for sewage for the property located at 37 Greenough Avenue.
  - She stated that the checks that were mailed in had bounced.
  - She further stated that she believes the Borough has made every attempt to assist the property owners in bringing their sewage account current.
  - The DAS stated the Borough can make a choice to Sheriff Sell the property to collect the delinquency.
  - Mrs. Woshner seconded by Mr. Gillingham made a motion to start the proceedings for Sheriff Selling 37 Greenough Avenue.
- ❖ The DAS stated she is looking to install new phone system from North Star Phone System in the Borough Building.
  - She explained that they are a part of the state purchasing contract and it would be more cost effective for line charges and reoccurring charges to use their service rather than Verizon's.

- She stated it would allow for an automated phone system where messages can be sent to the appropriate department for a non emergency and automatically transfer to 911 if it is an emergency.
- There was discussion by the Committee about whether it would be appropriate for the system to automatically transfer the call to 911 if an option is not chosen even if it is a non-emergency.
- The DAS stated she will contact the gentleman to verify if the number would automatically transfer to 911 and how the options will be conveyed to the caller.
- The DAS explained further what the costs will include.
- Mrs. Woshner seconded by Mr. Gillingham made a motion for the phone system and wiring to be installed by North Star Phone System at a cost not to exceed \$158.00 per month.
- ❖ The DAS noted the call boxes have been installed.
- ❖ The DAS stated that the Borough should have a credit card that can be used in the case of emergency.
  - She explained how the Borough vehicles were unable to get gasoline from the pumps that are located at the Department of Public Works facility when the electricity went out.
  - She stated this put the Borough in a situation that it should have never been placed in and a credit card would be beneficial in the case of emergency.
  - There was discussion by the Committee.
  - The Committee stated for the DAS to look into this.
- ❖ The DAS explained that she would like to get a generator for the Department of Public Works Building also.
  - The Committee stated they would like to get pricing for a generator before making a decision.
  - The DAS stated it will be budgeted for next year.
- ❖ The DAS explained to the Committee that there are issues with the Farmer's Market with the fees that are being collected and what they are being collected for.
  - She stated there are no Ordinances in place to validate what the money is for and where it is to be applied.
  - She stated the money that was collected is unable to be placed towards Mercantile Tax.
  - There was discussion about how the fees were established that are being collected, who is collecting them and what they are being collected for.
  - Mayor Doscher stated that if the Borough is collecting this money without an ordinance in place to establish what the amount was to be collected, who was collecting it and where it was going the Borough is opening themselves up to liability issues.
  - There was discussion about how this event and other events need to be better organized and coordinated with the Borough to avoid these liability issues in the future.
  - There was discussion about whether or not these vendors would be exempt from paying the transient vendor fee and Mercantile Tax since they are farmers.
  - Mrs. Woshner requested for the DAS to provide copies of both the Transient Vendor Ordinance and the Mercantile Tax Ordinance for her review.
  - There was further discussion by the Committee about how the event was coordinated, what fees were collected, how the forms were filled out, etc.
  - Mayor Doscher stated that all money that was to be collected should be given to Aaron Stubna since he is the coordinator of the event, not the Borough.
  - There was discussion about whether the non farmers would be exempt from the Mercantile Tax also.

- Mayor Doscher stated that he doesn't want to see the businesses that are fixtures of the Borough be penalized since they have to pay the Mercantile Tax.
- The Committee stated they would like to get a legal opinion on how to handle this situation from the Solicitor.
- There was further discussion by the Committee about how there can be a more formal notification process from individuals that want to hold an event in Bellevue.
- The Committee stated they would like there to be form and information on how to notify the Borough on the new web site.
- Mr. Gillingham seconded by Mrs. Woshner made a motion to get legal consent regarding the matter of the Farmer's Market.
- ❖ There was discussion about who will be contacting the Solicitor.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about if it is inappropriate for a Council member rather than the DAS to contact the Solicitor when it is relating to Borough business.
  - Mr. Helbling stated he will write a list of questions he would like to have the Solicitor answer and give it to the DAS to ask him.
- ❖ The DAS noted the pension companies will be coming to the Pre-Council Meeting.
  - Mrs. Woshner stated she would like to have the questions that were asked to the pension companies forwarded to her for her review prior to the meeting.

**Other Agenda Items:**

- ❖ Mr. Helbling asked to see about contacting some other municipalities about getting Tax Abatement Ordinances that the Committee can review.
- ❖ Mrs. Woshner stated she would like the audit to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**New Business:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**Citizen Comments:**

- ❖ A resident that resides at 56 Florence Avenue stated she has a lot of concerns about the state of the Police Department.
  - She explained to the Committee situations that happened on her street that were worrisome to her .
  - She stated that there is a shortage of Police Officers and that needs to be rectified for the safety of the Borough.
  - Mr. Gillingham stated at the last Council meeting they had authorized the advertisement for the compiling of a Police Officer list to fill the necessary vacancies.
  - There was discussion about how many Police Officers would be hired after the list is compiled.
  - The DAS stated that the motion did not specify how many positions would be filled.
  - The resident further expressed her public safety concerns.
  - The Committee refered her to speak at the Public Safety Committee.
  - There was further discussion by the Committee about whether financially the Borough can handle hiring additional Police Officers.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted



Connie Flasher  
Secretary

**Motions to be made:**

- 1. Motion to start the proceedings for Sheriff Selling 37 Greenough Avenue.**
- 2. Motion for the phone system and wiring to be installed by North Star Phone System at a cost not to exceed \$158.00 per month.**
- 3. Motion to get legal consent regarding the matter of the Farmer's Market.**