

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
FINANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held March 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Illinois. Members present: Peterson and Newman. Absent: Drucker. President Cooper was also present.

Credit card receipts were reviewed and compared to the statement. All was found to be in order.

Discussion was held about a wage for the employee who worked with the park and street departments last year. It was recommended the wage be set at \$12/hr. since the employee will only be utilized for mowing this year. It was also recommended the board advertise for summer help for the sewer department.

Trustee Newman requested a rough floor plan showing how the Peterson building could be used for village hall purposes.

Discussion was held about the use of TIF revenue to supplement the shortfall of sewer user fees to pay for phase II loan retirement. The loan will be paid off in October 2022. A TIF extension will need to be applied for in order to allow for an additional 12 years of revenue and potential development.

The committee discussed the probability of increasing property tax rates and water and sewer rates at some point in the future. General fund projected expenditures are greater than projected revenues in the proposed FY 2020 budget. The IEPA, after a review of the water department, recommended increasing water rates.

A \$61,000 expense to engineer an extension of 14th Avenue was moved from the proposed general fund budget to general depreciation. An expense of \$20,000 for a street sweeper was removed from the proposed general fund budget along with \$15,000 for a garage. Added to the proposed general depreciation budget was \$19,000 for a parking lot in Love Park. President Cooper said funding for a new parking lot to be built on land to be purchased from the Woodley family could be applied for through a Coulter Trust grant.

Discussion was held about having the street superintendent work on at least one street improvement project each year. Trustee Newman obtained a plan from the street superintendent showing current needs for overlays and street rebuilds. The street department's proposed FY 2020 plan doesn't address any street improvements and instead focuses on storm drain, one block of two that is required before 5th Street can be rebuilt.

Funds in the amount of \$5,000 were budgeted for incentives for new construction in the Prairie Knoll subdivision. There has been no new construction in the subdivision for several years. Trustee Peterson said a small playground area in the subdivision might spur more construction. The developers could assist by donating a lot for such a use. President Cooper said he would expect the developers to participate in any incentive offered.

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The minutes of March 27, 2019 continued:

Discussion was held about the benefits of Main Street Orion and current and past funding of the organization. It was noted MSO has great business membership support. Its request of \$10,000 from the village equates to less than 1% of the village's budget and supports about 20% of the MSO budget versus one-third at the organization's inception.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk