

The Council for the Village of Monroeville held a work session on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 6:00PM at the local school's MAC building's community room.

Present were: Council Members Chris Raftery, Craig Franklin, Bob Whitacre, Sue Rogers and Sam Wiley; Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip, Fiscal Officer Bonnie Beck and Administrator Tom Gray.

Also attending were Chief Gary Lyons, and John Courtney and Scott Weiging from Courtney and Associates.

John Courtney presented his annual utility rate review. There were no significant changes in the **electric** fund. The solar field has been fully operational, and has shown a \$135,000 savings in capacity charges to our transmission costs. These are avoided costs, and are built into our PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) from AMP. It was anticipated that the solar field rental fee would bring in an additional \$60,000 annually to the water fund, but that hasn't happened yet. (Bonnie's note: \$40,823 for 2018, and \$43,554 for 2019) He and Tom have discussed what could increase that revenue source to help avoid rate increases, and they are still working on the numbers. The floating solar field will help, and the rental fee from the electric fund to the water fund could be increased as well. Currently, the rental fee is one cent per kWh of generated power. (Bonnie's note: the Village pays \$0.0498 per kWh to Solar Advocate). John said we could raise the fee to two cents per kWh, and that would have very little impact on the electric fund, while increasing the water revenue. The conclusion is that electric rates do not need to be increased at this time. The **water** sales and revenues continue to decrease. The bulk of the water expenses comes down to treatment costs. John recommended that we continue to operate our own water distribution system, noting that going elsewhere for this service has been explored a few times in the past, but it hasn't been cost effective to do so. He also noted that we give up control of rates if we join a water district. John also noted that as water-using appliances or apparatuses (like shower heads) stop working, they are replaced with more water efficient appliances. The projected revenues, which includes the solar field rental fees, are not sufficient to meet the projected near term requirements, which includes the new debt service for the water meter replacement project. John is recommending a rate increase of approximately 7% in order to meet the 2022 revenue requirements. The **sewer** fund rates were then discussed. We have been paying \$50,000 annually toward the principal of the OWDA loan for the WWTP rehab project from the fees collected for the SSR fund. Even with that revenue source, the sewer fund will not meet revenue requirements for 2022. PDG will be doing some test metering at Berry to assess the accuracy of their deduct meter, which reduces their sewer charges due to the evaporation of water from some of their machinery. It's possible that they are being underbilled. John recommended increasing the sewer rates by 13% in order to meet the 2022 revenue requirements. After a short discussion, John and Scott left the meeting at 6:45PM.

Both Tom and Bonnie said they had nothing new to report. Tom was asked about the Milan Ave paving, and he said that right now just Milan Ave from Main Alley to Hamilton St will be paved. The rest of the roadway from Rt 20 to Washington Rd will be done later, which should take about 10 days. The contractor will have staggered lane closings during the paving. Tom stated that the EPA has required a 5-20 year capital project forecast for the Village. The Broad St sanitary sewer project was part of the commitment we made several years ago, and we cannot postpone it now. Bonnie mentioned that in 2017, the EPA approved switching the Broad St project with the Monroe St project since the State had scheduled to resurface Monroe St in 2018. So the EPA has already made an exception for the Broad St project. Tom spoke of the asset management program, noting that this the meter replacement project qualifies us for

a portion of the requirements needed for the program. This is all driven by the need to have good quality water. Broad St will be resurfaced from Rt 20 to Ridge St as part of the project. No curbs will be done. Water lines will be inspected and property owners will be informed if their lateral has to be replaced before water service can be reconnected. Tom noted that Sam has the newest water meter in Monroeville now. His old one was from 1931, and had stopped functioning. New meters will give us some reliability due to their accuracy. Most of our older meters are 20-30 years old.

Discussion about S Main St sidewalks. Chris said we need clear access to Clark Park. Lindsey Leber is working in sync with someone about a sidewalk grant. Tom was asked about the S Ridge St railroad crossing, and he said the work is underway.

Gary reported that Jordan Hanuscin saved a life recently. He administered Narcan to someone, did some chest rubs on him, and administered another Narcan to bring the person back. The person could have been charged with possession of drugs, but the prosecutor is slow and there's a lack of communication with his office. Gary will write a commendation for Jordan and will present it at the July Council meeting. Troy visited the military surplus depot again and brought back a bigger tent than we got before, valued at \$18,000. He also got monitors and 12 computers that are 24" LED, which are new and still boxed. With the other miscellaneous items he brought back, it came to about \$23,000 worth of equipment. He mentioned that Gov DeWine is working on legislation for police reform, which won't impact us too much. The reform mentions body cameras, which Gary said he saw coming 12 years ago. His department always did the mandatory training, which was paid for a couple of years, then there was no money to continue. He is a big advocate of training, adding that you can't get too much of it. In the last 4 years they have had only one resistance, and no force was needed. The Mayor noted that if we were to have body cameras we would need to have policies and procedures in place. Hopefully the State will give some guidance on this. Craig mentioned that we would need a public records policy for the cameras, too. Gary said this is the craziest he's ever seen things in his career, adding that his troops have the highest degree of professionalism. They are slowly going through things in their building in preparation for moving to the MMC, and thought they may get a dumpster. He asked if it was possible to just leave things in the building to be destroyed when the building is demoed.

Bonnie asked if the Utility Committee should meet to discuss John's recommendations. Chris said not at this time, as she wanted to see what the Berry meter testing would show. Bonnie said she was concerned about waiting too long, as incremental increases fare better than a onetime increase. Bob said it would be nice if the monitors the PD procured could be shared with other departments. Sam asked about the S Ridge St burned out property, and Tom said their demo permit has been approved. The Horseshoe Dr property was then brought up, and Tom said they are resurrecting the court process. Chief Stang has been asked about condemning the Manchester St property. The issue of NCEMS was then discussed. Tom stated that we have the stats and dissertation for the township and village numbers. Bob said he feels this matter needs more discussion, as this is costing us lots of money. Tom countered that we have 24-7 service now. The township is still blaming us, and will not give us our fair share of the property tax assessed costs. Bob asked what changed, as we never paid anything before. Tom said we never knew that the township was collecting taxes on our behalf for EMS services. Chris said it's like insurance, you pay continually even though you may never use it. Tom said this matter is still subject to review. The Mayor asked Bob about the fire chief's position, and Bob said Stang hasn't officially resigned yet.

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even though you may never use it. Tom said this matter is still subject to review. The Mayor asked Bob about the fire chief's position, and Bob said Stang hasn't officially resigned yet. Mayor Fries-Seip informed Council that the July Council meetings will still be in the MAC. She said she wanted to personally thank the water department personnel for a clean CCR (Consumer Credit Report); the electric department for their maintenance of our power lines, which helps avoid power outages; the street department for the extra storm damage limb/brush pickups they did; and the professionalism of the office personnel who takes the beatings from the public. She stated that they all do amazing jobs.

Mayor Fries-Seip stated that she has reached out to Mark Rupp via email and a letter, but has had no response yet. Chris said it bothers her regarding the loss of communication. Mark is very valuable and analyzes things differently. She would like to see us sit tight for now, at least until September when we can be in the new building. The Mayor expressed hope that there will be a light at the end of the tunnel for Mark. Bob said it bothers him that he doesn't come to meetings, but still gets paid. The Mayor said he gets a reduction in his pay for unexcused absences. Bob said that at least he should call or email if he can't attend a meeting, as he has a responsibility to be here. Chris said he's elected and has rights because of that. The Mayor stated that it is Council's decision to vacate and appoint a Council seat, and she read ORC §705.13 where it states "absence for ten consecutive regular meetings shall operate to vacate the seat of a member, unless such absence is authorized by the legislative authority." Bonnie stated that our Council Rules cite ORC §731.45, which states that Council may expel any member for absence without valid excuse for two months. (She did not have the ORC section with her to quote). Jim is looking into this. Council terms were then reviewed. As a reminder, the terms that expire 12-31-21 are for Sam, Bob, Chris and Mark. The terms that expire 12-31-23 are for the Mayor, Craig, and Sue.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Beck".

Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer