

The Finance Committee for the Village of Monroeville held a meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber for the purpose of reviewing potential expenses for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

Present were: Chris Raftery, Mark Rupp, Bob Whitacre, Craig Franklin, Mayor Fries-Seip, Bonnie Beck, Tom Gray, Ann Beck, Heather Alicea, and Chief Lyons.

Chris asked Bonnie for an overview of the ARP Act program. Bonnie stated that it is much like the CARES Act, except that the ARP includes water and sewer infrastructure. Because the program is COVID-19 based, the focus is on the health and safety of the community. We don't have hospitals, care centers, and nursing homes in our Village, so none of the funds will be used for assistance in those facilities. One of the infrastructure items the guidelines referenced was the removal of lead water lines. With water and sewer infrastructure being allowable expenditures this time, Tom has prepared a list of equipment or projects that could be purchased with the ARP funds.

Tom then spoke of the lead lines that have been found in our system, noting that a dozen of them were found and replaced during the Monroe St. sanitary sewer work, but not one was found during the Broad St. sanitary sewer project. For the Rt 20 waterline project funds have been allocated for lead service line replacements, and this will be done for the S. Main St. project as well. Tom emphasized that the list he is presenting has items that will provide mission critical services, some being EPA mandated. By replacing these service items, we could stave off utility rate increases by using the ARP funds for the purchases. A couple of the items are already included in the WSRLA application, but these could be eliminated and save money on the loan debt. The first item on the list was \$77,000 for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) emergency generator replacement. Our current generator is a 50-year old tank in the ground right next to the clearwell, which is non-compliant with our recent BUSTR inspection. Should the generator have a leak and it seeps into the clearwell, it would literally shut down our water operations. He's proposing that we purchase a new generator and move its location further from the clearwell. The next proposal is \$21,000 for the UV lamp repairs at the WWTP. Since their inception in 2014, they have been running 23/7, which they are not meant to do. Bonnie interjected that buying one lamp replacement is expensive, and we have 16 of them. With the bid re-vamping that was done for the WWTP rehab to reduce cost, they found that the components were made in China – the new system will be USA made. The next items were \$5000 for the brush/screen replacement at the WWTP, and \$19,000 for the East high service pump at the WTP. Tom explained that we stopped using the current EHSP a year ago, when it was determined that the use of it caused air to get into the water system and create water hammers. This pump is used after treatment hours to maintain the water levels, and the current one is from the Thomas Edison era. \$8000 is recommended for the purchase of a HVAC unit in the WTP control room for climate control, and \$6000 for a ventilation system for the chemical room, where large bags of powdered chemicals are regularly opened. Tom reiterated that these are all mission critical items that will not only help avoid rate burdens on our utility users, but are for our well-being and the health and safety of our community as well. Tom said that Council may see more expenses like this for our next round of funding. Bob asked what the life expectancy of the WTP as a whole was. Tom said it would be around \$3.5 mil to replace it. Chris asked what the next step would be. Tom said he would get updated proposals and quotes except for the generator. Bonnie asked for clarification that none of these projects will require engineering, and Tom confirmed that, adding that two items would be emergency purchases, while the others are mission critical.

Chris asked Bonnie if she had anything else for consideration. Bonnie said that she would like to have Council revisit the uses for the Community Outreach Program. She provided the legislation and spread sheets for the COP for Council review. Bonnie pointed out that the legislation for the request from the Red Cross was not formally dispelled, as no motion was made either accept or deny the request. Heather interjected that she would like to segue into the Safety Town portion of the VCOP. She stated that

Norwalk was not opening Safety Town to the kids who missed it last year, so since we have the funding would the Police Dept. consider offering the classes to others. Her daughter missed out on it last year, and she would love to have her attend a ST class. The Chief said that the classes will be the week of August 2nd, and there will be 2 classes, one for the current kindergarteners and one for the pre-K. The Mayor asked if there was an estimate of how many kids we might have, and maybe adjust the classes so we can open enrollment to other communities. The Chief said he was reluctant to add 1 or 2 more classes, because it would be overwhelming. The evening classes are scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30, then a half hour break to prep for the next class, which will be from 6:00 to 8:00. Graduation will be on Friday. He's waiting for approval from the school to use the MAC building, and they need more volunteers. Heather offered to help after work. Chris stated that if there is no further discussion the Red Cross legislation can be brought to a vote at the next meeting. Mark asked if ST is offered to other communities, can we limit it to children of our employee, or maybe for those who live or work in Monroeville. The Mayor stated that maybe since our kids can enroll for free, a minimal fee could be charged for others. The Chief said he would be reluctant to do that. There are usually 20-30 kids in a class, and he usually has enough volunteers. Mark mentioned that the Scouts are looking for community service projects.

Chris stated that we have a proposal going forward to look at our pay scales and do some analysis so we can keep our employees and attract new ones. She suggested that we do this at the next work session. Bonnie was asked to do a wage survey with other communities and counties. Ann remarked that we won't have a fair comparison with a lot of other communities. Chris responded that this is why we need conversation. Bonnie said that the OML had just sent their annual salary survey, so once it can be determined how to print off all of the info, she will send copies to everyone. Discussion about having a projector or 70' TV to see images like this, and Mark suggested looking into the cost of a TV.

The Mayor mentioned that our Scout troops have done a lot of work around the community, and she would like them to be recognized. Bonnie will do a proclamation, the Mayor will ask the troops to attend the June Council meeting, and a reminder of the flag burning will be announced. She also noted that she is still waiting for responses for the Purple Heart City designation, so this may not happen until fall.

Bob asked about the traffic cameras. The Chief said he talked to Jim, and he's ready to go with the ordinance, which will contain only minor language amendments. The traffic cameras are ready to go, too. The Chief offered Troy's ability to procure items from the surplus facility, so he can ask Troy to look into getting a TV for the Council Chambers.

Tom was asked about the sign at the end of Washington Rd that listed our state champions. He said it was damaged, but he will check to see if it's salvageable.

There being no other financial business to come before them, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Beck, MMC
Fiscal Officer