

FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Jim Matuszak. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak and Becky Williams. Tim McCarthy arrived at 5:34 p.m. Also present were Dave Creps, Finance Director, Tim Fisher, Deputy Finance Director, and Steve Bronder, Income Tax Commissioner.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The committee reviewed expenditures greater than \$5,000 for November. Mr. Matuszak asked about the payment to Bender Communication. Mr. Creps said that that payment was for the local government radio system, not for the police or fire division.

Mr. Creps reported that the balance in the Health Insurance Fund as of November 30, 2018 was \$854,879.45. Mr. Matuszak asked what the balance was at the end of 2017. Mr. Creps said that it was essentially zero. He further explained that the ending balance this year will "come off the top" when figuring rates for 2019, so barring any unforeseen circumstances, the calculated rates should drop substantially in 2019.

Mr. Creps distributed amended estimated revenues, appropriations, and cash transfers for 2018. He explained again this year that these are housekeeping items to keep individual budgeted line items in the black. He said that we also need to increase the estimated revenue from tax collections to a number greater than what we will likely collect this year in order to permit us to transfer the collections to the general fund. The committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of these amendments.

TAX COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bronder stated that income tax collections for November were \$1.1 million which is up 4% from the same period last year. Year-to-date collections through November were a little over \$18 million which is up 2.9% from the same period last year. Mr. Matuszak asked how much the total income tax collections were for 2017. Mr. Bronder said that they collected just shy of \$19.3 million in 2017. He said he is projecting total collections of \$19.75 million this year while the budgeted amount was only \$19.25 million, meaning actual collections are projected to exceed budgeted collections this year by approximately \$500,000.

HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT

Matt Holzemer was present to discuss the renewal of the city's contract for health insurance. Mr. Holzemer disseminated written information showing that they looked at every stop gap carrier because of the high claims last year, and seven of them declined to bid. Mr. Holzemer said that he recommended staying with NFP. He explained that although there will be a 5% increase in fixed costs, the overall cost will decrease by 6.4%. For comparison, he mentioned that they are seeing an average increase of 17% all around the area. Mr. McCarthy noted that the cost for coverage from Paramount was

a little less. Mr. Holzemer explained that you generally want to see at least an 8% difference in cost before switching providers. Mr. Matuszak asked about the disclaimer that was included with the information they received from Mr. Holzemer, and Mr. Holzemer said that the numbers before the committee were firm numbers. The committee agreed 3-0 to recommend staying with NFP for the city's health insurance for 2019.

CEMETERY BOARD – NEW FENCING

Tom Friess, Linda Wilker, and [councilman] Jonathan Smith of the Fort Meigs Cemetery Board were present to discuss new fencing for the cemetery. Mr. Friess said they got a quote of approximately \$40,000 to replace the existing fence with a black vinyl infused chain link fence, and that they are looking at obtaining a grant to help with the cost. Mr. Smith said that he has spoken to the Planning and Zoning Division, and informed the finance committee that the cemetery has three front yards and that chain link fencing is not permitted in a front yard. Mr. Smith emphasized that the location of the cemetery is important because of its prominence when entering the city from across the river. Mr. McCarthy agreed and for that reason, along with the fact that it is our rules that limit the types of fence that can be used, he could see why the city could be expected to contribute more toward the cost of the fence than the township. Mr. McCarthy said that this item could be put on the agenda for the January Planning and Zoning Committee meeting to discuss what options would be available with regards to the type of fencing permitted by the city.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Matuszak asked about the status of the proposed regional sports complex that was considered by the previous administration. Mr. Creps said that he forwarded the report to Mr. Matuszak, and noted that according to the report, the current infrastructure would not support that type of project. Mr. Matuszak asked if all of the funds committed to the project by the previous administration had been spent. Mr. Creps said that they have been.

The committee also discussed the time for the January committee meeting since the first city council meeting in January has been rescheduled for January 8. It was agreed to keep the meeting tentatively scheduled for January 8 at 5:30 until the agenda, if any, is available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matuszak, Chairman

Finance & Economic Dev. Committee