

## **Finance Committee Meeting March 7, 2013**

The **Finance Committee** met March 7, 2013, at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Chairperson Mark Ahner, Committee Members John Uden, Bill Melnik and Roxanna Brush. Also present were Councilpersons Jerry Partridge and Councilperson Sue Galbraith.

Also present were Mayor C. A. Grenz, Public Utilities Director Al Kelm, Grant Administrator Dawn Colton and Recorder City Clerk Becky Stanton.

### **Funding of Tatro Street Project**

Steve Heidner, Project Manager for the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT), explained that the department had questions for the City of Miles City on the Tatro Street Project. The project is scheduled to be let out for bid in August or September of 2013 with construction to start in 2014. The MDOT needs to have answers right away so this project does not get bumped from the current schedule.

Chairperson Ahner asked what amount the City has in the Urban Transportation Fund at the present time. These funds are used for roads. In the Urban Transportation Fund currently, there is approximately \$1.0 million available and the City/County will receive \$250,000 a year for a 5 year period. The total will be about \$2.5 million. The Tatro project costs are estimated to be \$2.0 million for construction and \$400,000 for engineering. Public Utilities Director Kelm mentioned that utility relocation is going to be more than first predicted.

Project Manager Heidner started asking the questions that MDOT needed answered. The first was what direction the City/County wants to go on sidewalk replacement along Milwaukee Street, and whether they want to only do what is necessary for ADA. It goes along with the second question, which was whether the City wants to use CTEP funds for sidewalk replacement/installation.

The total eligible expenses for CTEP are \$335,000. Custer County has approximately \$230,000 and the City of Miles City has approximately \$364,000 in CTEP funds. These funds are used for curb, gutter and sidewalks. The match is 13.42%. It can be a community match but it needs to be non-federal funds. It does not need to be specifically City or County funds. The County can donate its funds to the City. After this year, unpledged CTEP funds will start to revert back to the State's General Fund and these funds will not be available to be dedicated to our community. As long as the City or County has plans to use the money, it will not revert back.

Director Kelm has visited with County Commissioners Kevin Krausz and Keith Holmlund, who mentioned that the County would give its portion of the CTEP funds to

the City because the County currently does not have the funds for its share of the required match.

Chairperson Ahner noted that the Council wants sidewalks from Highway 59 North to Woodbury Street. Custer County has sufficient right of way for sidewalks on the north side of the road. The project can move forward with the current right of way. The sidewalks and lighting from Highway 59 North to Woodbury Street are in the current cost estimate.

Project Manager Heidner stated that MDOT needed to talk to the land owners about right-of-way for sidewalks on both sides of Tatro Street. The community desired sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Director Kelm suggested replacing all sidewalks along Milwaukee Street. The cost to replace the sidewalks along Milwaukee Street will cost \$70,000. A poll was taken of the Councilpersons in attendance and they all agreed to replace the sidewalks on Milwaukee.

Director Kelm also explained that trees in the boulevard are heaving many of the sidewalks and will need to be removed.

MDOT District Administrator Shane Mintz stated that MDOT needed a letter from both the City and the County explaining their desire to utilize CTEP funds. Director Kelm will draft the letter.

The third question was what does the City desire for pavement markings on this street. The City will epoxy paint the crosswalks and school handicap parking spots. There will not be centerlines painted on these streets as there are not any other streets with centerlines.

The fourth question was concerned with the possibility of vertically adjusting fire hydrants. If there are any fire hydrants that need to be adjusted, the City crews will operate the valves.

The fifth issue addressed Project Manager Heidner's understanding that there will not be any new water or sewer lines installed ahead of this project, since the City would not be able to fund it. Director Kelm verified that.

The sixth question addressed some large trees in the boulevard along Milwaukee Street that may be impacted by the project, which would move the curb out 2 feet on each side of the street. There was discussion on removing and planting trees along Milwaukee Street. Grant Administrator Colton noted that if the City has to remove the trees, Keep Miles City Beautiful would be willing to replant them. It was agreed that trees would be removed by the MDOT contractor and that landscaping would not be included in the project proposal.

Custer County is willing to give its CTEP funds to the City of Miles City, as long as the City pays for the match.

**Request of Citizens**

-None

\* \* *Committee Member Uden moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Melnik. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Chairperson Mark Ahner

  
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City Clerk Becky Stanton