

Finance Committee Meeting November 17, 2020

The Finance Committee met Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Present were Committee Members Austin Lott, Stacey Broell and Elizabeth Patten. Committee Member Brant Kassner was excused.

Also present were: Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, Mayor John Hollowell, Police Captain Dan Baker, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Councilperson Rick Huber, Human Resource Officer Linda Wilkins, Firefighter Casey Miller and City Clerk/Recorder Lorrie Pearce. Planner in Training Ally Capps joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m. and Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson joined the meeting at 6:41p.m.

Chairperson Lott called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens and Public Comment:

None

2. Review and Recommendation for Resolution No. 4383- A Resolution Adopting a Special Prosecution Policy for the City of Miles City, Montana

Mayor Hollowell explained that the Resolution is to hire a Special Prosecutor at the rate of \$100 per hour. This updates the old rate of \$75 per hour.

****** *Committee Member Patten moved to recommend to Council to approve the Resolution, seconded by Committee Member Broell. The motion passed 3-0*

3. Review and Recommend approval of writing off \$567.58 on Ambulance Fund

****** *Committee Member Patten moved to recommend to Council approving the write-off, seconded by Committee Member Broell. The motion passed 3-0*

4. Review and Recommendation on bids for 2020 4-Wheel Drive Loader

Director Speelmon said two bids were received. (1) RDO for an amount of \$192,000 with a payback of \$100,300 & (2) Tri State for an amount of \$199,707 with a buyback of \$70,000

****** *Committee Member Broell moved to recommend to Council accepting RDO's bids for the 4-wheel drive loader, seconded by Committee Member Lott. The motion passed 3-0*

5. Review and Recommendation Regarding Covid-19 Grant Funds

The Committee Members and Fire Chief Stevens discussed some items that the Fire Department is requesting to purchase using the COVID-19 revenue received.

- Chief Stevens' goal is to have 19 full time employees and 25 part paid employees by 2025. This is the total amount of employees recommended by ISO for a class 2 City to lower its rating to 1.
- There was a discussion on hiring more part paid employees and Chief Stevens felt that volunteering is almost a thing of the past. He did not feel that hiring part paid employees at this time would help with the "burn out" his department is experiencing because of COVID-19, but may be a good idea to set money aside to hire part time in the future
- Chief Stevens had emailed a list of 17 items to the Committee that he would like to purchase with the COVID-19 revenue received. They would either upgrade or replace equipment that is in use right now at the department. The total of all purchases would be approximately \$112,000. He also asked to transfer approximately \$39,000 to the 2701 fund to save for matches on grants, or a starting fund for the departments building
- There was a discussion on setting money aside to hire the extra 4 employees that would be needed to get to the 19 full time employees. Currently the cost for a firefighter is \$45,000 to \$60,000 a year. This includes roll up cost.

Mayor Hollowell reminded everyone that the money received from the COVID-19 stimulus did not have to go directly back to the Fire, Police or Dispatch. It is money in the General Fund and could be used for all department that are in General Fund.

Chief Stevens reported that there is an ambulance service grant that is available through the Montana League of Cities and Towns. The grant would be for \$215,214 and needs to be submitted, approved and purchased before the end of December. There is no match because it is part of the COVID-19 package. The department would purchase two power cots, one stair chair, two Cardiac monitors and four Lucas 3.0 systems. He felt that the City should utilize the grant at this time, so the City would not have to purchase these items in the future without funding.

The Committee had a discussion on items that they would like to recommend to Council to approve purchasing. They are as follows:

1. Transfer appropriate wages from General Fund (1000) back to the 9-1-1 fund (2850) for reimbursed dispatch wages
2. Pay the cost of SDI Architects & Design expenses for the inspection of potential police buildings
3. Pay current litigation expense in City Court regarding the lack of a building permit or flood permit for the Eckhart lawsuit
4. Approve moving forward with the Ambulance grant application for an amount of \$215,214

*** Committee Member Lott moved to recommend to Council to approve the 4 items listed above and pay the costs with COVID-19 money received, seconded by Committee Member Patten. The motion passed 3-0*

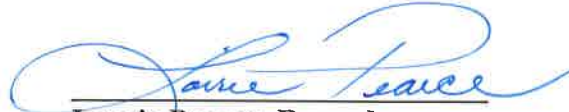
6. Adjournment

*** Committee Member Broell moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Patten and passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Austin Lott, Committee Chairperson



Lorrie Pearce, Recorder

