

TOWN OF BATH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

December 19, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman at 4:00pm.
2. ROLL CALL: Susan Webster (X) Greg Schene (X) Mary Lynn Hickey (X) Quorum – Yes
Also present – Councilwoman MacLeod, Mayor Merki, Bath Planning Commission
Recorder Dave O’Connell
3. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2023 were approved by Common Consent.
4. Clerk’s Report –
 - A. Dave O’Connell, in his FC advisory position, provided his analysis to date on Bath property tax projection/actual collections. At this time, he agrees with Clerk Corrick’s determination that Bath should estimate a negative practical difference in property tax projections and collections of \$20,000.00. O’Connell’s study of an accurate census of Bath addresses for tax collection and voter registration purposes will be considered as a future project at his discretion.
 - B. Clerk Corrick provided the budget comparison, account review and bookkeeping information. She had no further comment.
 - C. Clerk Corrick presented detail on her request for an in-house Public Safety budget revision (attached). The FC agreed to its acceptance.
5. Grant and project information updates -
 - A. Councilwoman MacLeod explained the Warm Springs Watershed Association’s request to the Town of Bath to be the sponsor of a grant to obtain funds for planning the rehabilitation of the entire Warm Springs Run area. This area is potentially affected by the building of the new by-pass around the community. The clarity provided was appreciated.
 - B. Grant Chairwoman Hickey reported that grant work previously explained is ongoing.
6. Additional Town financial concerns of Council:
 - A. The Municipal Center needs will be kept on the agenda for further study. Chairwoman Webster inquired if there may be some room made available in the BSPD offices for at least storage since it occupies the entirety of the second floor of the Municipal Center. The inquiry did not receive positive feedback.
 - B. Properties currently on the open market were discussed for possible Town acquisition and use.

- C. Chairwoman Webster has communicated with Michael Dougherty with WVU Extension concerning the possibility of him conducting studies of the Town's finances, operations or other areas. Mr. Dougherty suggested meeting after the holidays to elaborate on services provided by WVU and potential costs.
- D. Councilman Schene is working to establish a B&O tax on banking, finance and other commercial entities in the Town of Bath. Attorney Mark Matkovich with the White Law Offices in Charleston is assisting in this work.

7. The BSWW and Town of Bath bills were reviewed and will be presented to Council for approval.

8. The next regular meeting date is January 2, 2024 at 4pm in the Municipal Center.

9. Adjourn

Chairman S. Webster Date 1-2-2024