

TOWN OF BATH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

January 16, 2024

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, Planning Commission Recorder O’Connell
3. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024 were approved by Common Consent.
4. Clerk’s Report –
 - A. Planning Commission Recorder Dave O’Connell, in his FC advisory position, presented his analysis on Bath property tax projection/actual collections and general Bath revenue/expenditures (attached). A serious discussion occurred afterward which culminated in the realization that the current financial situation of the Town was untenable. It was concurred that adjustments to the budget, fines, fees, utility tariffs and taxation will be brought forward for thorough public discussion.
 - B. Chairwoman Webster informed the FC that she has requested that Clerk Corrick attend all FC meetings in their entirety to ensure Committee understanding of her work and anticipated budgetary issues. Inclement weather conditions prevented her attendance for this meeting.
 - C. The Internal Budget Revision review will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - D. Clerk Corrick has requested that all on Council to go to the WV Auditor’s Office budget training in Martinsburg on February 21, 2024 at 5:30pm. It was agreed among those present that this was important to attend. This necessitates changing the regularly scheduled Council meeting for that date and will add to the January 23 meeting agenda for decision.
5. Grant and project information updates -
 - A. Chairwoman MacLeod presented her request that the FC approve a contract for tree planting for Depot Parcel 1B. This will be paid by the grants previously received. By Common Consent the FC advanced this request to the full Council.
 - B. Grant Chairwoman Hickey reported that grants for a new Bath website, RAISE Grant for sidewalks and other earlier mentioned grants are in the works.

C. Depot Committee Chairwoman Webster invited all to a meeting of people previously and potentially interested in advancing the Depot's historic, educational, recreational and economic development on January 17 at 4:30pm.

6. Additional Town financial concerns of Council:

A. While it was agreed that improvements to the Municipal Center or locating another facility is needed, it was also noted that this endeavor requires a long-term strategy.

B. The Bath Planning Commission has communicated with Michael Dougherty of WVU Extension Service about a meeting to discuss studies his department offers and costs. It was decided that this meeting will occur on Monday, January 22, at 9am via zoom at Town Hall. The Chairwoman will send out the zoom information.

7. The FC agreed to reconvene this meeting at 1:30 January 17, at Town Hall to review the BSWW and Town of Bath bills for presentation at the next council meeting which has been rescheduled for January 23, at 5:30.

8. The next meeting date is January 23, 2024 at 4pm in the Municipal Center.

9. Adjourn

Chairman *S. Webster* Date *1-23-2024*