

TOWN OF BATH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman at 4:00pm.
2. Roll Call of Bath Council FC Members: Chairwoman Susan Webster (X), Greg Schene (X), Mary Lynn Hickey (X) – Quorum present
Also present: Councilors O’Connell, Skinner and MacLeod
3. Review of Minutes: Finance Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024 were approved by Common Consent.
4. Clerk’s Report –
 - A. The census of Bath addresses and GIS mapping project for accurate sales and property tax collection is an ongoing endeavor. Councilman O’Connell is working with Amber Miller of the WV Tax Division on this project and will report back with progress.
 - B. Clerk Corrick made available the Town’s budget comparison, account review, bookkeeping information and payroll data.
 - a. Discussion was held on the Budget Levy Estimate 2025 and issues concerning employee compensation, fringe benefit reporting for IRS requirements and expected PEIA premium increases. It was concluded that a Special Meeting should be called to more fully discuss the Levy Estimate.
 - b. There were no facilities use forms or notices of property improvement for consideration at this time.
5. Cemetery Committee updates and possible action
 - A. There has been no progress as yet on the Greenway Cemetery Perpetual Trust Fund account.
6. Grant and Project information updates and possible action
 - A. Grant Chairwoman Hickey reported that the Town of Bath is the recipient of an Appalachian Forestry grant in the amount of \$4,450.00 to rebuild the Town’s website. This grant requires a Town match of the same amount.

The COPS Grant has been awarded to the BSPD in the amount of \$111,000.00. This grant is to pay for 75% of a newly hired police officer for Bath for 3 years. The Town has a 5 year window to satisfy the grant stipulations so there is time to complete the requirements.

The WV SHPO Remembrance Grant is being implemented by the Foxglove Garden Club and the Bath DAR with the assistance of Chairwoman Hickey.

Chairwoman Hickey has 4 projects in the hopper with Region 9 Planning & Development Council. She told the FC that these projects include sidewalk design and construction, the BSWW equipment repair and replacement, Streetscape streetlights at the Depot. The BSWW plant upgrades will take priority in efforts to obtain funding.

Councilwoman MacLeod reported that the Warm Springs Watershed Association is confident that the top bidder for the NRCS planning project will have a positive response to the WSWA top offer.

Additional ongoing project reports on the NBRT, Streetscape and BSSP have been submitted by Pete Brown (attached).

B. Depot Chairwoman Webster received an amended Depot lease contract from TBS President Stephanie Rebant. Additions by TBS to the lease were outside of the scope of a standard lease agreement. Webster talked with Rebant about this and they mutually agreed that the lease would return to standard and that other considerations could be entertained at a later date. It was decided to sign the lease developed by Town Attorney Richard Gay with amendments (attached) to the repair requirements and other reasonable points.

Chairwoman Webster reported on the success of the Apple Butter Depot parking lot donation drive. A total of \$6,307.60 was collected by volunteers Lisa Stine, Rebecca MacLeod, Beth Skinner, Justin Wharton, Michael Moss and Susan Webster.

7. Bills for the BSWW and the Town were approved for recommendation to the Council.

8. The next FC Regular Meeting date is November 5, 2024 at 4pm in the Municipal Center.

9. Adjourn

Chairman *Susan Webster* Date *11-5-2024*

**Streetscape, State Park and NBRT Projects Status Report for Town Council
October 22, 2024**

STREETSCAPE

Next Committee Meeting: 9 am Thursday 11/21, Town Conference Room

Phase V Construction contract:

- Current estimate for start of construction is next week; Oct 28th
- Contractor still waiting on materials delivery.
- Thrasher providing sketch that saves the new parking space on Independence St as well as the existing cherry tree. Plan is for Town to provide District 5 with this. Should be a no-cost change.

Phase VI Design Task Order:

- Thrasher providing draft – will use to initiate DOH Funding Agreement
- Current cost estimate is within the Grant Award

Future Grant Awards: No update on future Grant Awards:

- Phase V Lighting
- Phase VI Construction

BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK PROJECT

Current Status of DEP Consent Order:

- Awaiting WV-DEP Approval of the Town's Corrective Action Plan (Submitted with the payment of the Fine)
- Have info that DOH is reviewing the Town's Corrective Action Plan, provided either by DEP or by a copy sent to DOH (Sedosky) by the Town

NBRT

Next Task Force Meeting (if held) would be Oct 23rd at 4 pm in County Commissioners Room

- I cannot host this meeting due to previous engagement that cannot be changed
- Trying to get an update from the Oct 7th information (repeated below)
 - Received this update from DOH Charleston (email to Joel Tuttle):
From Tim Sedosky: *"Please be assured we have not given up on this and i have been actively looking at alternatives. We are going to move forward one way or another. I have been discussing with the District as well as folks in our building. and yes, Gary has moved to another Division. Which in turn has impacted us. We'll be in touch."*
 - From Mark Scoular; *"Gary is no longer in the Planning Division. We are going to meet and try and figure out who will be taking the design of the bridges on to the next step. When that is decided I will let you guys know. Sorry for the delay"*

Pete Brown
Streetscape Committee