

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2020

Attending: Scott Vincent, Bridget Willard, Sandy Gooder, Amber Dooley, Jerry Mahr, and Rick Clayton.

Meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Scott had begun looking for places to cut spending since we were \$10,000 in the hole last year. Some of the areas he began looking at were: water license fee, outside services (mowing, etc), Sky's overtime, dog catcher, and the Police Department.

There is nothing to be done about the water license fee, since we need it in order to have the water plant. A discussion was had about trying to get Sky to get his license, but this would take several years. This was not a viable option for cutting spending at this time.

Outside services was discussed next. The suggestion was to try and reduce this area by \$500. Some possible suggestions were to see if people would volunteer to help with the mowing. This might also cut down on Sky's overtime in the summer as well.

Discussion on Sky's overtime revealed that the cost was not as high as previously thought. The discussion was had about returning to comp time for Sky and that was decided against. The recommendation decided on is to try and keep the overtime to a minimum.

Dog catcher was discussed as a way to save money. However, the dog catcher is bringing in more money now than in years past. Having a dog catcher is also something that is in the ordinances and would need to be amended. While it will never be a self-sustaining position, the recommendation was to keep the dog catcher.

The police department is 23% of our budget. The discussion was had about the value for the money and what the roughly \$32,000 could also be used for. The committee discussed that this is not an easy place to look for cuts, but that there are not many other options. Discussions were had about possibly reducing the hours and/or changing the hours of patrol. A suggestion was made for volunteers to help drive around town during non-patrolled hours or to help monitor is the police department was eliminated.

The committee discussed possibly phasing out the police department. One of the unknowns is the grant for the police car. The specifics on what the village's responsibilities would be if we phase out the police department were going to be researched, as this may change the recommendations.

A discussion was had about creating a park district as a way to help generate funds. Many of the surrounding areas gathered into other park districts. If Mt. Auburn and the unincorporated areas would like to get in on the revenue stream, a motion would need to be put on the November ballot. The park committee would be designated as the park board. Amber was asked to look into this.

Scott Vincent proposed a motion to phase out the police department by September 7th, decrease outside services by \$500, and create a park district to include Mt. Auburn and surrounding unincorporated areas. The motion was seconded by Sandy Gooder.

Vote: Scott – Yes, Sandy – Yes, Bridget – No

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Gooder