VILLAGE OF BRATENAHL
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BRATENAHL, OHIO  44108
(216) 383-0468

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
6:25 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN LICASTRO
TOM MCDONALD, CHAIR
TRACY HOEFLING
DAVID J. MATTY, ESQ.
NANCY L. MOLNAR, RPR, CLR

1. MR. MCDONALD: We'll call the Finance Committee meeting to order. And Ms. Cooks, would you please call the roll.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Benjamin is absent. Ms. Hoeftling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Here. Very good.

2. Mayors, would you introduce Resolution 1267?

MS. HOEFLING: Yes. Introducing Resolution 1267, authorizing the Mayor to accept an American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA, first responder wellness, recruitment, retention and resiliency grant effective September 21, 2022, and declaring an emergency.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Do you know what that is, Tom? Do you want to explain?

3. The state has come up with funding to pay all policemen 10 percent of their base salary in the form of a bonus to use in ARPA money. This is going to be paid in this calendar year. It's reimbursable. So we are following the lead of other departments across the country, but as you know, in order to take action like this even if it's reimbursable, we need legislation to approve it. And as Ms. Cooks has calculated, it's about $89,500 total for all officers to receive 10 percent of their pay.

Chief, do you want to comment on this?

CHIEF LOBELLO: Just as a point of clarification, it's not every officer. It's everybody who was here as a certain date that I'm not quite sure of. And it is roughly 10 percent. It's anywhere between nine and 10 percent, because when the numbers were done by Sergeant O'Haire, for sake of ease, he rounded everybody's salary down to the nearest $500. So rather than deal with pennies, he just rounded it down to the nearest $500. Thank you.

MAYOR LICASTRO: That's pretty much it, Tom.

MR. MCDONALD: All right. Then we have resolution number 1268.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Do you want to recommend that to approval for Council, Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: I'm sorry. I do recommend that for approval.

MS. HOEFLING: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Are you in favor of that?

MR. MCDONALD: I am in favor of that.

Ayes: 2. Nays: 0.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, Tom, the next two, let me, Tom, if I could Resolution 1268, 1269, if I may.

4. Yeah. So Mr. Beirut and the Chief and I went down to the County Council Offices this morning. We made a presentation to their committee regarding distribution of ARPA funding. As you know, we have applied for ARPA funding for two purposes. One of which is to pay for most of the 50/50 share with the county to repave Eddy Road, rehabilitation of Eddy Road. And the other is to buy two police vehicles.

We made a brief presentation to the committee and they approved it for second reading. So it's my recommendation that both of these ordinances we should put on first reading, because it's going to take the County Council
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| 5    | 1 another few weeks to work through their process.  
2 I think they said the second reading  
3 will be held in committee. The third reading  
4 will be held at Council. So it would be kind of  
5 premature to pass this until they do their  
6 diligence. So the dollar amounts are noted and  
7 each -- Don, do you want to comment on Eddy Road?  
8 MR. BIERUT: Yes, The Eddy Road is  
9 estimated about $260,000. We have a 50/50  
10 agreement with the county to pay half of that.  
11 This ARPA money would pay almost all the rest of  
12 our half or $20,000 for it, the county.  
13 MAYOR LICASTRO: Chief, do you want to  
14 comment on the cars?  
15 CHIEF LOBELLO: Pretty cut and dry. The  
16 county has been gracious enough to offer this  
17 money to buy two police cars.  
18 MAYOR LICASTRO: The real question is  
19 when will these monies be distributed. They  
20 indicated perhaps by the end of the year. We'll  
21 see, but I think, Mr. McDonald, if you would  
22 allow us, let's put both of those on first  
23 reading. I think it's premature to pass it ahead  
24 of time.  
25 MR. MCDONALD: I recommend we put 1268  
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| 6    | 1 and 1269 on for first reading tonight.  
2 MS. HOEFLING: Second.  
3 MR. MCDONALD: Very good. 1270.  
4 MS. HOEFLING: Introducing Resolution  
5 1270, approving the adoption of the 2022 through  
6 2027 Cuyahoga County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.  
7 MAYOR LICASTRO: So NOACA allows small  
8 villages to join in with the County's All-Hazards  
9 Mitigation Plan, because we're small and they're  
10 not. So really, this is just a boilerplate  
11 thing. We do it every five years. Almost every  
12 small community does. It's pretty  
13 straightforward. There's no cost to the Village.  
14 We just adopt their plan in case of an emergency  
15 with a huge storm or God forbid something worse.  
16 So by having that in hand, it gives us a plan to  
17 deal with an emergency, but it's pretty much  
18 boilerplate. Again, it's no cost to the Village.  
19 MR. MCDONALD: Very good. And  
20 Resolution 1271, a resolution accepting the  
21 amounts and rates as determined by the Budget  
22 Commission and authorizing the necessary tax  
23 levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal  
24 Officer and declaring an emergency, for  
25 suspension.  
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| 7    | 1 MAYOR LICASTRO: So we're just  
2 discussing it now. Ms. Cooks, do you want to  
3 comment on that?  
4 MS. COOKS: Every year the County Budget  
5 Commission sends what our levies and taxes, and  
6 we have to accept them to receive them. It's as  
7 simple as it could be.  
8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Again, we do this every  
9 year. It's just boilerplate.  
10 MR. MCDONALD: Ms. Hoefling, 1272.  
11 MS. HOEFLING: 1272, introducing  
12 Resolution 1272, a resolution authorizing the  
13 Second Amendment to the County of Cuyahoga  
14 inmate, board and care amended and restated  
15 contract, and declaring an emergency.  
16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Chief, do you want  
17 comment on this?  
18 CHIEF LOBELLO: This is just the  
19 amendment to the jail contract we entered. It  
20 just extends the end date to the end of 2023.  
21 MAYOR LICASTRO: If you recall, when we  
22 gave up our jail cell, we housed prisoners at the  
23 county jail. And for that we have a working  
24 agreement. The amendment is straightforward.  
25 It's just extending the end date as the Chief  
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| 8    | 1 said. Mr. McDonald.  
2 MR. MCDONALD: Very good.  
3 MAYOR LICASTRO: I understand you're  
4 going to put Ordinance 4156 on first reading?  
5 MR. MCDONALD: Correct. There it is.  
6 MAYOR LICASTRO: That leaves pay claims.  
7 MR. MCDONALD: Pay claims, Ms. Hoefling.  
8 MS. HOEFLING: Introducing Ordinance  
9 4157 pay claims in the amount of two hundred --  
10 or I'm sorry, $125,343.88.  
11 MAYOR LICASTRO: Do you have any  
12 questions for us on anything on pay claims?  
13 MR. MCDONALD: No.  
14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Anyone on Council?  
15 MR. YONCHAK: Just one thing, I'm a  
16 lawyer, so I like to -- there's a breakout  
17 between professional services. The prosecutorial  
18 services, is that for Mayor's court?  
19 MR. MATTY: No, that's for Cleveland  
20 Municipal Court.  
21 MR. YONCHAK: Okay.  
22 MR. MATTY: And there's a breakout  
23 because it's at a different rate. Robert, it's  
24 at $125 an hour, where the other regular civil  
25 rate is at $175 an hour.  
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MR. YONCHAK: Mr. Matty is very fair.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Are you asking me that question.

MS. MEADE: I have to address everything to you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Sure. I mean, we are looking to buy two patrol vehicles, the same white vehicles we've had recently.

MS. MEADE: The SUVs?

MAYOR LICASTRO: The SUVs, that's correct. We have a couple on hold that we need to hang on to. I think they're out of Iowa, I think. They're hard to find. Every time we add a new vehicle to the fleet, we do get rid of some of the older ones. We haven't determined which ones yet. When we do, we'll offer them up for auction.

MS. MEADE: Okay. With the retention bonuses, I didn't know how many officers qualified, because it made it sound like the Police Chief is part-time and full-time, whoever was on the payroll at that time. So how many would qualify?

MR. BIERUT: I anticipate construction will be done by the end of the month, May 12, 2022.

CHIEF LOBELLO: Yes.

MS. MEADE: May 12, 2022.

MS. COOKS: Yes.

MS. MEADE: The start -- and, you know, if the Eddy Road dollars gets approved, is there a certain time frame that will take? I know you won't know a start and an end date, but will it be a six-month project?

MAYOR LICASTRO: They asked that question today. Mr. Bierut.

MR. BIERUT: I anticipate construction taking about three months.

MS. MEADE: And will that be like in the past where they block off some of the lanes where there's passage and then it switches over?
MR. BIERUT: Yes, through one-way traffic will be maintained.

MAYOR LICASTRO: There will be no road closures during construction.

MS. MEADE: And then I didn't know with the prisoner boarding, I understand it was just extending the contract, but out of curiosity how much do we spend a year on that?

MAYOR LICASTRO: It depends how many prisoners we have.

MS. MEADE: Okay.

MAYOR LICASTRO: It's a variable.

MS. MEADE: I understand. I didn't know with the holidays, I know last month you had made some comment that you had the legal authority to do what you did. And so I'm seeing that now it's back on, so I'm kind of questioning did you have the authority, because you said you were going to wait until next year, so I'm kind of curious what transpired so it's on here now.

MAYOR LICASTRO: I'm not going to comment further on that. We put it on for first reading.

MS. MEADE: Right. So if I ask if it was legal or illegal, would you answer?

MAYOR LICASTRO: My authority is defined by the Ohio Revised Code and Bratenahl Ordinance.

MS. MEADE: Could you tell me which Ohio Revised Code your authority is?

MAYOR LICASTRO: No.

MS. MEADE: As a public records request --

MAYOR LICASTRO: It's available to you.

It's online.

MS. MEADE: Well, I think I have a right to get a link to the actual record. The one I was provided earlier does not exist. I don't know if there was a typo or whatever, so I never got that information.

MR. MATTY: If the Village does not have the record, you're not entitled to a record under public records request. You're asking for information. Information is voluntary in discussion with the resident. If the Village doesn't have a record, you're not entitled to it. The only records that exist generally for the public are the Ohio Revised Code and the Bratenahl code itself.

MS. MEADE: Right. So under the Bratenahl code, shouldn't there be a record that outlines what the Mayor's authorities, powers and duties are?

MR. MATTY: We are a statutory community. The Ohio Revised Code outlines what the Mayor's responsibilities and duties are.

MS. MEADE: And would that qualify as a public records request?

MR. MATTY: I am not going to answer your question. It's an information question. The Ohio Revised Code is available online to everyone, including yourself.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, Ms. Meade.

Anyone else?

MS. MEADE: I wasn't really finished.

MAYOR LICASTRO: We usually give three minutes. You had more. Do you have one more question?

MS. MEADE: I was curious, since you were addressing holidays, I didn't see anything about the July 4th, the extra time given for that.

MAYOR LICASTRO: We dealt with that last month and our answer remains the same.
CERTIFICATE

I, Nancy L. Molnar, do hereby certify that
as such Reporter I took down in Stenotypy all of
the proceedings had in the foregoing transcript;
that I have transcribed my said Stenotype notes
into typewritten form as appears in the foregoing
transcript; that said transcript is the complete
form of the proceedings had in said cause and
constitutes a true and correct transcript therein.

Nancy L. Molnar
Nancy L. Molnar, Notary Public
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