

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Special Meeting Minutes for

March 21, 2023

4:30 PM

Room 203

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM. Present were Councilors McNally, May and Mandler. Finance Director Barbara Griffin was present. Also present, IT Director Bill O'Neill, Town Planner Liz Burdick.

Councilor Mandler moved, second by Councilor May, to approve the minutes of the 1/31/23 meeting. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the IT budget with O'Neill. The committee asked about the request for a Part Time position and O'Neill explained how this would free up his time to concentrate on higher level items that come into his office. The committee recommends approving the requested \$25,000. When asked about Training and Conferences, O'Neill explained that this was for a program used for employee training. The Committee recommended increasing this to \$6,000.

When asked about the Capital request for the Exarid System, O'Neill explained that this has to do with cybersecurity and ransomware protection.

O'Neill and Town Planner Burdick both discussed the need for and cost of the Capital request for GIS Outsource. The committee was in favor of this initial one-time capital item and discussed how subsequent maintenance of the program in future years should be in Land Use and IT operating budgets.

Burdick discussed the Land Use budget. The Committee recommended adding \$2,000 to Consulting Services, \$6,500 to Advertising, and reducing Equipment to \$800.

Councilor May asked about the already approved ARPA funds designated for the FY 2024 budget. The Committee recommends that the \$500,000 allocated should be used this way.

Griffin discussed the upcoming bond issuance. It has been recommended by Bond Council and the Financial Advisor that, of 4.2 million already approved for roads, we should bond 3 million at this time. There is a concern that the Town not borrow more than can be used within a reasonable timeframe. The BOE is also splitting their approved amount over two issues pending notification of available state grant money that may impact amount they need to borrow. Griffin explained that if the Town is ready for more road paving before the next bond issue, the town can temporarily borrow from itself, called pre-funding, till the next bond issue. Councilor McNally suggested that he, John Carlson, and Griffin and meet to discuss the size of bond issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Barbara Griffin, Director of Finance