

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – AUGUST 9, 2021

Members: Ressler, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chair; Reinhold, Member; Zimmerman, Alternate; Thompson, Bartow, Staff

Attendees: Ressler, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chair; Zimmerman, Alternate; Council President Rowe; Martin, Council; Thompson, Bartow, Staff; 2 Guests

The Budget & Finance Committee met on July 26, 2021, and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a request from Mainspring of Ephrata for \$86,347 of budgeted funds. It was noted that Mainspring's fiscal year ends 6/30; accordingly, for them it is the first request of their year, but for the Borough it represents the final transfer of the 2021 calendar year. Chairman Ressler inquired as to the financial position of the Economic Development Fund expenditures on the Second Quarter Budget review being at 84.21% prior to this distribution and Staff will investigate prior to the Work Session of Council. President Rowe inquired from her review of the Economic Development minutes, which referenced market gaps in Township, to verify utilization of the funds. Ms. Martin reported that it was a mere reporting of information from EDC Lancaster. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the payment as budgeted at their August 9, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. Ms. Bartow updated the Committee on disconnection statistics as of July 27, 2021. There were 25 accounts that are subject to disconnections totaling \$14,885. Of that amount, \$5,567 is for 11 units that are tenant occupied and \$9,318 is for 14 owner-occupied units. There were a total 12 Emergency Rental Assistant Program (ERAP) applications pending, and 5 units with disconnected service as of this date. Ms. Bartow also reviewed a graph depicting Electric Sales and Accounts Receivable from 1/1/2019 to the current, noting that trends have been fairly consistent and that re-instituting the disconnection process has been successful in managing the receivables. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the ERAP program being available to those in need. No further action is required.
2. The Committee reviewed the 2nd Quarter Budget Review. In addition to the commentary on Economic Development noted above, Chairman Ressler inquired about Civic Contributions being at 94.11% through June, noting a check in the July register to Lincoln Fire Company. Ms. Bartow informed that the Lincoln check represents the final 2021 disbursement for Civic Contributions and the remaining portion of that check was budgeted through the Mobile Equipment Fund. Additionally, it was noted a timing difference with Pool income with an additional \$100,000 deposited in July 2021.
3. The Committee expressed appreciation in reference to a letter of thanks from the Ephrata Cloister Associates for the Cultural Arts Grant in support of their mission.
4. Staff provided a report on the Solicitor's invoice. The first was a summary page and the second report is the detailed invoice. No further action is required.
5. Staff provided the Check and ACH registers to the Committee for July to date. The Committee discussed payments to Reiff's Lawn Care Services and the interaction with the Ephrata Rec's

management of the Parks and Recreation budget. Borough Manager Thompson explained the bidding of a portion of the mowing services. Chairman Ressler directed Staff to discuss the service level of mowing of the Brickyard Park with Rec management.

6. A guest inquired as to whom pays the electric for the Ephrata Fair and the Committee informed her that both police protection and electric are billed to the Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc.

Old Business Items:

1. The first tranche of American Rescue Plan Funds of \$725,462.31 has been received. Preliminary management suggestions for utilization will be reviewed at the August 23rd committee meeting.
2. The Committee stressed the importance of requesting payments in lieu of taxes on a bi-annual basis.
3. The Committee, while acknowledging the increased amount of grant funding being sought, stressed continual review for potential revenue sources.