

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – OCTOBER 11, 2021**

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

**Attendees:** Ressler, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chair; Reinhold, Member; Zimmerman, Alternate; Council President Rowe; Martin, Barr, Council; Thompson, Bartow, Staff; 3 Guests (Teresa Caruthers, Rebecca Beres, Kory Musser)

The Budget & Finance Committee met on September 28, 2021, and discussed the following:

### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed Resolution 2021- 35 Appointing Salzman Hughes, P.C. as Assistant Solicitor and Terminating all Prior Appointments to that Office. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the resolution at their October 11, 2021 meeting.
2. The Committee discussed the 2022 Sanitation Budget and Recommended Pricing Adjustments for Refuse and Recycling. The hauler contract, which was rebid and effective 10/1/2021, resulted in increased costs. Additionally, increases in tipping fees and recycling supplies necessitate a price increase. Rates of \$20.75 for Refuse and \$10.75 for Recycling were recommended. A resolution for these prices will be prepared to be effective January 1, 2022, and the Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the resolution at their October 11, 2021 meeting. Communication of the rate changes will be issued to all Residents of the Borough this fall.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. Ms. Bartow reported, in relation to the American Plan Rescue Act, that a Lost Revenue Calculation for 2020 had been prepared and reviewed by the Borough's accounting firm, Maher Duessel. The amount of lost revenue for 2020 per the calculation is \$1.7 million which exceeds the amount of the total funding to the Borough under the Act. This information will be used in coordination with evaluating the eligible uses of the funds in the Boroughs budgeting process.
2. The Committee discussed compliance audit reports issues by the Department of the Auditor General for the Ephrata Borough Pension and Retirement Plans for the years 2017-2020. The reports identified incorrect data on certifications resulting in a net underpayment of State Aid. The net underpayment in the amount of \$38,968 will be made available to Borough and deposited into the Pension Plan within 30 days.
3. The Committee discussed a notice of gratitude received from a Carl W. Fuehrer Memorial Scholar and noted appreciation for the correspondence.
4. Staff provided a report on the Solicitor's invoice. The first was a summary page and then two pages of the detailed invoice. No further action is required.
5. Staff provided the Check and ACH registers to the Committee for September to date. The Committee inquired about an ACH payment to WEX Bank which is for the fuel used by Borough's fleet and allocated across departments.

**Old Business Items:**

1. Ms. Bartow updated the Committee on the status of discussions with Springbrook and its correlation with the ability to assess credit card fees. Pricing for the conversion to the cloud product has been obtained and is under review. Additionally, the fee for IVR (voice payment) transactions will be reduced from 80 cents to 40 cents under the pricing proposal.
2. Ms. Bartow reported that a Finance Manager has been hired and will start on October 4, 2021.
3. There were no updates on the expanded Borough parking, PILOT or potential revenue sources.

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