

**City of Port Jervis  
Finance/Insurance Committee  
Minutes for Meeting October 16, 2019**

Present: Committee Members, Kristin Trovei, Lisa Randazzo, Dominick Santini and David Bavoso. Also, in attendance were: Maria Mann, George Belcher, Stanley Siegel, Regis Foster (late arrival), Mayor Kelly Decker and City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger.

Excused: None

Finance meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. Chairperson Kristin Trovei opened the meeting with the pledge and noted that there was no public present.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Review** – Mrs. Waizenegger referred the Council to the report and memorandum previously disbursed electronically. She noted that the revenue is running at 77% of budget and expenses at 74%. She noted that the sales tax information is not in yet and based on an estimate. She cautioned of the non-repetitive nature of some revenue items. The gross receipts tax and mortgage tax are up and are a good sign of positive growth. She also noted that we are absorbing more utility cost than planned because the solar array is not yet functional.

Mrs. Waizenegger noted the recent attack on revenues by the Governor to recover AIM and state aid based on increases in sales tax from internet sales. She expressed her opinion that this was ridiculous as the internet sales are merely a substitute in most communities for declining brick and mortar retail sales forcing business out of our communities. Members of the Council echoed the sentiment and the need to re-educate the legislature.

**Vehicle Replacement Plan Revisions** – Mrs. Waizenegger indicated that she received a notice from the police department to remove the pickup truck from their request. No other revisions were received. Discussions were had and it was decided that the building department Jeep should be evaluated to see if a replacement is necessary and it was to be discussed with DPW a possible reduction of 1 pickup due to the sharing of the recreation vehicle. The Mayor will address both issues. It was noted that the recreation working supervisor is taking excellent care of the vehicles assigned to recreation. It was noted that we will need this information shortly as there is at least a 6-month lead time for ordering.

**Serial Bond 2020** – Mrs. Waizenegger reminded the Council that she will need requests for a bond issue in 2020. It is noted that the Bridge project may need additional funds, a vac truck, water metering equipment, church street park renovations, paving at west end beach, DPW complex and a fire truck.

**Old Business:**

Property Auction – We have seen a lot of interest and inquiries. Mrs. Waizenegger noted that we have the right to refuse any bid on any property.

Tax Lien Sale – Mrs. Waizenegger reminded the Council that the Tax lien sale will take place on 11/19/2019 and that if they wish to reserve any properties, they should review the list previously provided. It was requested that the list be re-sent to all council members.

Reservoir Runoff repair – Mrs. Trovei reviewed the run-off issue from the bridge on Hudson up to the reservoir and the debate regarding responsibility. It was noted that full professional review of the deeds should be done to try and determine liability first.

Other – The Mayor noted that a scan has been done of the Farnum building to determine if the building is viable as part of a new structure. It was noted that the building is not historical. It was also noted that USDA has available 66% grant and loan funds available for community centers.

**New Business**

Bridge Construction Funding – It was noted that we received a proposed motion for additional services from CHA of \$450,000 which requires additional review before approval. We also have received information that the bridge itself may run over by 2 million and Mr. Farr is pursuing additional funding, but any overrun is ultimately our responsibility. The Mayor is requesting that Mr. Farr have CHA explain all costs and changes at a Council meeting before any more changes will be approved.

Drainage issue Ryan Street/Kingston Avenue – Mrs. Trovei brought up the drainage issue on Ryan and Kingston affecting the Auchmoody property due to a storm drainage pipe that was intended to drain into a brook, but the elevation has changed over the years forcing it into private property. It would require surveying to determine if the pipe could be extended or a culvert done to extend the drainage. Mr. Santini inquired if the composition of the land has changed since the drainage was installed. If so, it would become the landowner's problem. It was noted that a survey will cost a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Siegel brought up Joe Tufano's drainage issue also. The Mayor indicated that issue is already being addressed with legal counsel.

2020 Budget – It was noted that the Mayor had a goal of less than 3% increase. It was noted that it may not be possible to do it with the capital note items included. The Mayor and the members present agreed to continue a separate Capital note if necessary. The committee agreed to use the next regular finance meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> as the first budget workshop. A second date of 12/5 is to be used if necessary. All budget meetings will be at 6:30pm.

Other – The Mayor requested additional info regarding delivery charges to negotiate with the solar provider with respect to the delay. He hopes to obtain additional compensation for the delay.

**Public Comment - None**

**Executive Session:** The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 7:05 pm for discussion of a personnel issue.

The meeting was reconvened and adjourned at 7:21 pm.      Next month's meeting – November 20th at 6:30pm.