

Present: Chairperson MacDonald; Members: Calder, Hitz, Kleppert, Lanigan and Westerlund

Absent: Jallad

Also Present: Finance Director, Wiszowaty  
Council liaison, Mooney  
Council President, Stearn

Chairperson MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Westerlund nominated Don MacDonald for the position of chairperson of the Finance Committee. There were no further nominations. MacDonald was elected chairperson by acclamation.

Calder nominated Neil Hitz as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. There were no further nominations. Hitz was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

### **APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA**

Hitz asked to add a discussion item to the agenda related to the function and responsibilities of the Finance Committee and how it might proceed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2008**

Motion by Kleppert, second by Lanigan, that the minutes of a Finance Committee meeting held on December 9, 2008 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

### **REVIEW REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2008**

Wiszowaty reviewed revenue reports for the General Fund, Road Funds, and Water and Sewer Fund over a five-month period ending November 30, 2008. He indicated the beginning and anticipated ending fund balance for each fund and highlighted expenditures for each department. Wiszowaty gave reasons for line items that were over the budgeted amount. He addressed questions and comments from Committee members and offered to report back on further information requested.

**DISCUSSION ITEM – FUNCTION & RESPONSIBILITY OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Hitz distributed a four-page handout that provided background on the previous and current Finance Committees. He related that the worth of the Finance Committee has been questioned over the years and noted that the current Finance Committee has no specific responsibilities.

If there are financial problems in the community, the question is what the Finance Committee can do to assist the Village. If Council and Administration believe that there is value to a Finance Committee, these are several things that the committee could do:

- Act as an objective force to hold meetings and educate residents as to basic financial/budget issues in simple understandable terms;
- Outline funding, budget, forecasting alternatives in an objective fashion;
- Take specific requests from Council and report back with alternatives, pros/cons, benchmarking. This can be accomplished by Administration if it has the time and if it can be seen as unbiased;
- Tackle some sensitive issues, “step on toes”, give Council or Administration “cover” to take more moderate positions down the road;
- Assist Administration with ideas, alternatives, benchmarking...not get in their way. Assumption here that Administration has enough to do currently and would welcome assistance.

Hitz expressed the view that having a Finance Committee and not giving them an assignment could be used against the Council or Committee. If Council and Administration feel that they are comfortable addressing financial issues, they ought to disband the Finance Committee.

Westerlund related that it was previously suggested that the Finance Committee could serve as a sounding board for issues confronting the Village. Kleppert thought that the Committee should concentrate on finding additional sources of revenue. Lanigan concurred and offered to assist administration with applying for grant money.

Calder questioned whether there were any significant revenue sources available in addition to property tax and State shared revenue. The Village could levy millage for library service or trash collection. Calder agreed that a primary function of the Finance Committee could be to educate residents on the Village’s financial situation and counter misinformation that is circulated among the public. The Committee could also arrive at a millage proposal that would maintain current Village services for the next five years.

Motion by Hitz, second by Lanigan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Motion passed (6 – 0).