Borough of Bryn Athyn

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

6:00pm

In attendance: Duane Hyatt, Chair

Vikki Trost

Glenn Gurney

Chris Carter

Jeff Elsing

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duane Hyatt at 6:00pm.

**Minutes**

The Committee approved the February 18, 2020 meeting minutes. The March and April meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 State Shutdown.

**Health Insurance**

The committee would like to see a comparison of the proposed DVIT plan and the current Keystone plan. Vikki will contact our benefits consultant, Trina Wilson and the DVIT representative, Anna Lin for information.

**2019 Audit**

Mr. Hyatt asked that the fiscal 2019 transfers be added to the next agenda since the 2019 Annual Audit has been completed.

**Zoning Permit for Chickens**

Vikki Trost introduced the subject explaining that the updated Zoning Ordinance of 2018 requires permits for keeping chickens/coops. The committee discussed and agreed that a separate zoning permit should be created for chickens; one permit for both the chickens and the coop. A fee of $50 was agreed to be a reasonable fee for the permit. The fee should be added to the Borough Fee Schedule as “Keeping of Chicken Hens”. The Committee members agreed to make this recommendation to Borough Council.

A list of residents keeping chicken will be developed.

**Sewer Bills**

Vikki reported that the second quarter sewer bills which were supposed to be amended after Council adopted a new sewer ordinance last month with a new usage calculation, have still not been sent out. The Committee agreed to send the second quarter sewer bills out using the old calculation method and rates. Borough Council will be able to schedule a public hearing to adopt the ordinance at the July meeting.

**Trash Contract**

Vikki reported that there have been an unusually high number of complaints about missed trash pickups, particularly yard waste, over the past few months. Vikki noted that the contracted hauler has not been responsive to calls and emails and that she has had to involve Lower Moreland to get any kind of response. Vikki will set up a meeting with Republic Services and report back to the committee. The current contract ends on December 31, 2020 and Vikki will work with Lower Moreland Township on the new contract.

**COVID-19 Budget Impact**

Vikki reported that there has not been much of an impact on Real Estate Taxes which were mostly collected when the Shutdown started. Earned Income Tax will be impacted as many people have not been working. Mr. Hyatt noted that the Academy of the New Church has been trying to keep people employed. We have no information on the Masons Mill Business Park level of employment. Vikki reported that there were some equipment and supply purchases made in response to the PA Governor and CDC recommendations and requirements.

**NEW ITEMS**

Glenn Gurney reported that Reid Heinrichs moved from the Borough Office to a newly constructed office space in the Sewer Plant blower house. The remaining issue to be resolved is accessibility to the internet for the office and plant. One of the planned projects has been to automate the various processes at the plant. Nick Rose has been consulted to work on the plan to run a line to the plant. ANC and BA Church will be contacted for permission to use the poles near the thrift shop to run the line to the plant. This will allow us to offer internet to ANC for their trash area as well. Quotes have been solicited from Comcast and Verizon. This work has not been budgeted, so the Finance Committee will need to discuss how to pay for the work.

**OLD ITEMS**

Vikki reported that Portnoff has suggested that they have not generated enough revenue from the Borough to continue to represent the Borough. The Odhner property on Alnwick Road continues to accumulate charges and late fees as they refuse to pay their usage bills. Vikki will look into another attorney for collection and have the Solicitor file additional liens on the Odhner property.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

***For the next meeting:***

1. ***Vikki will request comparisons for health insurance.***
2. ***Vikki will send a reminder to the committee regarding the next meeting on the Friday prior to the meeting.***

***Next meeting date: June 16, 2020 at 6:00pm in Borough Hall.***